STATEMENT OF VICTOR KNOX, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR, PARK PLANNING, FACILITIES AND LANDS, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BEFORE THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON PUBLIC LANDS AND ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATION OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES, CONCERNING H.R. 4029, TO REQUIRE THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR TO TRANSFER ALL FEDERAL LAND, FACILITIES AND ANY OTHER ASSESTS ASSOCIATED WITH THE OZARK NATIONAL SCENIC RIVERWAYS TO THE STATE OF MISSOURI FOR THE PURPOSES OF MAINTAINING A STATE PARK, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

June 10, 2014

Mr. Chairman, thank you for the opportunity to appear before your committee to present the views of the Department of the Interior on H.R. 4029, a bill to require the Secretary of the Interior to transfer all federal land, facilities and any other assets associated with the Ozark National Scenic Riverways to the State of Missouri for the purpose of maintaining a state park, and for other purposes.

The Department strongly opposes the enactment of H.R. 4029.

H.R. 4029 would transfer all lands, facilities, and assets associated with the Ozark National Scenic Riverways to the State of Missouri to be operated as a State park in substantially the same fashion as it was operated as a unit of the National Park System. If the State of Missouri attempted to sell any portion of these lands, assets, or facilities, or did not operate them in the same fashion as the National Park Service, they would revert to the ownership of the Federal government. The bill would also require the Federal government to pay all of the costs of the transfer.

The Department has a number of concerns with H.R. 4029. Our fundamental concern is that the bill would erode the idea of a Federal system of public lands, and the system of laws, regulations, and policies that govern the management of those lands. The management of Federal lands involves the exercise of inherently Federal functions and decision making by land managers for the long-term benefit of all Americans. State governments have very different responsibilities for the management of State lands than the Federal government, and are accountable only to residents within their particular States. Accordingly, each State would be under strong pressure to manage according to local rather than national interests.

2014 marks the fiftieth anniversary of the designation of the Ozark National Scenic Riverways as a unit of the National Park Service. In 1964, Missouri's Congressional delegation united in support of a bill to set aside 134 miles of crystal clear spring-fed rivers in recognition of the inherent value of the unique scenic, natural and historic values of the Current and Jacks Fork rivers in the Ozark Highlands as a crucial part of our national heritage. Public Law 88-492 was the culmination of forty years of efforts by local businessmen, State officials and

conservationists and became the model for the National Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, a landmark conservation act, signed into law by President Nixon.

The enabling legislation charged the National Park Service with conserving and interpreting unique scenic and other natural values and objects of historic interest, preserving portions of the Current River and the Jacks Fork River in Missouri as free-flowing streams, caring for a world class spring system unparalleled in North America, including the largest spring protected in the national park system, and over 400 caves situated in the valleys and narrow hollows that meander between steep ridges, and for providing for the use and enjoyment of these outstanding outdoor recreation resource for the people of the United States.

This mandate to conserve the park's resources while providing for access and recreational opportunities mirrors the mandate contained in the National Park Service Organic Act. The Riverways' 80,785 acres protect an important center of biodiversity, including three listed threatened and endangered species and numerous endemic species not found elsewhere in the world. The Riverways also contain many archeological sites and historic structures and landscapes that reflect more than 12,000 years of human habitation in the Ozark Highlands. Interpretation and education programs focus on the rich cultural heritage of the region. Tourism and recreation opportunities, such as boating, fishing, and horseback riding, are encouraged by the park and managed in balance with these resources and the diverse interests and desires of multiple user groups from across the nation.

In 2012, Ozarks National Scenic Riverways welcomed 1.4 million visitors and generated approximately $56 million in economic benefits for the surrounding community. Enactment of H.R. 4029 would not only contravene the intent of the Missouri delegation when it initially established the Riverways as a unit of the National Park System, it would also diminish the stature of these nationally significant resources and could reduce the economic benefits that accrue to national park sites by alienating certain user groups.

The park is currently engaged in a planning process to update its 1984 General Management Plan. This public process ensures that all Americans, including all Missourians, have a voice in the management of their park. Over 2,800 people from across the nation have provided more than 16,000 comments and participated in public meetings, open houses, and stakeholder workshops since the planning process began in 2005. Ozark National Scenic Riverways has published a draft General Management Plan and collected public comments on this draft. The National Park Service is currently considering changes to the plan based on public comments, and anticipates releasing the final plan by early 2015.

