



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
NATURAL RESOURCES
CHAIRMAN BRUCE WESTERMAN

To: Subcommittee on Federal Lands Republican Members
From: Subcommittee on Federal Lands; Aniela Butler, Jason Blore, Brandon Miller, and Colen Morrow – Aniela@mail.house.gov, Jason.Blore@mail.house.gov, Brandon.Miller@mail.house.gov, and Colen.Morrow@mail.house.gov; x6-7736
Date: Tuesday, July 9, 2024
Subject: Legislative Hearing on 6 Bills

The Subcommittee on Federal Lands will hold a legislative hearing on 6 bills:

- H.R. 3283 (Rep. Miller-Meeks), “*Facilitating DIGITAL Applications Act*”;
- H.R. 3299 (Rep. Cammack), “*DIGITAL Applications Act*”;
- H.R. 5401 (Rep. D’Esposito), “*9/11 Memorial and Museum Act*”;
- H.R. 6012 (Rep. Carbajal), “*Fire Safe Electrical Corridors Act of 2023*”;
- H.R. 7976 (Rep. Holmes Norton), “*Civil War Defenses of Washington National Historical Park Act*”; and
- H.R. 8012 (Rep. Waltz), “*Jackie Robinson Commemorative Site Act*”.

The hearing will take place on **Tuesday, July 9, 2024, at 10:15 a.m. in room 1324 Longworth House Office Building.**

Member offices are requested to notify Will Rodriguez (Will.Rodriguez@mail.house.gov) by 4:30 p.m. on Monday, July 8, 2024, if their Member intends to participate in the hearing.

I. KEY MESSAGES

- The Republican bills on today’s hearing will ensure broader access to the digital world of the future and bolster our understanding of the past by supporting important historical and commemorative sites across the country.
- Legislation offered by Representatives Miller-Meeks and Cammack would expand high-speed internet access by streamlining the application process for broadband development on federal lands and creating a reporting mechanism to monitor agency progress towards that goal.
- Bills sponsored by Representatives D’Esposito and Waltz would support sites that are integral to American history. Representative D’Esposito’s legislation would provide a one-time grant to support the 9/11 Memorial & Museum in New York City, New York, while Representative Waltz’s legislation would designate the Jackie Robinson Ballpark in Daytona Beach, Florida, as a national commemorative site.

II. WITNESSES

Panel I (Members of Congress):

- *To Be Announced*

Panel II (Administration Officials and Outside Experts):

- **Mr. Chris French**, Deputy Chief – National Forest System, U.S. Forest Service, Washington, D.C. [*H.R. 3283, H.R. 3299, H.R. 6012*]
- **Mr. Mike Caldwell**, Associate Director – Park Planning, Facilities, and Lands, National Park Service, Washington, D.C. [*H.R. 3283, H.R. 3299, H.R. 5401, H.R. 7976, H.R. 8012*]
- **Mr. Joe Quinn**, Visionary Network Member, National September 11 Memorial & Museum, New York City, New York [*H.R. 5401*]
- **Mr. Michael Romano**, Executive Vice President, NTCA—The Rural Broadband Association, Arlington, Virginia [*H.R. 3283, H.R. 3299*]
- **Mr. Jim Jaworski**, General Manager, Daytona Tortugas, Daytona Beach, Florida [*H.R. 8012*]

III. BACKGROUND

[H.R. 3283 \(Rep. Miller-Meeks\), “Facilitating DIGITAL Applications Act”](#)

An affordable and reliable connection to high-speed internet, or broadband, is vital to many aspects of modern life.¹ Broadband access requires the support of various technologies, including cable, telephone wire, fiber, satellite, and mobile and fixed wireless transmitters.² From online education to telemedicine and ecommerce, essential activities, experiences, and interactions increasingly occur online.³ For large segments of the population, however, the transition into the digital world remains elusive.⁴ Deploying broadband technology in rural areas presents challenges due to lower population densities, vast distances, and rugged topography.⁵ To reach rural and tribal areas, much of this infrastructure must be installed on federal land.⁶ However, broadband providers must endure burdensome permitting requirements and application processes imposed by federal, state, and local governments.⁷ These regulatory hurdles raise the costs of, and bring delay and uncertainty to, broadband development plans.⁸ As a result, rural and tribal areas “tend to lag behind urban and suburban areas in broadband deployment and the speed of

