

**STATEMENT OF MICHAEL A. CALDWELL, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR, PARK PLANNING, FACILITIES, AND LANDS, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BEFORE THE SENATE ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS, CONCERNING H.R. 268, A BILL TO PROVIDE FOR THE BOUNDARY OF THE PALO ALTO BATTLEFIELD NATIONAL HISTORIC PARK TO BE ADJUSTED, TO AUTHORIZE THE DONATION OF LAND TO THE UNITED STATES FOR ADDITION TO THAT HISTORIC PARK, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**

**MAY 11, 2022**

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Chairman King, Ranking Member Daines, and members of the Subcommittee, thank you for the opportunity to present the Department of the Interior's views on H.R. 268, a bill to provide for the boundary of the Palo Alto Battlefield National Historical Park to be adjusted, to authorize the donation of land to the United States for addition to that historic park, and for other purposes.

The Department supports H.R. 268.

H.R. 268, as passed by the House of Representatives on March 15, 2022, would authorize the addition of approximately 166 acres of land where Fort Brown stood to the Palo Alto Battlefield National Historical Park pending a boundary study and a determination that accepting the additional lands would be feasible and appropriate. The land, which is owned and administered by the International Boundary and Water Commission, holds the archeological remains of Fort Brown, including the standing ruins of the Fort Brown earthworks, associated fortifications, and the cultural landscape of the Fort Brown siege of 1846. The fort, originally known as Fort Texas, was established when U.S. soldiers led by General Zachary Taylor arrived on the banks of the Rio Grande to establish the river as the southern boundary of Texas. General Taylor, who would become the 12<sup>th</sup> President of the United States in 1849, re-named the fort in honor of Major Jacob Brown, who was killed during the siege.

A portion of the Fort Brown site was designated a National Historic Landmark in 1960. It is one of three battlefield sites in the Brownsville area considered key to telling the story of the 1846-48 United States war with Mexico. The other two sites are currently included within Palo Alto Battlefield National Historical Park.

Fort Brown became the flashpoint in a dispute over the boundary between the two nations. As events unfolded, the Mexican Army laid siege to the fort in early May of 1846. The site remained active following the war with Mexico and played a role in every U.S. war through World War II. The U.S. Army closed Fort Brown in 1944 and turned the 166-acre area over to the International Boundary and Water Commission in 1949 for flood control purposes.

The boundary study authorized by the bill will look at the feasibility of administering the Fort Brown site as part of Palo Alto Battlefield National Historical Park. As part of this study, the National Park Service will collect information about the quality of resources in the study area, evaluate the potential for visitor enjoyment and efficient management, and considers the

feasibility and appropriateness of different management options for the site. The study will also evaluate the views of and impacts on local communities, the adequacy of other alternatives for management and resource protection, and other factors.

On November 9, 2021, the Department testified on H.R. 268 in a hearing before the House Natural Resource Committee's Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests, and Public Lands. At that time, the Department testified that the National Park Service had not studied the appropriateness and feasibility of adding Fort Brown to the Palo Alto Battlefield National Historical Park. The Department recommended amending the bill to include authorization for a boundary study, and to authorize the Secretary to accept the property pending a favorable outcome to that boundary study. H.R. 268 was amended to incorporate those recommendations and was then passed by the House.

Chairman King, this concludes my statement. I would be pleased to answer any questions you or other members of the Subcommittee may have.

**STATEMENT OF MICHAEL A. CALDWELL, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR, PARK PLANNING, FACILITIES AND LANDS, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BEFORE THE SENATE ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS, CONCERNING S. 1718, A BILL TO AMEND THE ROSIE THE RIVETER/WORLD WAR II HOME FRONT NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK ESTABLISHMENT ACT OF 2000 TO PROVIDE FOR ADDITIONAL AREAS TO BE ADDED TO THE PARK, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**

**MAY 11, 2022**

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Chair King, Ranking Member Daines, and members of the Subcommittee, thank you for the opportunity to provide the Department of the Interior's views on S. 1718, a bill to amend the Rosie the Riveter/World War II Home Front National Historical Park Establishment Act of 2000 to provide for additional areas to be added to the park, and for other purposes.

The Department supports S. 1718.

S. 1718 would include the Nystrom Elementary School in Richmond, California as part of Rosie the Riveter/World War II Home Front National Historical Park and would allow for other areas to be added to the park if deemed appropriate by the Secretary. The bill directs the Secretary to update the park map to reflect new additions within 180 days after areas are added to the park. S. 1718 also authorizes the Secretary to acquire lands, waters, and improvements within the boundaries of the National Historical Park. These acquisitions may be made by donation, purchase, exchange or transfer, except for lands owned by the State of California and its subdivisions, which may only be acquired by donation.

Rosie the Riveter/World War II Home Front National Historical Park was established in 2000 to recognize the important wartime contributions of workers and ordinary citizens, including women and people of color, who saved and sacrificed on the home front. The park operates as a partnership park and cooperates with the owners of related historic properties to preserve and interpret the WWII home front story.

Rosie the Riveter/World War II Home Front National Historical Park's enabling legislation (16 U.S.C. 410ggg) directed the National Park Service to determine whether there are additional representative sites that should be added to the park. The park's 2009 General Management Plan established guidelines for bringing additional properties into the park. These criteria include that a property: be eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places; have a direct connection to the World War II home front themes in Richmond, California; and relate to the park's purpose, significance, and interpretive themes. The Nystrom Elementary School meets these guidelines for addition.

The Nystrom Elementary School was built during World War II to accommodate the large influx of families that relocated to Richmond, California to work at the Kaiser Shipyards. The school

was constructed as part of a planned neighborhood development that includes the Maritime Child Development Center, which is already part of the park.

The West Contra Costa Unified School District owns and operates the Nystrom Elementary School and has followed the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Historic Preservation in the rehabilitation of the school. The City of Richmond, a park partner and owner of several other park sites, has shown support for the inclusion of the Nystrom Elementary School. Other sites, as deemed appropriate by the Secretary, would be evaluated for potential inclusion as part of Rosie the Riveter/World War II Home Front National Historic Park based on the guidelines developed in the park's General Management Plan.

We recommend a technical amendment to the bill to update the short title to reflect the correct name of the park unit.

Chairman King, this concludes my statement. I would be pleased to answer any questions you or other members of the Subcommittee may have.

