

House Committee on Natural Resources
Subcommittee on Federal Lands
1324 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

July 11, 2023

Dear Chairman Tiffany and Ranking Member Neguse,

I understand the House Committee on Natural Resources' Subcommittee on Natural Lands will hold a hearing on H.R. 1318, the Women's Suffrage National Monument Location Act, on Thursday, July 13. Thank you for your leadership in prioritizing this important legislation for consideration.

As a scholar of Black women's history and the biographer of the anti-lynching activist and suffragist, Ida B. Wells, I can personally attest to the importance of representing women, including women of color, through our nation's national symbols. Just as the Statue of Liberty has inspired generations of Immigrants coming to our shores, a centrally placed monument signifying the great achievement of women's suffrage—won by courage, sacrifice, and a shared belief that all Americans are equal—will not only preserve an important historical memory, but will remind us of the sanctity of the vote. “With no sacredness of the ballot,” wrote Ida B. Wells who worked for women's suffrage to not only exercise women's rights but to stop lynching and achieve Black equality, “there can be no sacredness of human life itself.”

Thank you again for your consideration of this historic project. I hope you will support H.R. 1318. Your leadership in placing the Women's Suffrage National Monument on the National Mall—the most visited National Park in the United States—is so important to our shared understandings of the importance of women's rights—an understanding which in turn helps to bind us as a nation.

Sincerely,

Paula J. Giddings
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