

STATEMENT OF KYM A. HALL, REGIONAL DIRECTOR, NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BEFORE THE HOUSE NATURAL RESOURCES SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS, FORESTS, AND PUBLIC LANDS CONCERNING H.R. 1256, THE FRANCIS G. NEWLANDS MEMORIAL REMOVAL ACT.

JULY 14, 2022

Chair Neguse, Ranking Member Fulcher, and members of the Subcommittee, thank you for the opportunity to provide the Department of the Interior's views on H.R. 1256, the Francis G. Newlands Memorial Removal Act.

The Department supports the goal of H.R. 1256 and would like to work with the Committee and the sponsor on issues of implementation if the Committee decides to move forward with the bill.

H.R. 1256 requires the Secretary of the Interior to make several modifications to the memorial fountain located in Chevy Chase Circle. Specifically, the bill calls for the removal of a brass [bronze] plaque bearing the name "Senator Francis G. Newlands"; a stone at the south end of the fountain bearing the name "Francis Griffith Newlands" and the related inscription; and the name "Newlands Memorial Fountain" carved into the upper face of the memorial fountain's coping stones. In addition, the bill requires the Secretary to offer the removed items to the descendants of Francis Newlands. If the descendants do not claim the items within 60 days, the removed items would become part of the National Park Service museum collection for Rock Creek Park.

Legislation enacted in 1932 authorized the establishment of a "memorial fountain" at Chevy Chase Circle but did not mention Francis Newlands' name. However, newspaper articles from that time indicate the intent of the 1932 legislation was to memorialize Francis Newlands. In keeping with the still-current practice for funding memorials, the 1932 legislation prohibited the use of federal money to construct the fountain. Francis Newlands' widow donated \$12,000 for the fountain, which amounted to the full cost of construction.

Francis Newlands, the founder of Chevy Chase, Maryland, represented Nevada in the U.S. Congress from 1893 to 1917— first in the U.S. House of Representatives and later in the U.S. Senate. The Newlands Reclamation Act of 1902, which created the Bureau of Reclamation and led to the creation of dams and irrigation projects in the American west, was named for him. In recent years, the memorial fountain has been a source of controversy because of Newlands' disparaging views of non-White citizens. For example, Newlands argued for limiting immigration to Whites and for repealing voting rights for African Americans. He wrote in a 1909 journal article that Blacks were a "race of children" unsuited for democracy, "requiring guidance, industrial training and the development of self-control."

The Department is sympathetic to the desire to remove features in a public setting that pay homage to someone who expressed views that have always been painful to many people and that are widely viewed as highly repugnant today. It is general NPS policy, with limited exceptions to be approved by the Director, not to alter commemorative works, such as memorials, monuments, and markers, unless directed to by Congress. In this instance, Congressional

direction could provide clarity on how to best resolve this issue. With respect to the memorial fountain at Chevy Chase Circle, while removing the non-historic and more visible and legible bronze plaque as directed in the bill could be accomplished without much difficulty, removing the historic stone tablet and the coping stones would result in a damaged structure. To maintain the integrity of the fountain, the removed sections would need to be replaced with materials that match the originals and with workmanship of the same high quality at a considerable cost.

In the establishment of memorials and in the modification of existing memorials, legislation typically requires a private organization to serve as the memorial sponsor and take on the responsibility for raising the needed funds. In this case, there is no such private organization prepared to take on this responsibility. We would be happy to work with the sponsor and the Committee on amendments that would clarify the provisions of the bill related to implementation if the Committee decides to move forward with the bill.

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

STATEMENT OF KYM A. HALL, REGIONAL DIRECTOR, NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BEFORE THE HOUSE NATURAL RESOURCES SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS, FORESTS, AND PUBLIC LANDS CONCERNING H.R. 6353, THE NATIONAL SERVICE ANIMALS MEMORIAL ACT.

JULY 14, 2022

Chair Neguse, Ranking Member Fulcher, and members of the Subcommittee, thank you for the opportunity to provide the Department of the Interior's views on H.R. 6353, the National Service Animals Memorial Act.