**STATEMENT OF MICHAEL A. CALDWELL, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR, PARK PLANNING, FACILITIES, AND LANDS, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BEFORE THE SENATE ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS, CONCERNING S. 1814, A BILL TO AUTHORIZE THE WOMEN WHO WORKED ON THE HOME FRONT FOUNDATION TO ESTABLISH A COMMEMORATIVE WORK IN THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA AND ITS ENVIRONS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**

**MAY 11, 2022**

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Chairman King, Ranking Member Daines, and members of the Subcommittee, thank you for the opportunity to present the views of the Department of the Interior on S. 1814, a bill to authorize the Women Who Worked on the Home Front Foundation to establish a commemorative work in the District of Columbia and its environs.

The Department supports this legislation.

S. 1814 would authorize the Women Who Worked on the Home Front Foundation to establish a commemorative work on Federal land in Washington, D.C. and its environs to commemorate the “commitment and service represented by women who worked on the home front during World War II.” The bill requires compliance with the Commemorative Works Act (40 U.S.C. Chapter 89) (CWA) and prohibits Federal funds from being used to establish the memorial.

“Women Who Worked on the Home Front” refers to the countless American women who stepped up to support their nation during America’s involvement in World War II. Between 1941 and 1945, the female portion of the U.S. workforce increased from 27 percent to nearly 37 percent. More than 10,000 women worked as code breakers during WWII and over 1,100 female volunteers flew nearly every type of military aircraft as part of the Women Airforce Service Pilots program. Women were trained to fly military aircraft so male pilots could leave for combat duty overseas. Other jobs women filled, often for the first time, included keel welder, telegraph operator, steam hammer operator, radio engineer, electrical engineer, crane operator, flash welder, ship fitter, tinsmith, pipe fitter, surveyor, draftsman, and so much more.

In February 2020, the National Capital Memorial Advisory Commission (Commission) reviewed an identical version of this legislation that was introduced in the 116<sup>th</sup> Congress. The CWA established the Commission and requires Congress to solicit its views when considering legislation authorizing commemorative works within the District of Columbia and its environs. During its review, the Commission agreed that the compelling story of American women’s contributions and changing status during World War II is of lasting national significance and that this proposed commemoration would enrich and diversify the portfolio of commemorative works in Washington, DC. The Commission also recommended keeping the focus of the commemorative work on the themes of “commitment” and “service,” rather than on the individuals themselves, in accordance with Section §8903(c) of the CWA.

Chairman King, this concludes my statement. I would be pleased to answer any questions you or other members of the Subcommittee may have.

**STATEMENT OF MICHAEL A. CALDWELL, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR, PARK PLANNING, FACILITIES, AND LANDS, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BEFORE THE SENATE ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS, CONCERNING S. 2367, A BILL TO AUTHORIZE THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR TO ACQUIRE LAND IN FREDERICK COUNTY, MARYLAND, FOR THE HISTORIC PRESERVATION TRAINING CENTER OF THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**

**MAY 11, 2022**

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Chairman King, Ranking Member Daines, and members of the Subcommittee, thank you for the opportunity to present the Department of the Interior's views on S. 2367, a bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to acquire land in Frederick County, Maryland, for the Historic Preservation Training Center of the National Park Service, and for other purposes.

The Department supports S. 2367, which would provide a permanent site for the Historic Preservation Training Center.

S. 2367 would authorize the Secretary of the Interior to further develop the Historic Preservation Training Center (Center) in accordance with section 305306 of title 54, United States Code, by acquiring land not to exceed 20 acres in Frederick County, Maryland, to support the physical space, preservation operations, training program initiatives, and workforce development capacity of the Center.

The Center, originally established in 1977 in Williamsport, Maryland, supports the National Park Service (NPS) through historic preservation projects and teaches traditional trade skills and historic preservation techniques through hands-on experiential learning opportunities. As carpenters, masons, woodcrafters, metalsmiths, and other traditional trade masters retire, the Center provides apprenticeship programs to engage youth and veterans so that these important skills are passed down and not lost.

Over the last five years, the Center's Traditional Trades Apprenticeship Program has engaged over 170 youth and veteran interns in completing preservation and deferred maintenance projects across the NPS. Veterans make up over 25% of the interns, with over half of all participants being placed in NPS positions after completing their training. The Center also runs the National Career Academy for Facility Maintenance and supports over 2,500 current NPS employees in providing training for key occupations such as Water/Wastewater Treatment Operators and Heavy Equipment Operators.

The Center staff preserves some of our most treasured historic resources, from mooring quays at Pearl Harbor National Memorial and log cabins on the Blue Ridge Parkway, to stone repairs at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

Since 1980, the Center staff and interns have completed approximately 1,500 projects in over 200 parks Service-wide. The teams worked on nearly 330 buildings and structures dating from the 18th through the 21st century, with the oldest being 312 years old.

While in Williamsport, the buildings utilized by the Center experienced a series of floods. In 1991, Congress directed the NPS to identify a permanent home. An NPS study team surveyed available sites and recommended Frederick, Maryland, and possibly Monocacy National Battlefield.

In 1995, the Center administrative offices were relocated to the Gambrill House at Monocacy National Battlefield. In 1997, the workshop portion of the facilities moved to a leased space at the Jenkins Cannery factory and warehouse, owned by the City of Frederick. The current lease with the City expires in September 2023, and the space can no longer accommodate the needs of the Center. We greatly appreciate the support of the City and consider them a valued partner. This legislation would support a continued partnership with the City, enable the NPS to attain an adequately sized space for operations, and establish a permanent home for this essential facility.

Chairman King, this concludes my statement. I would be pleased to answer any questions you or other members of the Subcommittee may have.

**STATEMENT OF MICHAEL A. CALDWELL, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR, PARK PLANNING, FACILITIES, AND LANDS, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BEFORE THE SENATE ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS, CONCERNING S. 3334, THE NATIONAL LIBERTY MEMORIAL PRESERVATION ACT, A BILL TO EXTEND THE AUTHORITY FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A COMMEMORATIVE WORK TO HONOR ENSLAVED AND FREE BLACK PERSONS WHO SERVED IN THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**

**MAY 11, 2022**

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Chairman King, Ranking Member Daines, and members of the Subcommittee, thank you for the opportunity to provide the Department of the Interior's views on S. 3334, the National Liberty Memorial Preservation Act.

The Department supports this legislation.

S. 3334 extends the authority for the establishment of a commemorative work to honor enslaved and free Black persons who served in the American Revolution. The National Liberty Memorial was originally authorized on January 2, 2013 (P.L. 112-239). On September 26, 2014 (P.L. 113-176), the Memorial was authorized to be established in Area I, as defined by the Commemorative Works Act (Act) (P.L. 99-652; 40 U.S.C. Ch. 89). The authority, as provided for in the Commemorative Works Act, was for a seven-year period, which expired on September 26, 2021.