Mr. Chairman, this concludes my testimony. I am prepared to answer any questions from members of the Committee.

STATEMENT OF VICTOR KNOX, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR, PARK PLANNING, FACILITIES AND LANDS, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BEFORE THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON PUBLIC LANDS AND ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATION OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES, CONCERNING H.R. 4049, TO AMEND THE ACT TO PROVIDE FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE APOSTLE ISLANDS NATIONAL LAKESHORE IN THE STATE OF WISCONSIN, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES, TO ADJUST THE BOUNDARY OF THAT NATIONAL LAKESHORE TO INCLUDE THE LIGHTHOUSE KNOWN AS ASHLAND HARBOR BREAKWATER LIGHT, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

June 10, 2014

Mr. Chairman, thank you for the opportunity to appear before your committee to present the views of the Department of the Interior on H.R. 4049, a bill to amend the act to provide for the establishment of the Apostle Islands National Lakeshore in the state of Wisconsin, and for other purposes, to adjust the boundary of that National Lakeshore to include the lighthouse known as Ashland Harbor Breakwater Light, and for other purposes.

The Department supports the enactment of H.R. 4049 with the amendments discussed below.

H.R. 4049 would adjust the boundary of the Apostle Island National Lakeshore (Lakeshore) to include the Ashland Harbor Breakwater Light, thereby transferring ownership of the historic 1915 lighthouse to the National Park Service (NPS) from the U.S. Coast Guard in accordance with previously enacted legislation which mandates that any Federal property located within the boundaries of the Lakeshore be transferred to the Secretary of the Interior without further administrative action. H.R. 4049 ensures that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers can maintain the breakwater upon which the lighthouse stands, and, in accordance with the terms of the previously enacted legislation, the U.S. Coast Guard can continue to maintain a Federal aid to navigation in the lighthouse. All three agencies would be required to cooperate in their operations so that each of their agency missions is served.

Apostle Islands National Lakeshore, located on the south shore of Lake Superior, is responsible for the care of what renowned lighthouse historian F. Ross Holland, Jr., has described as "the largest and finest single collection of lighthouses in the country." The park manages six historic light stations, and a total of eight standing light towers – more than in any other unit in the National Park System. All of the lighthouses currently located within the boundary of the Lakeshore, as well as the Ashland Harbor Breakwater Light, are listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The Lakeshore has developed into one of the premier locations in the National Park System for historic preservation and education centered on lighthouses, including interpretive programs highlighting the stories of light keepers and the expansion of the United Sates in the late 19th century through maritime commerce. In 2006, Apostle Islands rehabilitated the 1863 Raspberry

Island Lighthouse, which is a very popular visitor attraction. This year, the Lakeshore is concluding a major historic preservation project that will rehabilitate the 1856 Old Michigan Island Light, the oldest in the park, and significantly improve conditions at four other light stations.

All of the lighthouses currently managed by Apostle Islands National Lakeshore were transferred from the U.S. Coast Guard to the National Park Service as part of a Congressionally authorized boundary adjustment and land transfer in 1986 that mandated that any Federal property located within the boundaries of the Lakeshore be transferred to the administrative jurisdiction of the Secretary of the Interior. At the time of the 1986 transfer, the future of the Ashland Light was not in question.

In May 2012, the Coast Guard announced its intent to dispose of the Ashland Light under the National Historic Lighthouse Preservation Act (NHLPA). The NHLPA, enacted in 2000 as an amendment to the National Historic Preservation Act, provides a public process for the disposal of Federally owned historic light stations by allowing them to be transferred at no cost to Federal agencies, State and local governments, nonprofit corporations, educational agencies, and community development organizations. The first step is the determination of the property as "excess to service requirements" by the U.S. Coast Guard and its identification as a historic structure. This determination is reported to the General Services Administration and notice is given that applications may be made for the structure. If an application is accepted, the lighthouse is simply transferred to the applicant subject to compliance with requirements to maintain the light and make it available to the public.