The Department supports this legislation.

H.R. 6353 would authorize the National Service Animals Monument Corporation to establish a commemorative work in the Nation's Capital to commemorate the heroic deeds and sacrifices of service animals and handlers of service animals in the United States. The bill requires compliance with the Commemorative Works Act (40 U.S.C. Chapter 89) (CWA), prohibits federal funds from being used to establish the memorial, and provides direction on the disposition of unspent funds.

Service animals have assisted, comforted, and protected American lives throughout our Nation's history. The bill's findings note that "service and working animals, such as dogs, horses, homing pigeons, donkeys, mules, dolphins, sea lions, and others, have worked alongside and supported humans throughout history and have created strong human-animal bonds."

On March 21, 2022, the National Capital Memorial Advisory Commission (Commission) met to review H.R. 6353 and its companion bill, S. 3447. Under the CWA, Congress is required to solicit the views of the Commission when considering legislation authorizing commemorative works within the District of Columbia and its environs. The Commission heard from representatives of the National Service Animals Monument Corporation, the House and Senate bill sponsors, and approximately 30 members of the public in support of the bills. These speakers discussed a range of scenarios in which interaction with service animals has enhanced both human and animal quality of life. They spoke of animals who serve as first responders and therapy companions, assist in search and rescue operations, provide protection during war, carry messages, detect explosives, dangerous chemicals, and disease, and much more.

The Commission agreed that the array of ways service animals have enhanced human life was "a subject of lasting historical significance" to the United States. Commissioners noted that the various aspects of service by animals in key events in the Nation's history crosses over many themes and adds to the complexity of the subject matter. They observed that the legislation's commemorative subject is not service animals themselves, but the "heroic deeds and sacrifices" of service animals and their handlers. The CWA defines a commemorative work as "designed to perpetuate in a permanent manner the memory of an individual, group, event or other significant element of American history." The Commission concluded that the heroic deeds and sacrifices of service animals and their handlers constituted a "significant element" of American history and

unanimously supported the legislation. The Department concurs with the Commission's observation and conclusions.

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

STATEMENT OF KYM A. HALL, REGIONAL DIRECTOR, NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BEFORE THE HOUSE NATURAL RESOURCES SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS, FORESTS, AND PUBLIC LANDS CONCERNING H.R. 6438, THE DEARFIELD STUDY ACT.

JULY 14, 2022

Chair Neguse, Ranking Member Fulcher, and members of the Subcommittee, thank you for the opportunity to present the Department of the Interior's views on H.R. 6438, the Dearfield Study Act.

The Department supports H.R. 6438. We would like to note that there are currently 21 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.

H.R. 6438 would direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study of the homestead site known as "Dearfield" in Weld County, Colorado, to determine the suitability and feasibility of establishing the site as a unit of the National Park System. The bill contains standard language for special resource studies that are to be conducted by the National Park Service (NPS).

The Dearfield Homestead site, established by entrepreneur Oliver Toussaint Jackson in 1910, was the largest and most successful Black homesteading settlement in Colorado. Dearfield fostered individual land ownership, exemplifying the national Black self-help movement inspired by educator Booker T. Washington. Between 1914 and 1921, settlers successfully patented 47 land claims through the Enlarged Homestead Act of 1909, a process which required the homesteader to live on the land, build a home, make improvements, and farm in order to receive the patent to the land. The townsite grew to include a boarding house, hotel, fraternal lodge, several churches, and a lumber yard and coal yard, but the Great Depression, Dust Bowl, and fall in crop prices brought hard times.

By 1943, few families remained, with the last remaining resident passing away in 1973. Extant resources include several building ruins, a gas station, the Squire Brockman cabin, and the Oliver Toussaint (O.T.) and Minerva Jackson home. Dearfield was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1995, and it is one of six Western communities featured in the historic resources study, *Black Homesteaders in the Great Plains*, prepared for the NPS by the Center for Great Plains Studies at the University of Nebraska.