The Department believes that this commemorative subject rises to the level of preeminent and lasting historical significance to the United States. The bravery and dedication demonstrated by both freemen and slaves during the American Revolution are well documented but not well known. Soldiers such as Salem Poor, Primus Hall, and Prince Whipple – George Washington's bodyguard - were commended for their valor and selflessness in the midst of battle. Many more Black soldiers fought in both segregated and integrated units; historians estimate that between 10 and 15 percent of the Continental Army was composed of Black free and enslaved persons. At the end of the war, some enslaved soldiers earned their freedom, but many who had fought in place of their white owners, returned to spend the remainder of their lives in slavery.

These invaluable contributions to America's independence are worthy of widespread recognition and commemoration. The Department notes that since the initial authorization in 2013, the site selection has not yet been completed. We understand that raising considerable funding while working through the site selection, design, and construction process is time consuming and look forward to continued progress. Due to the significance of the commemorative subject, the Department supports this legislation and agrees that an extension of seven additional years would be appropriate.

Chairman King, this concludes my statement. I would be pleased to answer any questions you or other members of the Subcommittee may have.

**STATEMENT OF MICHAEL A. CALDWELL, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR, PARK PLANNING, FACILITIES, AND LANDS, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BEFORE THE SENATE ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE, SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS, CONCERNING S. 3338, A BILL TO REVISE THE BOUNDARY OF STE. GENEVIEVE NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK IN THE STATE OF MISSOURI, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

**MAY 11, 2022**

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Chairman King, Ranking Member Daines, and members of the Subcommittee, thank you for the opportunity to present the Department of the Interior's views on S. 3338, a bill to revise the boundary of the Ste. Genevieve National Historical Park in the state of Missouri, and for other purposes.

The Department supports S. 3338.

S. 3338 would amend the legislation authorizing the establishment of Ste. Genevieve National Historical Park to authorize the acquisition of the property currently owned by the City of Ste. Genevieve and its use as the park's Visitor Center.

Congress authorized the establishment of Ste. Genevieve National Historical Park in March 2018 as a unit of the National Park System to preserve, protect, and interpret the themes of French Settlement, vernacular architecture, and community form and farming on the frontier. The establishment was subject to the Secretary of the Interior's determination that sufficient land had been acquired to constitute a manageable unit and written agreements had been entered into providing that land owned by the State of Missouri, the city of Ste. Genevieve, or another entity within the National Historic District be managed consistent with the purposes of the Act. Those requirements have been met, and the Secretary established Ste. Genevieve National Historical Park in October 2020.

The establishing legislation authorizes the National Park Service (NPS) to acquire any land or interest in land located within the boundary of the National Historical Park or any property within the Ste. Genevieve National Historic District National Historic Landmark that was identified as nationally significant in the Ste. Genevieve Final Special Resource Study and Environmental Assessment of May 2016. The city of Ste. Genevieve and the NPS entered into a General Agreement that allows the NPS to use the city-owned Welcome Center as a visitor center for the park. The city wishes to donate that property, approximately 1 acre in size, to the NPS. However, the current land acquisition authorities in the statute would not apply as the property was not identified as nationally significant in the Special Resource Study. Rather, it is a more modern property, better suited for the functions of the visitor center and administrative purposes. This legislation would authorize the NPS to add this property to the Historical Park boundary and accept the donation of land and improvements.

The NPS appreciates that S. 3338 would provide the authority to acquire the welcome center for its visitor center. The NPS is mindful of future needs for administrative facilities to support the

park, and as such, would welcome additional conversations with the committee about these needs.

Chairman King, this concludes my statement. I would be pleased to answer any questions you or other members of the Subcommittee may have.

**STATEMENT OF MICHAEL A. CALDWELL, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR, PARK PLANNING, FACILITIES, AND LANDS, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BEFORE THE SENATE ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS, CONCERNING S. 3667, A BILL TO AMEND TITLE 54, UNITED STATES CODE, TO ESTABLISH WITHIN THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE THE U.S. AFRICAN-AMERICAN BURIAL GROUNDS PRESERVATION PROGRAM.**

**MAY 11, 2022**

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Chairman King, Ranking Member Daines, and members of the Subcommittee, thank you for the opportunity to present the Department of the Interior's views on S. 3667, a bill to amend title 54, United States Code, to establish within the National Park Service the U.S. African-American Burial Grounds Preservation Program.

The Department supports S. 3667.

S. 3667 would direct the Secretary of the Interior to establish a program within the National Park Service to be known as the "United States African-American Burial Grounds Preservation Program." The program would be authorized to make grants to, and enter into cooperative agreements with, other Federal agencies, State, local, and Tribal governments; other public entities; educational institutions; historic preservation groups; and private nonprofit organizations for the identification, preservation, restoration, and interpretation of African American burial grounds. S. 3667 would also authorize three million dollars to be appropriated annually for each of the fiscal years from 2023 to 2027 for carrying out this grant program. Finally, S. 3667 stipulates that the bill does not authorize the Secretary to impose any conditions on the use or management of private property without the written consent of the owner, nor prohibit the Secretary from providing guidance to a private property owner on the management of their land as a condition of a grant.

African American burial grounds are part of the significant story of the role African Americans have played in the creation of the United States. These sacred spaces are often located in unknown and unmaintained locations, due to the painful and enduring legacy of slavery and segregation at the time of their creation, leaving the stories and the sites hidden.

In establishing the African American Burial Grounds Preservation Program, S. 3667 would assist in the identification, interpretation, preservation, research, and recordation of unmarked, previously abandoned, underserved, and other African American burial grounds. This program would increase public awareness of African American history, and these often overlooked and forgotten sites, while providing critical grant funding to support their long-term preservation.

The Department acknowledges that this program would need to be implemented with great care and consideration as many African American burial grounds were deliberately unmarked to facilitate a final resting place, particularly during both the period when slavery was legally

authorized in the United States and in ensuing decades when segregation limited the freedom of African Americans, even in choices related to how they commemorated their lives and deaths.

This program, as outlined in the bill, would need to be implemented in a respectful and collaborative manner to ensure already fragile and sacred resources do not become damaged or vandalized if and when their locations are publicly known. The Department and the National Park Service would be honored to support and respectfully implement the African-American Burial Grounds Preservation Program.