¹ Colby Leigh Rachfal, “The Digital Divide: What Is It, Where Is It, and Federal Assistance Programs,” Congressional Research Service, March 9, 2021, <https://crsreports.congress.gov/product/pdf/R/R46613>.

² *Id.*

³ *Id.*

⁴ *Id.*

⁵ Colby Leigh Rachfal, “The Digital Divide: What Is It, Where Is It, and Federal Assistance Programs,” Congressional Research Service, March 9, 2021, <https://crsreports.congress.gov/product/pdf/R/R46613>.

⁶ “Special Uses—Communications Uses,” U.S. Department of Agriculture, U.S. Forest Service, <https://www.fs.usda.gov/managing-land/special-uses/communications-uses>. Streamlining Federal Siting Working Group Final Report, FCC Broadband Deployment Advisory Committee, January 24, 2018, <https://www.fcc.gov/sites/default/files/bdac-federalsiting-01232018.pdf>.

⁷ Streamlining Federal Siting Working Group Final Report, FCC Broadband Deployment Advisory Committee, January 24, 2018, <https://www.fcc.gov/sites/default/files/bdac-federalsiting-01232018.pdf>.

⁸ *Id.*

service offered.”⁹ This discrepancy in broadband accessibility is so pronounced it now broadly known as the “digital divide.”¹⁰

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) process the most applications and communications use authorizations to install communications facilities on federal property.¹¹ Communications use authorizations are requests for easements, rights-of-way, leases, or other authorizations “to locate or modify a transmitting device, support structure, or other communications facility” on public lands.¹² Presently, USFS manages over 1,400 communications sites and administers more than 4,000 communications use authorizations on national forests and grasslands.¹³ Communications facilities support over 10,000 “wireless uses” for governments, utility companies, private businesses, and individuals.¹⁴ Similarly, on public lands, BLM administers more than 1,500 communications sites and has authorized the installation and operation of more than 4,000 additional communications facilities.¹⁵

Despite these figures, the Department of the Interior (DOI) and USFS impose formidable regulatory barriers to broadband deployment.¹⁶ Before they can construct or operate the necessary facilities on federal land, broadband providers must typically participate in a pre-application meeting, complete the Standard Form 299 application materials, and undergo extensive review periods.¹⁷ The agencies face a statutory requirement to grant or deny these applications within 270 days.¹⁸ In practice, however, this process can be much lengthier. The U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) recently reported that roughly half of the communications use applications submitted to the BLM and USFS from fiscal year (FY) 2018 to FY 2022 either exceeded the 270-day deadline or lacked sufficient data to conclude whether the deadline had been met.¹⁹ Broadband developers report that fiber deployment in rural areas takes, on average, between five to ten years to complete.²⁰ These lengthy wait times dissuade many would-be-providers from even applying in the first place. Without lowering these obstacles, the “digital divide,” and its harmful consequences, will persist.

Expanding public access to broadband requires making targeted and complementary reforms to the existing regulatory system. H.R. 3283 seeks to ameliorate these challenges by making transparent key federal efforts to streamline broadband deployment in rural and tribal areas.

⁹ *Id.*

¹⁰ *Id.*

¹¹ “Broadband Deployment: Agencies Should Take Steps to Better Meet Deadline for Processing Permits,” U.S. Government Accountability Office, April 10, 2024, <https://www.gao.gov/products/gao-24-106157#>.

¹² *Id.*

¹³ “Communication Uses – Wireless Uses,” U.S. Department of Agriculture, U.S. Forest Service, <https://www.fs.usda.gov/managing-land/special-uses/communications-uses/wireless-uses>.