No public or private entity, aside from the NPS, expressed interest in obtaining and maintaining the Ashland Light through the NHLPA process. However, as the Ashland Light is not within the existing park boundary, a boundary adjustment is needed to clarify that the property will be administered as part of the park.

The Ashland Light sits in Lake Superior's Chequamegon Bay, less than two miles offshore of the small city of Ashland, Wisconsin. The tower is visible from most of the city's waterfront, and the light shines brightly at night. Images of the Ashland Light are everywhere in the city; they adorn the logos of the local newspaper, the Chamber of Commerce, and many local businesses. Few residents, however, have actually visited the Ashland Light or understand the vital role it played in one of the busiest ports on Lake Superior a century ago.

The Ashland Light is currently in fair condition, but its long-term survival as part of the nation's maritime heritage is not assured. The NPS and the local community are optimistic that the condition could be improved and appropriate visitor educational opportunities could be provided in the future if the Ashland Light were managed as part of Apostle Island National Lakeshore. With the addition of the Ashland Light, the NPS would manage all of the nationally significant historic lights in the region, further enhancing the park's role in historic lighthouse preservation and education.

The Department would recommend three amendments.

The Department recommends deleting the portion of the amendment made in Section 2 that provides buffer zone language. The park boundary adjustment in H.R. 4049 includes only the lighthouse itself, not any of the waters of the Bay. The NPS has no authority to manage or permit activities outside of park boundaries. Fishing, boating, snowmobiling, and all other existing uses of the Bay's waters are not affected by this bill. The buffer zone language is unnecessary.

The Department recommends that the portion of Section 2 of the bill directing the Federal agencies to cooperate in their operations be amended to clarify Congressional intent. The bill does not otherwise alter the statutory standards or other mandates of the three agencies, nor does it affect the ongoing need for them to work cooperatively to carry out those mandates in the area, as they currently do with respect to other lighthouses within the boundary. We would be glad to work with the Subcommittee to amend the existing language to ensure that the bill does not affect the missions of these agencies.

Finally, the Department recommends deleting Section 3, which directs that no additional appropriations are to be authorized for the Lakeshore as a result of this boundary adjustment. The enabling legislation of Apostle Islands National Lakeshore makes no reference to the authorization of appropriations. In the absence of such authorizing language, adding language that specifically restricts the increase of appropriations for this particular boundary adjustment could be construed as prohibiting any future increase in appropriations for the park even if that increase was unrelated to the addition of the Ashland Light.

Mr. Chairman, this concludes my testimony. I am prepared to answer any questions from members of the Committee.

STATEMENT OF VICTOR KNOX, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR, PARK PLANNING, FACILITIES AND LANDS, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BEFORE THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON PUBLIC LANDS AND ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATION OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES, CONCERNING H.R. 4182, TO PROVIDE THAT THE OZARK NATIONAL SCENIC RIVERWAYS BE ADMINISTERED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE GENERAL MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR THAT UNIT OF THE NATIONAL PARK SYSTEM AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

June 10, 2014

Mr. Chairman, thank you for the opportunity to appear before your committee to present the views of the Department of the Interior on H.R. 4182, a bill to require the Secretary of the Interior to administer the Ozark National Scenic Riverways in accordance with the General Management Plan for that unit of the National Park System and for other purposes.

The Department strongly opposes the enactment of H.R. 4182.

H.R. 4182 would amend the purpose of the Ozark National Scenic Riverways to include the preservation of historical recreational activities. The bill would prohibit the park from designating management zones and would require the National Park Service to manage the park, including the use of motorized vessels within the park, in a manner that is not more restrictive than the policies detailed in the park's 1984 General Management Plan. The bill would also require the park to allow horseback riding in areas where that activity has traditionally been conducted and to maximize public access points for traditional recreational activities on the Riverways. It would prohibit the park from requiring a permit for a baptism in the river, or including the Riverways as part of a National Blueway, or managing park lands as wilderness without specific designation. The bill would exclude all lands within the park from eligibility for Congressional wilderness designation.