Chairman King, this concludes my statement. I would be pleased to answer any questions you or other members of the Subcommittee may have.

**STATEMENT OF MICHAEL A. CALDWELL, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR, PARK PLANNING, FACILITIES, AND LANDS, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BEFORE THE SENATE ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCE COMMITTEE'S SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS, CONCERNING H.R. 1931, A BILL TO PROVIDE COMPETITIVE GRANTS FOR THE PROMOTION OF JAPANESE AMERICAN CONFINEMENT EDUCATION AS A MEANS TO UNDERSTAND THE IMPORTANCE OF DEMOCRATIC PRINCIPLES, USE AND ABUSE OF POWER, AND TO RAISE AWARENESS ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE OF CULTURAL TOLERANCE TOWARD JAPANESE AMERICANS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**

**MAY 11, 2022**

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Chairman King, Ranking Member Daines, and members of the Subcommittee, thank you for the opportunity to provide the Department of the Interior's views on H.R. 1931, a bill to provide competitive grants for the promotion of Japanese American confinement education as a means to understand the importance of democratic principles, use and abuse of power, and to raise awareness about the importance of cultural tolerance toward Japanese Americans, and for other purposes.

The Department supports H.R. 1931 and would like to continue to work with the Committee on any technical changes necessary to ensure the success of the program.

H.R. 1931, as passed by the House, would amend P.L. 109-441 to authorize a new program within the Japanese American Confinement Sites (JACS) grant program, which supports the preservation of U.S. confinement sites that were used to detain Japanese Americans during World War II, to provide grants to Japanese American nonprofits to educate individuals about the historical significance of these events. The bill would also increase the authorization of appropriations for the JACS program.

On May 27, 2021, we testified before the House Natural Resources Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests, and Public Lands on an earlier version of this bill. After providing this testimony, H.R. 1931 was amended to recognize that many of the objectives being proposed were already being met by the existing JACS grant program. Consequently, H.R. 1931 as passed by the House now proposes amendments to the existing legislation rather than starting a new program.

We would like to express our appreciation for this recognition of the merits of the existing grant program and support the current direction of the amendments to PL 109-441. We welcome the ongoing opportunity to work with the Committee to discuss the details of how this added focus on education will be administered along with the existing grant program. We are dedicated to our ongoing efforts to preserve significant cultural and natural resources and interpret the forced removal and incarceration of Japanese Americans and Japanese immigrants during World War II.

Chairman King, this concludes my statement. I would be pleased to answer any questions you or other members of the Subcommittee may have.

**DRAFT STATEMENT OF MICHAEL A. CALDWELL, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR,  
PARK PLANNING, FACILITIES, AND LANDS, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, U.S.  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BEFORE THE SENATE ENERGY AND  
NATURAL RESOURCES SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS, CONCERNING  
S. 557, THE NATIVE PLANT SPECIES PILOT PROGRAM ACT OF 2021.**

**MAY 11, 2022**

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Chairman King, Ranking Member Daines, and members of the Subcommittee, thank you for the opportunity to present the Department of the Interior's views on S. 557, the Native Plant Species Pilot Program Act of 2021.

The Department supports S. 557.

S. 557, the Native Plant Species Pilot Program Act of 2021, would create a pilot program to utilize native plant materials in projects within National Park Service units to protect native plant biodiversity. The bill complements and enhances how the National Park Service utilizes native plant materials for revegetation on projects throughout the Service.

S. 557 is aligned with the National Park Service mission and NPS 2006 Management Policies. National Park System units acquire native plant materials through a variety of mechanisms including greenhouses, seed storage capacity, native plant nurseries within park units, and by working with partners to obtain native plant materials for restoration activities. For example, at Flight 93 National Memorial, on a former surface mine restoration project, more than 4,200 volunteers have planted 41 varieties of native trees and shrubs across 197 acres. At Devil's Tower National Monument, park staff and contractors used locally collected native plant seed to restore 3 acres of disturbed land at the park's visitor center and along the popular Power Trail to Devil's Tower. At Pea Ridge National Military Park, National Park Service staff and contractors collected native seed from remnant prairies and planted them in agricultural fields outside the park. The seed and plants will be harvested and used to restore 30 acres of Civil War battlefield, including an obliterated highway, existing roadways, and areas near the park's Visitor Center.

Finally, the NPS would like to work with the sponsor and the Committee to address technical edits regarding the implementation of the bill.

Chairman King, this concludes my statement. I would be pleased to answer any questions you or other members of the Subcommittee may have.

**STATEMENT OF MICHAEL A. CALDWELL, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR, PARK PLANNING, FACILITIES, AND LANDS, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BEFORE THE SENATE ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS, CONCERNING S. 1344, A BILL TO REDESIGNATE THE PULLMAN NATIONAL MONUMENT IN THE STATE OF ILLINOIS AS THE PULLMAN NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**

**MAY 11, 2022**

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Chairman King, Ranking Member Daines, and members of the Subcommittee, thank you for the opportunity to present the Department of the Interior's views on S. 1344, a bill to redesignate the Pullman National Monument in the State of Illinois as the Pullman National Historical Park, and for other purposes.

The Department supports S. 1344 with amendments described later in this statement.

S. 1344 would redesignate Pullman National Monument in Chicago, Illinois, as Pullman National Historical Park, as well as provide a statutory basis for this unit. In the National Park Service's (NPS) standard nomenclature, the term "national historical park" denotes a unit containing multiple historic resources, as is the case with the Pullman National Monument. The bill also provides for some specific management and cooperative agreement authorities that would be new to the unit.

Pullman National Monument was established in 2015 by Presidential Proclamation 9233 to preserve and interpret resources that are part of the Pullman Historic District. These resources reflect the industrial and labor history associated with the Pullman Company, including the rise and role of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters and the history of urban planning and design, of which the planned company town of Pullman is a nationally significant example.

The Pullman Historic District typifies many of the economic, social, and design currents running through American life in the late 19th and early 20th century. Industrialist George Mortimer Pullman built the model town to house workers at his luxury rail car factories. Although his goal was to cure the social ills of the day, the tight control he exercised over his workers helped spark one of the nation's most widespread and consequential labor strikes. The remaining structures of the Pullman Palace Car Company, workers' housing, and community buildings that make up the Pullman Historic District are a testament to the evolution of American industry, the rise of unions and the labor movement, the lasting strength of urban design, and the remarkable journey of the Pullman porters toward the civil rights movement of the 20th century.