On November 3, 2021, Chair Neguse and Representative Buck requested that the NPS conduct a reconnaissance survey of the Dearfield Homestead site. The NPS responded that it will conduct the requested reconnaissance survey but noted that given existing workloads and the number of congressionally authorized studies already underway, the start date for this reconnaissance survey is still to be determined and will likely not be until FY 2023. The reconnaissance survey, which does not require Congressional authorization and is statutorily limited to no more than

\$25,000 in funding, is a preliminary evaluation to determine whether the Dearfield Homestead site merits further consideration as a potential unit of the National Park System through a congressionally authorized special resource study. If H.R. 6438 were to be enacted prior to the completion of the reconnaissance survey, the NPS would transition the reconnaissance survey into the more comprehensive special resource study.

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

STATEMENT OF KYM A. HALL, REGIONAL DIRECTOR, NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BEFORE THE HOUSE NATURAL RESOURCES SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS, FORESTS, AND PUBLIC LANDS CONCERNING H.R. 6611, A BILL TO AUTHORIZE THE EMBASSY OF FRANCE IN WASHINGTON, DC, TO ESTABLISH A COMMEMORATIVE WORK IN THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA AND ITS ENVIRONS TO HONOR THE EXTRAORDINARY CONTRIBUTIONS OF JEAN MONNET TO RESTORING PEACE BETWEEN EUROPEAN NATIONS AND ESTABLISHING THE EUROPEAN UNION, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

JULY 14, 2022

Chair Neguse, Ranking Member Fulcher, and members of the Subcommittee, thank you for the opportunity to present the views of the Department of the Interior on H.R. 6611, a bill to authorize the Embassy of France in Washington, DC, to establish a commemorative work in the District of Columbia and its environs to honor the extraordinary contributions of Jean Monnet to restoring peace between European nations and establishing the European Union, and for other purposes.

The Department appreciates the significance of Jean Monnet's contributions to European peace and cooperation but recommends that the Committee defer action on H.R. 6611 until after the National Capital Memorial Advisory Commission (Commission) has an opportunity to review this proposal.

H.R. 6611 authorizes the Embassy of France in Washington, DC to establish a commemorative work to honor the work of Jean Monnet, a French political economist and diplomat, during the post-World War II period. The bill requires compliance with the Commemorative Works Act (40 U.S.C. Chapter 89) (CWA), which prohibits Federal funds from being used to establish the memorial, and provides direction on the disposition of unspent funds raised for the memorial.

Jean Monnet was a gifted diplomat and visionary who is remembered for his critical role in advocating for international collaboration to achieve economic prosperity and security. After the liberation of France at the end of World War II, Monnet formulated the Modernization and Re-equipment Plan, which was designed to spur economic recovery in France. Commonly referred to as the Monnet Plan, it inspired the creation of the European Coal and Steel Community, a forerunner to the European Union.

In 1963, Monnet was presented the Presidential Medal of Freedom with Distinction by President Lyndon Johnson. In 1976, as he neared the end of his life, Monnet was the first to be bestowed Honorary Citizen of Europe by the European Council of the European Union for extraordinary work to promote European cooperation.

Ideas for new memorials benefit greatly from the review they receive through the National Capital Memorial Advisory Commission. Established by the CWA, the Commission is chaired and staffed by the National Park Service and is composed of government agency representatives who have a critical role or expertise in the location and design of monuments and memorials on

Federal lands in the District of Columbia. A key role of the Commission is to provide advice to the House and Senate committees with jurisdiction over the National Park Service on pending legislation that would authorize new commemorative works.

The Commission plans to review H.R. 6611 during its July 27, 2022 meeting. The purpose of this review is to determine whether the bill's commemorative subject meets the requirements of the CWA. In particular, the Commission will decide whether the commemorative subject meets the standard of "*lasting national significance*" to the American public. The Commission's views and recommendations will then be sent to the House and Senate authorizing committees.