H.R. 4182 would undermine a public planning process that has been underway since 2005, and deny the opportunity for all Americans, including Missourians, to have a voice in the future management of their national park. The park is concluding the planning process to update its 1984 General Management Plan. Over 2,800 people from across the nation have provided more than 16,000 comments and participated in public meetings, open houses, and stakeholder workshops since the planning process began in 2005. Ozark National Scenic Riverways has published a draft General Management Plan and collected public comments on this draft. The National Park Service is currently considering changes to the plan based on public comments, and anticipates releasing the final plan by early 2015. Enactment of H.R. 4182 would force the park to disregard the input that it has received from park users.

Public participation is at the core of the National Park Service planning process – it ensures that the NPS fully understands and considers the public's interest in the parks. It is NPS policy to actively seek out and consult with existing and potential visitors, neighbors, Federally recognized

Tribes, and other people with traditional cultural ties to park lands, scientists and scholars, concessioners, cooperating associations, and gateway communities. The Department cannot support any bill that would deny the public's opportunity to engage in the planning process and voice their opinions on the future management of the Ozark National Scenic Riverways.

H.R. 4182 includes a number of provisions related to the administration of the Ozarks National Scenic Riverways.

- **Zones:** Management zoning is a standard practice of local and regional planning as well as planning for national parks. Management zones provide direction to managers on the nature and scope of allowable activities within specific areas. Management zones are written broadly enough to allow the flexibility to adapt management strategies according to current and desired conditions.

- **Horseback Riding:** Horseback riding is currently allowed in the park and the NPS is looking to sustain the activity in such a way as to not harm resources, specifically the exceptional waters of the Current and Jacks Fork Rivers.

- **Access to the River:** The National Park Service is committed to providing access to the rivers in a responsible manner. Baptisms do not require a permit. We have reviewed our management policies and determined that the superintendent has the flexibility to continue to allow baptisms without a special use permit. Also, the Secretary of the Interior issued an order ending the Blueways program last year.

- **Use of Motorized Vessels:** The National Park Service is currently undertaking a comprehensive review of motorized vessel use within the Riverways as part of the ongoing planning process. H.R. 4182 would deny the public the opportunity to share their views on appropriate horsepower levels and areas of use and would limit the park manager's ability to make necessary modifications for public safety which could negatively affect tourism.

- **Congressional Wilderness Designation:** The Wilderness Act directs Federal agencies to assess if wilderness characteristics are present and then provides a process for public involvement. This issue is being considered in the ongoing General Management Planning process and we cannot support limiting the public's input during this process. We recognize that only Congress has the authority to designate wilderness.

Additionally, H.R. 4182 effectively eliminates the National Park Service Organic Act as the fundamental law by which the Riverways would be administered. This law is the basis by which all of the other 400 units of the National Park System are managed and eliminating its applicability to the Riverways is a precedent we strongly oppose.

The Ozarks National Scenic Riverways is a powerful economic driver in southeast Missouri. In 2012, Ozarks National Scenic Riverways welcomed 1.4 million visitors and generated approximately $56 million in economic benefits for the surrounding community. The National Park Service encourages tourism and recreation opportunities, such as canoeing, kayaking,

floating, horseback riding, camping, boating, fishing, trapping, hiking, gigging, swimming, and hunting. By supporting these activities, while conserving the unique natural and cultural resources that inspired Congress to protect these lands as part of the national park system, and with the input of diverse user groups from across the nation, the National Park Service is helping to ensure that the park is responsive to users across America and remains an economic driver for future generations of Missourians and others.

Mr. Chairman, this concludes my testimony. I am prepared to answer any questions from members of the Committee.

STATEMENT OF VICTOR KNOX, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR, PARK PLANNING, FACILITIES AND LANDS, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BEFORE THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON PUBLIC LANDS AND ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATION, OF THE HOUSE NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE, CONCERNING H.R. 4489, A BILL TO DESIGNATE MEMORIALS TO THE SERVICE OF MEMBERS OF THE UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES IN WORLD WAR I, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

June 10, 2014

Mr. Chairman, thank you for the opportunity to appear before your committee to present the views of the Department of the Interior on H.R. 4489, a bill to designate memorials to the service of members of the United States Armed Forces in World War I, and for other purposes.

The Department supports H.R. 4489 with two amendments.