The boundaries of Pullman National Monument, which encompass approximately 203 acres, include about two-thirds of the Pullman Historic District. Currently, the NPS owns and manages only the historic Administration Clock Tower Building, which served as the hub of the former Pullman factory. Within the monument boundary is the Pullman State Historic Site, owned and operated by the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency, which includes the grounds around the

Administration Clock Tower Building, the North Factory Wing, the Rear Erecting Shop, and the four-story Hotel Florence. Other governmental and private organizations also contribute to the preservation and interpretation of the Pullman neighborhood's history. The NPS coordinates closely with these entities to ensure that the history of this area is preserved and made available to the public.

While the Department supports the redesignation of the Pullman National Monument as a national historical park, we recommend that S. 1344 be amended to reflect the joint planning effort already underway by the NPS and the Illinois Department of Natural Resources for Pullman National Monument and State Historic Site instead of a General Management Plan. We also recommend that the language regarding cooperative agreements and the use of funds be revised to conform with the standard language used in legislation for units of the National Park System. We would be happy to work with the sponsor and the Committee on proposed amendment language.

Chairman King, this concludes my statement. I would be pleased to answer any questions you or other members of the Subcommittee may have.

**STATEMENT OF MICHAEL A. CALDWELL, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR, PARK PLANNING, FACILITIES, AND LANDS, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BEFORE THE SENATE ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS, CONCERNING S. 2964, A BILL TO CLARIFY THE STATUS OF THE NORTH COUNTRY, ICE AGE, AND NEW ENGLAND NATIONAL SCENIC TRAILS AS UNITS OF THE NATIONAL PARK SYSTEM, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**

**MAY 11, 2022**

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Chairman King, Ranking Member Daines, and members of the Subcommittee, thank you for the opportunity to present the Department of the Interior's views on S. 2964, a bill to clarify the status of the North Country, Ice Age, and New England National Scenic Trails as units of the National Park System, and for other purposes.

The Department does not object to the goal of S. 2964, which is to treat all six national scenic trails administered by the National Park Service as units of the National Park System. We recommend amending S. 2964 as described in this statement.

S. 2964 would amend the National Trails System Act to require the Secretary of the Interior to administer the North Country, Ice Age, and New England National Scenic Trails as units of the National Park System. Currently, the Act is silent regarding unit status for each of these trails and for all the other long-distance trails designated as national scenic trails.

Of the 23 congressionally designated long-distance trails administered or co-administered by the National Park Service, 6 are national scenic trails and 17 are national historic trails. Of the six national scenic trails, three are currently counted as units of the National Park System. The choice to count these trails as units was an administrative decision reflecting the extent of actual or potential Federal land ownership and the National Park Service's role in administering these trails.

In addition to the Appalachian National Scenic Trail, which was authorized in 1968 and administratively listed as a unit of the National Park System in 1972, the Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail and the Natchez Trace National Scenic Trail, both authorized in 1983, were administratively listed as units in the mid-1980 's. Amending the National Trails System Act to provide that the North Country (authorized 1980), Ice Age (authorized 1980), and New England (authorized 2009) National Scenic Trails shall be administered as units of the National Park System would provide consistency in the status of all six national scenic trails.

In order to avoid confusion as to the status of three national scenic trails (the Appalachian National Scenic Trail, the Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail, and the Natchez Trace National Scenic Trail) that are currently administratively counted as units, we recommend that S. 2964 be amended so that it also statutorily recognizes the unit status of those three trails. In addition, we recommend that the bill also be worded to clarify that lands within these trails that are not administered by NPS are not subject to laws applicable to the National Park System. We

would be pleased to work with the Committee on appropriate language for that purpose. We would also appreciate the opportunity to work with the bill sponsor and trail partners to discuss the practical aspects of implementation.

Regardless of whether trails are counted as units or not, all of the land actually administered by the National Park Service within trails is, by law, part of the National Park System. Conferring unit status does not change the management of that trail or affect any existing agreements, easements, or other legal instruments in effect for the administration of the trail. The designation of a trail as a unit has no impact upon the cost of operating the trail. The National Park Service has taken steps to ensure that trails have equal access to sources of funding and that the public is informed about national scenic and historic trails on the National Park Service website and in other forms of media. We have also worked with the National Park Foundation, our congressionally authorized philanthropic partner, to allow the long-distance trails to be considered for grant funding.

The National Park Service values the unique relationships and partnerships that have been developed with communities along national trails. We will continue to work with our trail partners to improve communications and address any of the concerns that are raised regarding equal treatment for trails.

Chairman King, this concludes my statement. I would be pleased to answer any questions you or other members of the Subcommittee may have.

**STATEMENT OF MICHAEL A. CALDWELL, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR, PARK PLANNING, FACILITIES, AND LANDS, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BEFORE THE SENATE ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS, CONCERNING S. 3141, A BILL TO ESTABLISH THE NEW PHILADELPHIA NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK IN THE STATE OF ILLINOIS AS A UNIT OF THE NATIONAL PARK SYSTEM, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**

**MAY 11, 2022**

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Chairman King, Ranking Member Daines, and members of the Subcommittee, thank you for the opportunity to present the Department of the Interior's views on S. 3141, to establish the New Philadelphia National Historical Park in the State of Illinois as a unit of the National Park System, and for other purposes.

The Department recognizes the important contribution to America's story that is represented by the site known as New Philadelphia – the first town planned and legally registered by a free African American before the Civil War. Congress authorized a special resource study of the archeological site and surrounding land of the New Philadelphia Townsite as part of the Carl Levin and Howard P. "Buck" McKeon National Defense Authorization Act for FY 2015 (P.L. 113-291), enacted on December 19, 2014. The study, which is in progress will consider whether the site meets the Congressionally established criteria for inclusion in the National Park System, including national significance, suitability, feasibility, and the need for NPS Management.

S. 3141 would establish the New Philadelphia site as a unit of the National Park System to coordinate the preservation, protection, and interpretation efforts there by different entities and to coordinate appropriate management options. The bill would establish a boundary for the park, authorize acquisition of land and structures for the park, provide for preservation assistance to public and non-public entities within the boundaries of the park and at sites in close proximity to the park, and require a management plan to be completed within three years after funds are made available for that purpose.

Originally established in 1836 by Frank McWorter, New Philadelphia was the first town planned and legally registered by a free African American before the Civil War. McWorter, once an enslaved man, bought his freedom and the freedom of 15 family members by mining for crude niter in Kentucky caves and processing the mined material into saltpeter, by hiring his time to other settlers, and by selling lots in New Philadelphia, the town he founded. The rural community situated near the Mississippi and Illinois rivers flourished at first, but later fell in decline when the railroad bypassed the community in 1869; it was eventually dissolved in 1885. The New Philadelphia Historic District consists of an archeological site within the 40-acre original townsite. The New Philadelphia site is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, designated as a National Historic Landmark and included in the National Park Service's National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom.