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

STATEMENT OF KYM A. HALL, REGIONAL DIRECTOR, NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BEFORE THE HOUSE NATURAL RESOURCES SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS, FORESTS, AND PUBLIC LANDS CONCERNING H.R. 6720, TO AUTHORIZE THE THOMAS PAINE ASSOCIATION TO ESTABLISH A COMMEMORATIVE WORK IN WASHINGTON, DC, AND ITS ENVIRONS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

JULY 14, 2022

Chair Neguse, Ranking Member Fulcher, and members of the Subcommittee, thank you for the opportunity to present the views of the Department of the Interior on H.R. 6720, a bill to authorize the Thomas Paine Association to establish a commemorative work in Washington, DC, and its environs, and for other purposes.

The Department appreciates the significance of Thomas Paine’s influential writings during the American Revolution and the early years of the United States but recommends that the Committee defer action on this legislation until the National Capital Memorial Advisory Commission (Commission) has an opportunity to review the proposal.

H.R. 6720 would authorize the establishment of a commemorative work to honor Thomas Paine in the Nation’s Capital. The bill requires compliance with the Commemorative Works Act (40 U.S.C. Chapter 89) (CWA), prohibits federal funds from being used to establish the memorial, and provides direction on the disposition of unspent funds.

Best remembered for penning the *Common Sense* pamphlets in the era leading up to and during the American Revolution, Paine argued that the Colonists’ cause should be not just a revolt against taxation but a demand for independence. His great contribution to the patriot cause was the 16 “Crisis” papers issued between 1776 and 1783, each one signed “Common Sense.” He communicated the ideas of the American Revolution far and wide, creating prose that stirred the hearts of American colonists yearning for independence.

Legislation authorizing a commemorative work to Thomas Paine was first enacted in 1992 (Public Law 102-407). Two years later, in 1994, Congress enacted a joint resolution allowing the memorial to be located in Area I, the monumental core reserved for memorials of “preeminent and lasting significance to the United States” under the CWA. The memorial was never built and the authorization for the memorial expired in 2003.

Ideas for new memorials benefit greatly from the review they receive through the National Capital Memorial Advisory Commission. Established by the CWA, the Commission is chaired and staffed by the National Park Service and is composed of government agency representatives who have a critical role or expertise in the location and design of monuments and memorials on Federal lands in DC. A key role of the Commission is to provide advice to the House and Senate committees with jurisdiction over the National Park Service on pending legislation that would authorize new commemorative works.

The Commission plans to review H.R. 6720 during its July 27, 2022 meeting. The purpose of this review is to determine whether the bill's commemorative subject meets the requirements of the CWA. Although the proposal for a Thomas Paine memorial has been considered and approved in the past, it has been three decades since Congress first authorized this memorial, and the Department believes it is appropriate for the current Commission to take a fresh look at the new legislation for this proposal. The Commission's views and recommendations will then be sent to the House and Senate authorizing committees.

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

STATEMENT OF KYM A. HALL, REGIONAL DIRECTOR, NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BEFORE THE HOUSE NATURAL RESOURCES SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS, FORESTS, AND PUBLIC LANDS CONCERNING H.R. 6799, THE JOHN P. PARKER HOUSE STUDY ACT.

JULY 14, 2022

Chair Neguse, Ranking Member Fulcher, and members of the Subcommittee, thank you for the opportunity to present the Department of the Interior's views on H.R. 6799, the John P. Parker House Study Act.

The Department supports H.R. 6799 with an amendment. We would like to note that there are currently 21 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.

H.R. 6799 would direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study for the John P. Parker House to determine the suitability and feasibility of establishing the site as a unit of the National Park System. The site is the restored home of the abolitionist and entrepreneur that is currently owned and managed as a museum by the John P. Parker Historical Society.

As a conductor on the Underground Railroad at the height of the abolitionist movement, John P. Parker (1827-1900) 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 house he lived in 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.

The Department recommends amending the bill to require the study to be submitted to Congress within three years of funding being made available, which is the standard timeframe for bills authorizing special resource studies. As introduced, the bill provides for the study to be submitted within 18 months after funding is made available.