H.R. 4489 would redesignate Pershing Park in the District of Columbia as the National World War I Memorial and allow for the enhancement of the park through the construction of appropriate sculptural and other commemorative elements, including landscaping, to further honor the service of members of the United States Armed Forces in World War I. The bill also designates the Liberty Memorial of Kansas City at America's National World War I Museum in Kansas City, Missouri, as the National World War I Museum and Memorial. Finally, the bill makes amendments to the World War I Centennial Commission Act.

The Department has testified previously on other bills which sought to designate a National World War I Memorial in either the District of Columbia or at the Liberty Memorial in Kansas City, Missouri. In the 111th Congress, S. 760 and H.R. 1849 proposed designating the Liberty Memorial as the National World War I Memorial, while S. 2097 would have rededicated the District of Columbia War Memorial as a National and District of Columbia World War I Memorial. In the 112th Congress, H.R. 938 proposed to designate the Liberty Memorial as the National World War I Museum and Memorial, and the District of Columbia War Memorial as the District of Columbia and National World War I Memorial. In each case, the Department testified that it was premature to establish a National World War I Memorial without studying existing sites that may already serve that role. The Department also testified that a national memorial to World War I already exists in the District of Columbia.

General John J. Pershing Park, located in the along Pennsylvania Avenue between 14th and 15th Streets NW, was built by the Pennsylvania Avenue Development Corporation and is now under the jurisdiction of the National Park Service. The park includes a statue

of General Pershing and artwork detailing the major battles in World War I that involved U.S. troops. Quotations on the existing World War I Veterans Memorial at Pershing Park include General Pershing's tribute to the officers and men of the American Expeditionary Forces of World War I and a commemoration of those who served in the United States Navy in World War I. The Department believes that this is the appropriate site to commemorate World War I.

The National Capital Memorial Advisory Commission (NCMAC) has concluded that the existing World War I Memorial at Pershing Park serves today as a national memorial to the veterans who served in World War I. On July 23, 2013, NCMAC considered H.R. 222, which would have established a new and separate memorial to the veterans of World War I within the District of Columbia. The Commission unanimously recommended enhancing the existing World War I Memorial in Pershing Park rather than establishing a second memorial. More recently, on May 6, 2014, NCMAC considered H.R. 4489 and its companion bill, S. 2264. The intent of the bill to enhance the existing commemoration at Pershing Park was met with unanimous approval.

H.R. 4489 directs that there will be no infringement upon the existing District of Columbia War Memorial, and provides for compliance with the Commemorative Works Act (CWA), with two exceptions. The bill waives section 8905 with regard to site selection, as Pershing Park is an existing memorial site and the bill only calls for its re-designation. The bill, also, waives section 8908(b) of the CWA, as the Area I designation process is precluded by re-designation of Pershing Park. The Department agrees with these waivers. It further prohibits Federal funds from being used for the design, establishment, or enhancement of a memorial or commemorative work by the WWI Centennial Commission.

Because of the importance of World War I to the history of the United States and consistent with the treatment of memorials to other significant wars fought by our country, the Department believes that this bill would designate the National World War I Memorial as a new unit of the National Park Service, which would in turn be managed by the National Mall and Memorial Parks. We recommend that language be included in the text of the legislation establishing the memorial as a separate unit of the National Park System.

The Department also recommends striking "national" from the name of the title of the memorial to redesignate Pershing Park in the District of Columbia as the World War I Memorial. No other memorials to our country's wars sited in the District of Columbia have "national" in their title, including the World War II Memorial, the Korean War Veterans Memorial, and the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. We believe siting the World War I Memorial in our nation's capital will allow the memorial to stand on its own and provide appropriate recognition to honor the service and sacrifice of all those who fought in this war.

The proposed amendments are attached. In addition, the Department of Justice advises that it has constitutional concerns with H.R. 4489, which it intends to convey to the Committee by separate transmission.

This concludes my testimony on H.R. 4489, and I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.

Proposed amendment to H.R. 4489

On page 2, strike lines 17-19 and insert:

"(a) REDESIGNATION.—Pershing Park in the District of Columbia is hereby redesignated as the 'World War I Memorial', a separate unit of the National Park System."