Several partner organizations and individuals have been working together for years to protect and interpret the New Philadelphia site and conduct archeological and historical research. Most

active among them are nonprofit organizations including the New Philadelphia Association, the Archaeological Conservancy, the Philadelphia Land Trust, and the faculty and students from the Universities of Illinois and Maryland. They manage a website and social media, an informational kiosk, and an “augmented reality” cell phone tour of the history of the site.

If the Committee decides to act on this legislation, we would like to work with you on amendments and a legislative map.

Chairman King, this concludes my statement. I would be pleased to answer any questions you or other members of the Subcommittee may have.

**STATEMENT OF MICHAEL A. CALDWELL, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR, PARK PLANNING, FACILITIES, AND LANDS, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BEFORE THE SENATE ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS, CONCERNING S. 3185, A BILL TO AMEND THE DELAWARE WATER GAP NATIONAL RECREATION AREA IMPROVEMENT ACT TO EXTEND THE EXCEPTION TO THE CLOSURE OF CERTAIN ROADS WITHIN THE RECREATION AREA FOR LOCAL BUSINESSES.**

**MAY 11, 2022**

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Chairman King, Ranking Member Daines, and members of the Subcommittee, thank you for the opportunity to present the Department of the Interior's views on S. 3185, a bill to amend the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area Improvement Act to extend the exception to the closure of certain roads within the recreation area for local businesses, and for other purposes.

The Department supports S. 3185.

S. 3185 would amend Section 4(b) of the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area Improvement Act (P.L. 109-156 as amended) to extend the use of certain roads within Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area through September 30, 2026. The bill would extend the authority of the National Park Service (NPS) to allow commercial vehicles serving local businesses to use Federal Road 209 through a permit and fee program. The current authority expires on September 30, 2022.

The extension would authorize the park to continue issuing permits to commercial vehicle operators owned by businesses located in or adjacent to the recreation area or necessary to provide services to businesses or persons located in or adjacent to the recreation area enabling them to travel through the park. Route 209 provides a safe, efficient and cost-effective transportation route for these adjacent communities. This permitted access contributes to the economic vitality, public safety and quality of life of the park's adjacent communities.

Permits are not required for local school buses, and fire, ambulance, and other safety or emergency vehicles.

Finally, the Department would like to work with the sponsor and Committee on a technical edit to the public law reference in the bill.

Chairman King, this concludes my statement. I would be pleased to answer any questions you or other members of the Subcommittee may have.

**STATEMENT OF MICHAEL A. CALDWELL, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR, PARK PLANNING, FACILITIES, AND LANDS, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BEFORE THE SENATE ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE, SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS, REGARDING S. 3240, A BILL TO WAIVE THE APPLICATION FEE FOR SPECIAL USE PERMITS FOR VETERANS' SPECIAL EVENTS AT WAR MEMORIALS ON LAND ADMINISTERED BY THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE IN THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA AND ITS ENVIRONS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**

**MAY 11, 2022**

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Chairman King, Ranking Member Daines, and members of the Subcommittee, thank you for the opportunity to present the Department of the Interior's views on S. 3240, to waive the application fee for any special use permit for veterans' special events at war memorials on Federal land administered by the National Park Service in the District of Columbia and its environs.

The Department supports S. 3240.

The Department welcomes opportunities to commemorate and honor the brave men and women in uniform and their families who sacrifice so much in service to our country, and we are proud to host veterans, veterans' groups, and their families for commemorations and events recognizing that service and sacrifice. S.3240 codifies the National Park Service's longstanding practice of not requiring application fees for special use permits for veterans' special events at war memorials.

The National Park Service generally waives application fees for special use permits for special events commemorating veterans at war memorials. Park Superintendents, who administer the permits, have the authority to waive a special use permit application fee if the proposed use will promote the mission of the National Park Service; promote public health, safety, or welfare; or if charging and collecting the fees is not cost effective. Once a permit is issued, the National Park Service may charge additional fees or recover costs associated with the permitted activity.

S. 3240, which addresses only application fees, would codify the requirement of a waiver of the application fee for any special use permit solely for a veteran's special event at war memorials on Federal land administered by the National Park Service in the District of Columbia and its environs. The National Park Service retains the ability to collect additional cost recovery or fees related to permitted activities.

Chairman King, this concludes my statement. I would be pleased to answer any questions you and other members of the Subcommittee may have.

**STATEMENT OF MICHAEL A. CALDWELL, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR, PARK PLANNING, FACILITIES, AND LANDS, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BEFORE THE SENATE ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS, CONCERNING S. 3307, A BILL TO MODIFY THE BOUNDARY OF THE WILSON'S CREEK NATIONAL BATTLEFIELD IN THE STATE OF MISSOURI, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**

**MAY 11, 2022**

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Chairman King, Ranking Member Daines, and members of the Subcommittee, thank you for the opportunity to present the Department of the Interior's views on S. 3307, a bill to modify the boundary of the Wilson's Creek National Battlefield in the State of Missouri, and for other purposes.

The Department opposes S. 3307.

The bill would amend the boundary of the Wilson's Creek National Battlefield to include approximately 624 acres that include the site of the first and second battles of Newtonia. The precise location of the boundary revision is identified on a map numbered 410/117,379 and dated September 2021.

Pursuant to public law 110-229, a special resource study was conducted to evaluate if the Newtonia Battlefields in Newtonia, Missouri, met the criteria for addition to the National Park System as an independent unit of the system or as an addition to the Wilson's Creek National Battlefield in Republic, Missouri. The study found that the Newtonia Battlefields did not meet the significance or suitability criteria as an independent unit of the system. In evaluating the boundary of Wilson's Creek National Battlefield, the study found that the Newtonia Battlefields are only tangentially related to the existing unit and the boundary modification would not protect significant resources, enhance opportunities for public enjoyment, address operational and management issues for the existing park site, or protect critical park resources. Given these findings, the Department does not support modifying the boundary of Wilson's Creek National Battlefield as described in S. 3307.

Currently the Newtonia Battlefields Protection Association (Association) owns and maintains 25 plus acres of the Battlefields. This includes the Ritchey Mansion and the "Old Newtonia Cemetery" or the "Civil War Cemetery" as it is locally known, with an unspecified number of unmarked graves. Nine markers have been identified as belonging to Union soldiers, including that of Captain Robert F. Christian, who was killed during the Second Battle of Newtonia.