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

STATEMENT OF KYM A. HALL, REGIONAL DIRECTOR, NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BEFORE THE HOUSE NATURAL RESOURCES SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS, FORESTS, AND PUBLIC LANDS CONCERNING H.R. 7618, A BILL TO DESIGNATE THE KOL ISRAEL FOUNDATION HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL IN BEDFORD HEIGHTS, OHIO, AS A NATIONAL MEMORIAL.

JULY 14, 2022

Chair Neguse, Ranking Member Fulcher, and members of the Subcommittee, thank you for the opportunity to present the Department of the Interior's views on H.R. 7618, 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 H.R. 7618, 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.

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

STATEMENT OF KYM A. HALL, REGIONAL DIRECTOR, NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BEFORE THE HOUSE NATURAL RESOURCES SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS, FORESTS, AND PUBLIC LANDS CONCERNING H.R. 7912, THE EVALUATING LYNCHING LOCATIONS (ELL) FOR NATIONAL PARK SITES ACT.

JULY 14, 2022

Chair Neguse, Ranking Member Fulcher, and members of the Subcommittee, thank you for the opportunity to present the Department of the Interior's views on H.R. 7912, the Evaluating Lynching Locations (ELL) for National Park Sites Act.

The Department supports the goal of increasing public understanding of the history of lynching and other incidents of racial violence against Black communities but would appreciate the opportunity to work with the bill sponsor to better understand the scope and context of H.R. 7912 and potentially recommend amendments before the Committee acts on this bill. We would like to note that there are currently 21 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.

H.R. 7912 would direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study of sites within 100 miles of Memphis, Tennessee, at which lynchings took place, to determine the suitability and feasibility of establishing these sites as a unit of the National Park System. These sites include, but are not limited to, the lynching sites of: Wash Henley in 1869; Christopher Bender and Bud Whitfield in 1868; Thomas Moss, Will Stewart, and Calvin McDowell in 1892 during the event referred to as "The People's Grocery Lynchings"; Lee Walker in 1893; Warner Williams, Daniel Hawkins, Robert Haynes, Edward Hall, John Hayes, and Graham White in 1894; Ell Persons in 1917; Jesse Lee Bond in 1939; and Elbert Williams in 1940. The bill contains standard language for special resource studies that are to be conducted by the National Park Service (NPS).

The Equal Justice Initiative, in their report *Lynching in America: Confronting the Legacy of Racial Terror*, notes:

"During the period between the Civil War and World War II, thousands of African Americans were lynched in the United States. Lynchings were violent and public acts of torture that traumatized Black people throughout the country and were largely tolerated by state and federal officials. These lynchings were terrorism. "Terror lynchings" peaked between 1880 and 1940 and claimed the lives of African American men, women, and children who were forced to endure the fear, humiliation, and barbarity of this widespread phenomenon unaided."

The report continues:

"Very few public commemorations of African Americans' suffering during the post-slavery era exist today. Formal remembrances of national racial history tend to celebrate

the civil rights movement's victories, focusing on individual achievements and success stories rather than reflecting on the deeply rooted, violent resistance that upheld the racial caste system for so long. Honoring civil rights activists and embracing their successes is appropriate and due, but when they are not accompanied by meaningful engagement with the difficult history of systematic violence perpetrated against black Americans for decades after slavery, such celebrations risk painting an incomplete and distorted picture.”

The NPS's *Reconnaissance Survey of Selected Civil Rights Sites in Phillips County, Arkansas*, published in 2019, centered on events related to the Elaine Massacre of 1919, and included a discussion of the documentation and commemoration of sites related to the themes of lynching and racial violence. The reconnaissance survey noted:

“Many of the race riots from [the late 19th and early 20th century] have been credited for playing a role in the birth of the civil rights movement. While much important scholarly work has been done about the history and context of many race riots from the late 19th and early 20th centuries, little of that work has focused on the physical remains and landscapes of those events.”

“...themes of racial violence are underrepresented among resources preserved and interpreted for public understanding. The preliminary inventory of sites related to late 19th and early 20th century race riots illustrates that sites preserving resources relating to those events and providing public access and education are very rare.”