STATEMENT OF VICTOR KNOX, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR, PARK PLANNING, FACILITIES AND LANDS, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BEFORE THE HOUSE SUBCOMMITTEE ON PUBLIC LANDS AND ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATION, COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES, CONCERNING H.R. 318, TO AUTHORIZE A WALL OF REMEMBRANCE AS PART OF THE KOREAN WAR VETERANS MEMORIAL AND TO ALLOW CERTAIN PRIVATE CONTRIBUTIONS TO FUND THAT WALL OF REMEMBRANCE

June 10, 2014

Mr. Chairman, thank you for the opportunity to appear before your committee to present the views of the Department of the Interior on H.R. 318, to authorize a Wall of Remembrance as part of the Korean War Veterans Memorial and to allow certain private contributions to fund that Wall of Remembrance.

The Department opposes H.R. 318 because it would significantly alter the character of the existing Korean War Veterans Memorial, and it is inconsistent with the Commemorative Works Act.

H.R. 318 would amend Public Law 99-572 to expand upon the original purpose and design of the Korean War Veterans Memorial. The bill adds new subjects for commemoration and would require the display of certain information at the memorial about members of the United States Armed Forces who served in the Korean Conflict. Also, the bill would require the display of information at the memorial about members of the Korean armed forces and other Korean military personnel as well as the 20 other non-U.S. forces that were part of the United Nations Command who served in the Korean Conflict.

The Korean War Veterans Memorial commemorates the sacrifices of the 5.8 million Americans who served in the U.S. armed services during the three-year period of the Korean War. The Memorial also recognizes the participation of the 22 nations who served as United Nations contributors. During the Korean War's relatively short duration from June 25, 1950, to July 27, 1953, 54,246 Americans died. Of these, 8,200 are listed as missing in action, lost, or buried at sea. In addition, 103,284 were wounded during the conflict.

The Memorial was designed, constructed and completed by its legislatively designated sponsor, the American Battle Monuments Commission (ABMC) and the Korean War Veterans Memorial Advisory Board, with public involvement throughout. It was dedicated on July 27, 1995.

The Memorial's design, and each of its features down to its plantings, is symbolic. The Memorial is the culmination of years of work by the ABMC, and careful reviews, followed by revisions, and ultimately approvals reached by the National Park Service and other federal entities including the National Capital Planning Commission and the U.S. Commission of Fine Arts. This painstaking and public process began with the competition design, and resulted in the completed Memorial we know today. The Memorial should not now be changed to include the engraving of names of Americans who served in that conflict. The opportunity to mimic the

design characteristics present at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial was purposefully avoided when the design was requested during an open, international design competition.

The concept of engraving names at this Memorial was considered extensively when the Memorial was being designed. The ABMC and the Korean War Veterans Memorial Advisory Board with the Department's concurrence, advised against the incorporation of engraved names at the Memorial. Both agencies arrived at this decision upon reflection of years of experience with the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. Inscribing names is a lengthy and painstaking process even when it goes smoothly. But more important, as the Vietnam Veterans Memorial experience showed, there is not always agreement on those names to be included and those names that are not, and this has led to public contention and controversy. Choosing some names and omitting others causes a place of solace to become a source of hurt. The Vietnam Veterans Memorial honors all who served in that conflict, but only the names of the 58,272 killed within the combat zone are engraved on the Wall. This meant that those killed by a fire on a Navy ship just outside the zone were not eligible to have their names engraved on the wall - a difficult message for their survivors to accept.

The ABMC and the Department felt the lessons learned at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial must not be ignored, that a different type of commemoration must occur at the Korean War Veterans Memorial, and that the Memorial should be representative in design and not include individual names. As a compromise to the Korean War veterans who wanted the names engraved, ABMC created the Korean War Honor Roll, which is an electronic registry of names. Visitors have access to this registry from the Internet or at the kiosks at the Memorial. A kiosk containing the Korean War Honor Roll stands at the west entrance of the Memorial. It is serviced by a National Park Service ranger, who provides assistance to visitors. The Honor Roll computer contains the names of all military personnel who lost their lives during the Korean War, including the individual's name, service, rank, service number, date of birth, hometown or county of entry into the service, cause of death, and date of death. If the information is furnished to ABMC, the Honor Roll includes the serviceman's unit, his awards, the circumstances surrounding his death or his going missing in action and a photograph. The ABMC also has the names of those missing engraved at the Courts of the Missing at the Honolulu Memorial.