The Association was instrumental in having the sites of the 1862 and the 1864 battles listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The Ritchey Mansion was previously listed on the National Register, and the Association revised that application after they purchased the Mansion in 2002 to include the battlefields. The Association applied for and received multiple grants from the American Battlefield Protection Program of the National Park Service to learn more

about the site and improve its management, and can continue to compete for additional grants in the future if desired.

Chairman King, this concludes my statement. I would be pleased to answer any questions you or other members of the Subcommittee may have.

**STATEMENT OF MICHAEL A. CALDWELL, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR, PARK PLANNING, FACILITIES, AND LANDS, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BEFORE THE SENATE ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS CONCERNING S. 3519, A BILL TO AMEND THE NATIONAL TRAILS SYSTEM ACT TO DESIGNATE THE BUTTERFIELD OVERLAND NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**

**MAY 11, 2022**

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Chairman King, Ranking Member Daines, and members of the Subcommittee, thank you for the opportunity to present the Department of the Interior's views on S. 3519, a bill to amend the National Trails System Act to designate the Butterfield Overland National Historic Trail, and for other purposes.

The Department supports S. 3519.

S. 3519 would amend the National Trails System Act to designate the Butterfield Overland National Historic Trail.

In May 2018, the National Park Service transmitted the Butterfield Overland National Historic Trail Special Resource Study to Congress. The study was completed pursuant to section 7209 of Public Law 111-11, the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009. The purpose of the study was to evaluate the significance, feasibility, suitability, and desirability of designating the routes associated with the Butterfield Overland Trail as a national historic trail.

The Butterfield Overland Mail Company, also known as the Butterfield Stage, held a United States Mail contract to transport mail and passengers over the “ox-bow route” between the eastern termini of St. Louis, Missouri and Memphis, Tennessee, and the western terminus of San Francisco, California. The postal route and stagecoach service operated from 1858 to 1861. With the advent of the Civil War, this southern mail route was discontinued and moved farther north. The route served a critical need at that time, tying disparate parts of the country together and providing an overland route that ran entirely within the continent’s borders.

The study area included approximately 3,553 miles of trail routes in eight states: Missouri, Tennessee, Arkansas, Oklahoma, Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, and California. Given that 203 miles on the eastern end of the trail do not involve stage lines and approximately 58 miles of the routes are located in Mexico, a total of 3,292 miles were analyzed for this study.

The NPS conducted the study in accordance with the National Trails System Act (NTSA), and the routes were evaluated under the feasibility study provisions of the NTSA. In addition, to be eligible for designation as a national historic trail, the NTSA requires that a trail must be

nationally significant, have a documented route through maps or journals, and offer significant potential for public recreational use.

The NPS study determined that all of the requirements of the NTSA were met. The Butterfield Overland Trail was found to be nationally significant, and feasible, suitable, and desirable for addition to the National Trails System as a national historic trail. The NPS considered four alternatives and selected *Alternative 4: Designate a National Historic Trail but only with Nationally Significant Routes and Extensions*, due to the level of public support and resource protection. Comments received during the study process were overwhelmingly supportive of national trail designation.

Chairman King, this concludes my statement. I would be pleased to answer any questions you or other members of the Subcommittee may have.

**STATEMENT OF MICHAEL A. CALDWELL, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR, PARK PLANNING, FACILITIES, AND LANDS, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BEFORE THE SENATE ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS, CONCERNING S. 3551, A BILL TO REQUIRE THE SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE AND THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR TO CARRY OUT CERTAIN ACTIVITIES TO ENHANCE RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR GATEWAY COMMUNITIES, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**

**MAY 11, 2022**

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Chairman King, Ranking Member Daines, and members of the Subcommittee, thank you for the opportunity to present the Department of the Interior's views on S. 3551, a bill to require the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior to carry out certain activities to enhance recreational opportunities for gateway communities, and for other purposes.

The Department supports the intent of S. 3551.

S. 3551 would require the Secretary of Agriculture, acting through the Chief of the U.S. Forest Service, and the Secretary of the Interior to carry out a pilot program within two years of the date of enactment that would make available to the public data on visitation at: selected Federal land management units; other Federal, State, and local recreation sites near the selected units; and, other lesser known recreation sites near the selected units, in an effort to disperse visitation among recreation sites. In selecting the Federal land management units to participate in the pilot program, the Secretaries would be directed to solicit feedback from gateway communities.

The bill would require the Secretaries to select fifteen participating units managed by the Department of the Interior and five participating units managed by the U.S. Forest Service. Within five years, the Secretaries would be required to expand the program to include 80 additional sites, 50 of which would be managed by the Department of the Interior. The Secretaries would be authorized to use existing programs or products to carry out the requirements in this section.

S. 3551 would also direct the Secretaries to collaborate with State and local governments, Tribal governments, housing authorities, applicable trade associations, nonprofit organizations, and other relevant stakeholders to improve the understanding of the economic impacts of visitation on gateway communities and identify community needs, including housing shortages, demands on existing municipal infrastructure, and accommodation and management of sustainable visitation. The bill further directs the Secretaries to use existing authorities to seek to address the identified community needs by entering into agreements with gateway communities; offering corresponding leases, rights-of-way, or easements; entering into public-private partnerships; or providing financial assistance under existing programs.

The Department of the Interior appreciates the intent of this bill and is broadly supportive of congressional efforts to provide the various Federal land management agencies under its

jurisdiction with greater authorities and flexibility to respond to changing needs and evolving challenges in a time of increased visitation to our public lands. We appreciate the Committee's work to take action on these issues and would welcome the opportunity to continue working with the bill sponsors and the Committee in a collaborative manner to advance these goals.

Chairman King, this concludes my statement. I would be pleased to answer any questions you or other members of the Subcommittee may have.

**STATEMENT OF MICHAEL A. CALDWELL, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR, PARK PLANNING, FACILITIES, AND LANDS, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BEFORE THE SENATE ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS CONCERNING S. 3685, A BILL TO DIRECT THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR TO CONDUCT A SPECIAL RESOURCES STUDY TO DETERMINE THE SUITABILITY AND FEASIBILITY OF ESTABLISHING THE JOHN P. PARKER HOUSE IN RIPLEY, OHIO AS A UNIT OF THE NATIONAL PARK SYSTEM.**

**MAY 11, 2022**

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Chairman King, Ranking Member Daines, and members of the Subcommittee, thank you for the opportunity to present the Department of the Interior's views on S. 3685, the John P. Parker House Study Act.