The Department appreciates the opportunity provided by H.R. 7912 to increase public awareness and engagement with this painful but important chapter in our nation's history. As previous NPS studies and independent reports have noted, there are limited sites and resources specifically dedicated to preserving and interpreting themes of racial violence for public understanding. The NPS is committed to advancing racial equity and support for underserved stories and communities and will continue to support efforts to better tell the story of lynching and racial violence against Black communities. We look forward to working with the sponsor and the Committee to make progress in providing the public a better understanding of this tragic period.

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

STATEMENT OF KYM A. HALL, REGIONAL DIRECTOR, NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BEFORE THE HOUSE NATURAL RESOURCES SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS, FORESTS, AND PUBLIC LANDS CONCERNING H.R. 8046, THE CÉSAR E. CHÁVEZ AND THE FARMWORKER MOVEMENT NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK ACT.

JULY 14, 2022

Chair Neguse, Ranking Member Fulcher, and members of the Subcommittee, thank you for the opportunity to present the Department of the Interior's views on H.R. 8046, the César E. Chávez and the Farmworker Movement National Historical Park Act.

The Department supports H.R. 8046 with amendments.

H.R. 8046 would establish the César E. Chávez and the Farmworker Movement National Historical Park, to include the existing César E. Chávez National Monument in Keene, California; The Forty Acres in Delano, California; and the Santa Rita Center in Phoenix, Arizona. It would authorize the Secretary of the Interior to add McDonnell Hall in San Jose, California to the national historical park upon agreement with the property owner, as well as other representative sites. H.R. 8046 would also establish the Farmworker Peregrinacion National Historic Trail to trace the route of the farmworkers' momentous 300-mile march from Delano to Sacramento, California in 1966.

César E. Chávez National Monument was established by Presidential Proclamation 8884 on October 8, 2012, to preserve, interpret, and commemorate the collective struggles and achievements of the farm worker movement, associated historic resources, and the life and legacy of César E. Chávez. The site was also designated a National Historic Landmark in 2012.

The César E. Chávez National Monument is on the 116-acre property known as "La Paz," which served as headquarters, residence, and training center for the United Farm Workers (UFW) beginning in 1971. The site continues to serve as the headquarters of the UFW and the César Chávez Foundation. The site includes the home of César and Helen Chávez, a memorial garden where they are buried and martyrs to the farmworker movement are honored, and a visitor center in the former UFW administration building, which includes exhibits and César Chávez's office and original furnishings. In managing the César E. Chávez National Monument, the National Park Service (NPS) works closely with the National Chávez Center of the César Chávez Foundation.

The Forty Acres property was acquired by the Farmworkers Service Center in 1966. This organization and its successors proceeded to build a service station, multipurpose hall, health clinic, and retirement housing. César Chávez conducted his 1968 fast in the service station building, and his 1988 fast in the retirement village. The UFW Organizing Committee was headquartered at The Forty Acres from 1969-71, and the contracts that ended the 1965-70 strike against Delano-area growers were signed here. Many public events and rallies were based at the Forty Acres. As a property purchased, built, and used by farm workers, The Forty Acres

embodies the farm labor movement itself. The Forty Acres was designated a National Historic Landmark in 2008. Owned and managed by the César Chávez Foundation, it continues to function as a UFW field office and a site for special events.

The Santa Rita Center was built by the nearby Catholic parish around 1960 as a classroom and community hall. César Chávez's fast at the Santa Rita Center in 1972 focused national attention on farm workers and their organized protest against restrictive legislation, and it invigorated two social movements—the Chicano movement and the farm labor movement. Thousands of Arizona farm workers, and influential supporters such as Coretta Scott King, came to the Santa Rita Center to participate in rallies, celebrate nightly Masses, give voice to the movement's newly adopted slogan "Si Se Puede!" and pledge their support for La Causa. The building is owned by Chicanos Por La Causa, is now surrounded largely by vacant and industrial properties, and is occasionally used for special meetings and events.