The Korean War Veterans Memorial is located near the Lincoln Memorial on the National Mall in Washington, D.C., in an area designated by Congress in the Commemorative Works Act as the Reserve – an area in which no new commemorative works shall be located. As Congress noted in the law creating the Reserve, "...the great cross-axis of the Mall in the District of Columbia...is a substantially completed work of civic art; and ...to preserve the integrity of the Mall, a reserve area should be designated...where the siting of new commemorative works is prohibited." The Korean War Veterans Memorial is a completed work of civic art in this special landscape of the Reserve. Moreover, we cannot ignore the practical effect of this legislation. Essentially, the Memorial wall would be a second Korean War Veterans Memorial, effectively thwarting the intent of the Commemorative Works Act to prohibit new memorials within the Reserve and would be an addition that would significantly alter the character of the existing Memorial. And this second memorial would have the effect of violating the Commemorative Works Act prohibition on interfering or encroaching on an existing memorial.

We feel very strongly that the Korean War Veterans Memorial, like the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, exists to recall the exemplary service and sacrifice of outstanding Americans, and this memorial has already been completed as it stands today. The Korean War Veterans Memorial is a place of honor and dignity and we should avoid any intrusions that will become a source of contention or controversy.

That concludes my prepared testimony on H.R. 318, and I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.

STATEMENT OF VICTOR KNOX, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR FOR PARK PLANNING, FACILITIES, AND LANDS, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BEFORE THE HOUSE SUBCOMMITTEE ON PUBLIC LANDS AND ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATIONS, CONCERNING H.R. 4527, A BILL TO REMOVE A USE RESTRICTION ON LAND FORMERLY A PART OF ACADIA NATIONAL PARK THAT WAS TRANSFERRED TO THE TOWN OF TREMONT, MAINE, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

June 10, 2014

Mr. Chairman and members of the subcommittee, thank you for the opportunity to present the views of the Department of the Interior on H.R. 4527, a bill that would remove a use restriction on land formerly a part of Acadia National Park that was transferred to the Town of Tremont, Maine.

The Department could support H.R. 4527 if amended.

H.R. 4527 declares that specified lands in Acadia National Park in Maine, which were conveyed by the National Park Service to the town of Tremont, Maine, for school purposes, shall no longer be required to be used exclusively and perpetually for such purposes, and upon their discontinuance of such a use, shall no longer be required to revert to the United States.

The town of Tremont has contacted Acadia National Park concerning land currently used for the town's school. This parcel of land was owned by the National Park Service (NPS) and is known as NPS Tract 06-126. In 1950, Public Law 81-629 permitted the NPS to convey the land to the town to locate the new school. The conveyance was completed in 1951, with a reverter clause included in the deed specifying that the land would revert back to the United States of America if no longer used exclusively for school purposes.

The town is now consolidating schools with a neighboring town and thus this property will no longer be used exclusively for school purposes. The town of Tremont would like to retain ownership and continue to use the developed property for community purposes. This legislation would allow it to do so.

Acadia National Park has no intended uses for the property, and the NPS is agreeable to allowing the town to use the property for broader public purposes, so long as the use of the property will not degrade or adversely impact park resources and values. However, H.R. 4527 would eliminate entirely the requirement that the property revert to the Federal government if it is not used for school purposes. Because the original 1951 conveyance was made without consideration, the bill as introduced would effectively convey Federal property to the town free of cost and with no requirement that it be used for a specific purpose.

For this reason, the Department could support this bill only if it is amended to require that the property revert to the Federal government if does not remain in public ownership for recreational, educational or similar public purposes, or if it degrades or adversely impacts park resources and values as determined by the Secretary of the Interior. The Department

recommends an amendment to H.R. 4527 for this purpose and we would be glad to work with the committee on appropriate language.

Mr. Chairman, this concludes my testimony. I would be happy to answer any questions that you or other members of the subcommittee may have regarding the proposed action.