The Department supports S. 3685. We would like to note that there are currently 23 previously authorized studies for potential units of the National Park System, potential new National Heritage Areas, and potential additions to the National Trails System that have not yet been transmitted to Congress.

S. 3685 would direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study to determine the suitability and feasibility of establishing the John P. Parker House in Ripley, Ohio, as a unit of the National Park System.

The John P. Parker House and Museum, currently owned and managed by the John P. Parker Historical Society, is the restored home of abolitionist and entrepreneur John P. Parker (1827-1900). As a conductor on the Underground Railroad at the height of the abolitionist movement, John P. Parker helped runaway slaves from the South escape to freedom across the Ohio River. A freed slave himself, Parker was also a renowned African American entrepreneur and one of the first African Americans to receive patents for his inventions. During the Civil War, he made iron castings in his foundry for the Union, and he recruited soldiers for the two Ohio Civil War regiments of the United States Colored Troops. Parker worked with abolitionist John Rankin, and together they supported a robust abolitionist movement on the Ohio River. The site was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1980 and designated a national historic landmark in 1997 for its connection to the abolitionist movement.

A reconnaissance survey completed in 2020, examined the national significance, suitability, feasibility, and level of National Park Service (NPS) management required. It determined that further evaluation through a congressionally authorized special resource study is warranted. The special resource study will further evaluate the site for inclusion in the National Park System; invite public involvement in the study process; and develop potential management alternatives for the John P. Parker House and Museum.

Chairman King, this concludes my statement. I would be pleased to answer any questions you or other members of the Subcommittee may have.

**STATEMENT OF MICHAEL A. CALDWELL, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR, PARK PLANNING, FACILITIES, AND LANDS, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BEFORE THE SENATE ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS CONCERNING S.4114, A BILL TO AMEND PUBLIC LAW 99-420 TO PROVIDE FOR THE CONVEYANCE OF CERTAIN FEDERAL LAND IN THE STATE OF MAINE FOR USE FOR AFFORDABLE WORKFORCE HOUSING, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**

**MAY 11, 2022**

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Chairman King, Ranking Member Daines, and members of the Subcommittee, thank you for the opportunity to present the Department of the Interior's views on S. 4114, a bill to amend Public Law 99-420 to provide for the conveyance of certain Federal land in the State of Maine for use for affordable workforce housing, and for other purposes.

The Department supports S. 4114 and recommends technical amendments.

In 1986, Congress directed the Secretary of the Interior to convey the land described in S. 4114 to the Town of Bar Harbor to be used as a solid waste transfer station (P.L. 99-420). A waste transfer station was never constructed on the parcel. S. 4114 would amend P.L. 99-420 to allow this land to be used for affordable workforce housing. The conveyance is subject to the limitation that the Secretary may retain not more than 15 acres of the Federal land identified as '4DBH' on the map, to be used by the Secretary to provide housing and administrative facilities for the use of and supporting the purposes of Acadia National Park (Park).

As is common at many National Park units, finding affordable housing in the Park's gateway communities on Mount Desert Island is a significant challenge for both the National Park Service (NPS) employees and their counterparts in the private sector. Much of the area's housing stock now consists of high-cost, short-term rentals, which has created a much more challenging housing situation than what existed just a few years ago for both permanent and seasonal employees. At the same time, the Park has experienced unprecedented growth in visitation, thereby intensifying the need for park employees to provide visitor services and ensure the protection of park resources.

NPS acquired an undeveloped 55.3-acre parcel in the village of Town Hill in Bar Harbor, Maine by donation in 1960. As mentioned above, in 1986, P.L. 99-420 established a permanent boundary for the park and directed the NPS to convey the parcel, which is outside the boundary of the park, without monetary consideration to the town of Bar Harbor for use by any town on Mount Desert Island as a solid waste transfer station. A centralized transfer station for Mount Desert Island is no longer needed. At the same time, the need for affordable workforce housing has become a universal concern for the towns on Mount Desert Island as it has for the NPS.

The provisions of this bill will enable the Park and local communities to facilitate the development of affordable year-round and seasonal workforce housing for eligible residents that would be of mutual benefit to NPS and Mount Desert Island. The proposal to repurpose this

parcel for the development of affordable workforce housing has been reviewed and was unanimously endorsed by the Bar Harbor Town Council, and the selectboards of the towns of Mount Desert, Southwest Harbor, and Tremont.

The Department recommends including further technical amendments to the underlying statute, P.L. 99-420, by deleting the words “by any town which so” that immediately precede “desires” as described in Section 1 of this bill and deleting the words “that requests the conveyance of the land” in the bill. In addition, the Department recommends inserting the words “to benefit the towns of Mount Desert Island” following the words “affordable workforce housing”. We would be happy to work with the sponsor and the Committee to develop these amendments.

Chairman King, this concludes my statement. I would be pleased to answer any questions you or other members of the Subcommittee may have.

**STATEMENT OF MICHAEL A. CALDWELL, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR, PARK PLANNING, FACILITIES, AND LANDS, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BEFORE THE SENATE ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS CONCERNING S. 4121 TO DESIGNATE THE KOL ISRAEL FOUNDATION HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL IN BEDFORD HEIGHTS, OHIO, AS A NATIONAL MEMORIAL.**

**MAY 11, 2022**

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Chairman King, Ranking Member Daines, and members of the Subcommittee, thank you for the opportunity to present the Department of the Interior's views on S. 4121, a bill to designate the Kol Israel Foundation Holocaust Memorial in Bedford Heights, Ohio, as a National Memorial.

The Department does not have a position on S. 4121, as the memorial would not be located at a site that is under the jurisdiction of the Department of the Interior, and this bill does not provide for any management or funding by the National Park Service.

The Kol Israel Foundation Holocaust Memorial was dedicated on May 28, 1961, and is one of the first memorials related to the Holocaust constructed in the United States. It is a memorial to the 6 million Jews who died in the Holocaust and commemorates Holocaust victims with unknown resting places. Buried at the base of the monument are ashes and artifacts of Jewish martyrs killed by the Nazis from three concentration camps. Engraved on surrounding walls are the names of family members who perished during the Holocaust, as well as the names of departed survivors.

This legislation explicitly states that this Memorial is not a unit of the National Park System, and that designation should not be construed to require Federal funds to be expended for it.

Chairman King, this concludes my statement. I would be pleased to answer any questions you or other members of the Subcommittee may have.