McDonnell Hall is the parish hall associated with Our Lady of Guadalupe Church in San Jose, California, and is the primary site from which César Chávez, Father Donald McDonnell, and community organizer Fred Ross served, organized, and educated farmworkers, and conducted the work of the Community Services Organization in the 1950s. The site was used for farmworker organizing activities into the 1970s. It continues to be associated with the church and was designated a National Historic Landmark in 2016.

In 2013, the NPS completed a special resource study to determine if sites significant in the life of César Chávez and the farm labor movement met the criteria for inclusion in the national park system. The selected alternative for the study included La Paz, The Forty Acres, the Santa Rita Center, and McDonnell Hall in the proposed national historical park concept, noting that most sites would remain in their existing ownership and management would occur through cooperative agreements and partnerships.

While the Department supports H.R. 8046, we recommend amending the bill in the following areas. First, H.R. 8046 directs the Cesar E. Chavez National Monument to be administered as a distinct and identifiable unit of the NPS within the boundaries of the Cesar E. Chavez and the Farmworker Movement National Historical Park. The Department notes this would be unusual, poses operations challenges, and could be confusing to the visiting public. The Department recommends fully incorporating the existing monument within the proposed national historical park.

Second, H.R. 8046 directs the Secretary to prepare a general management plan for the park that includes a determination of whether there are additional sites that were reviewed in the 2013 study that should be added to the national historical park and authorizes the Secretary to incorporate those additional sites into the park with consent of the owner and publishing notice in the Federal Register. The Department believes that rather than providing the Secretary the authority to add sites or areas to the park administratively, it would be more appropriate for Congress to add the sites after the NPS to submits its recommendations to Congress.

Finally, H.R. 8046 would establish the Farmworker Peregrinacion National Historic Trail. The march this trail represents was a milestone event in the history of the farm labor movement.

More than 100 men and women set out from Delano on March 17, 1966, and thousands of farm workers and their families joined in for short stretches along the way. The march route passed through 42 cities and towns of the San Joaquin Valley, as well as vast stretches of the agricultural landscape. By the time the marchers entered Sacramento on Easter Sunday, April 10, 1966, thousands of people had joined them, and the farm worker movement had secured a contract and attracted new waves of support from across the country.

In the 2013 study, the NPS only conducted a preliminary analysis of the march route's potential for designation as a national historic trail. The study found the march route to be nationally significant but noted there are other criteria to evaluate for national historic trails and specifically recommended that the feasibility of a national historic trail be further explored. We recommend the bill be amended to provide for a full trail study which would be submitted to Congress, rather than a designation, so that Congress would have the benefit of knowing whether the trail meets the statutory criteria for national historic trail designation before acting on this proposal.

The Department would like to work with the bill's sponsor and the Committee on recommended amendments as described in this statement.

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

STATEMENT OF KYM A. HALL, REGIONAL DIRECTOR, NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BEFORE THE HOUSE NATURAL RESOURCES SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS, FORESTS, AND PUBLIC LANDS CONCERNING H.R. 8258, THE FEDERAL INTERIOR LAND MEDIA ACT.

JULY 14, 2022

Chair Neguse, Ranking Member Fulcher, and members of the Subcommittee, thank you for the opportunity to present the Department of the Interior's views on H.R. 8258, the Federal Interior Land Media Act.

H.R. 8258 would provide exceptions from permitting and fee requirements for content creation, regardless of distribution platform, including still photography, digital or analog video, and digital or analog audio recording activities, conducted on land under the jurisdiction of the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior.

In litigation pending before the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit, *Price v. Garland*, No. 21-5073 (D.C. Cir.), a federal district court ruled that aspects of the existing commercial filming statute for the National Park Service violated the First Amendment. Judicial resolution of this pending litigation would inform whether and how Congress may choose to legislate in this area.

The Department would like to work with the Committee and bill sponsor on this issue once a decision is rendered in the case to consider legislative or other approaches to balance the interests and rights of those engaged in filming, photography, and audio recording activities with the government's interest in protecting lands and resources.

Chair Neguse, this concludes my statement. I would be please to answer any questions you or other members of the Subcommittee may have.