

House Committee on Natural Resources
Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests, and Public Lands
Submitted by Congressman Ted W. Lieu (CA-33)
June 14, 2022
10:00 a.m. ET
1324 Longworth House Office Building

Introduction:

Chairman Neguse and Ranking Member Fulcher, thank you for holding this hearing and for allowing me to speak in support of my legislation H.R. 4658, the Beilenson Trailhead Designation Act. I am proud to have introduced this legislation alongside Congressman Adam Schiff.

About the Legislation:

The Beilenson Trailhead Designation Act, if passed, will rename the Encinal Trailhead in Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area after former Congressman Anthony “Tony” Beilenson.

As an elected official for 34 years, Congressman Anthony “Tony” Beilenson represented the people of West Los Angeles, Santa Monica, Malibu, Westwood, Encino, Sherman Oaks, Canyon Country, and Calabasas for decades. Over the course of his career, he served in the California State Assembly from 1963 to 1967, the California State Senate from 1967 to 1977, and finally the U.S. House of Representatives from 1977 to 1997, when he retired.

While serving in the California State Legislature, Congressman Beilenson was known for his dedicated legislative efforts on environmental protection, consumer protection, family planning, public health, and welfare reform.

While serving in the U.S. House of Representatives, Congressman Beilenson served on the Rules Committee and as Chair of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence during the first Gulf War. He was dedicated to environmental issues, resulting in the passage of legislation to fund the formation of the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area.

Congressman Beilenson considered the designation of the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area to be his greatest legislative achievement and continued supporting the expansion of the area during his time in Congress and into his retirement, until his death in 2017.

It is for this reason I introduced H.R. 4658, to rename a trailhead in Congressman Beilenson's honor within the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area, which he was proud to have established during his time in Congress.

The Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area constitutes the nation's largest urban national park, protecting the beautiful Santa Monica Mountain range. There are over 500 miles of trails through the Recreation Area. Like millions of others, I have enjoyed many hikes through the Santa Monica Mountains and I will

always be thankful that Congressman Beilenson helped protect this land for generations to come.

Conclusion:

This legislation will commemorate the important work that Congressman Beilenson led during his years as a public servant, specifically his work to pass the legislation to fund the formation of the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area. I respectfully request the Subcommittee support H.R. 4658, the Beilenson Trailhead Designation Act and I thank you again for the opportunity to testify before you.