¹⁴ *Id.*

¹⁵ “Communications Sites,” U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management, <https://www.blm.gov/programs/lands-and-realty/communication-sites>.

¹⁶ Streamlining Federal Siting Working Group Final Report, FCC Broadband Deployment Advisory Committee, January 24, 2018, <https://www.fcc.gov/sites/default/files/bdac-federal-siting-01232018.pdf>.

¹⁷ “Communications Sites,” U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management, <https://www.blm.gov/programs/lands-and-realty/communication-sites>.

¹⁸ “Broadband Deployment: Agencies Should Take Steps to Better Meet Deadline for Processing Permits,” U.S. Government Accountability Office, April 10, 2024, <https://www.gao.gov/products/gao-24-106157#>.

¹⁹ *Id.*

²⁰ Linda Hardesty, “Whoa – the fiber permitting process could crush digital divide dreams,” Fierce Network, December 9, 2021, <https://www.fierce-network.com/broadband/whoa-fiber-permitting-process-could-crush-digital-divide-dreams>.

Specifically, the bill would require the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) to regularly report to Congress on the extent to which DOI and USFS established online portals for accepting, processing, and disposing of a Form 299 for communications use authorizations.²¹ H.R. 3283 requires the NTIA to submit these reports every 60 days until the portals are established.²² Such reporting would allow for improved tracking of efforts to deploy broadband on federal land.²³ This bipartisan legislation is sponsored by Representative Mariannette Miller-Meeks (R-IA-01) and cosponsored by Representative Debbie Dingell (D-MI-06).

H.R. 3299 (Rep. Cammack), “DIGITAL Applications Act”

H.R. 3299 is complementary legislation to H.R. 3283. Whereas H.R. 3283 requires reports on online portals for processing Form 299s for communications use authorizations, H.R. 3299 sets the requirement for DOI and USFS to establish these separate online portals.²⁴ The legislation also requires DOI and USFS to notify the NTIA within three business days of establishing their respective portals.²⁵ After that, the NTIA must create links to those portals from its own website.²⁶ Together, these provisions create an online, “one-stop-shop” for applicants to apply for communications use authorizations from federal land managers.²⁷ In the process, the bill promises to bring transparency and accountability to an important application system. This bipartisan legislation is sponsored by Representative Kat Cammack (R-FL-03) and co-sponsored by Representative Doris Matsui (D-CA-07).

H.R. 5401 (Rep. D’Esposito), “9/11 Memorial and Museum Act”

The National September 11 Memorial & Museum is located in lower Manhattan at the site of the former World Trade Center in New York City. Also known as the 9/11 Memorial & Museum, this unique facility serves as the principal tribute of remembrance and honor to the nearly 3,000 people killed in the terrorist attacks at the World Trade Center site on September 11, 2001. It also honors the six victims killed in the World Trade Center bombing on February 26, 1993. Since its dedication on September 11, 2011, the Memorial has attracted more than 72 million visitors, while the nearby Museum has drawn over 22 million visitors since opening to the public in 2014.²⁸ The World Trade Center Foundation, Inc., a private, not-for-profit organization, operates the 9/11 Memorial & Museum. In fulfilling its important mission, the 9/11 Memorial & Museum has shouldered substantial costs. Construction of the facility totaled \$700 million and

²¹ H.R. 3283, 118th Congress, <https://www.congress.gov/bill/118th-congress/house-bill/3283?s=8&r=1>.

²² *Id.*

²³ “Iowa Rep. Miller-Meeks introduces bill to expedite broadband expansion,” CBS News, May 16, 2023, <https://cbs2iowa.com/news/local/iowa-rep-miller-meeks-introduces-bill-to-expedite-broadband-expansion>.

²⁴ H.R. 3299, 118th Congress, <https://www.congress.gov/bill/118th-congress/house-bill/3299?s=6&r=1>.

²⁵ *Id.*

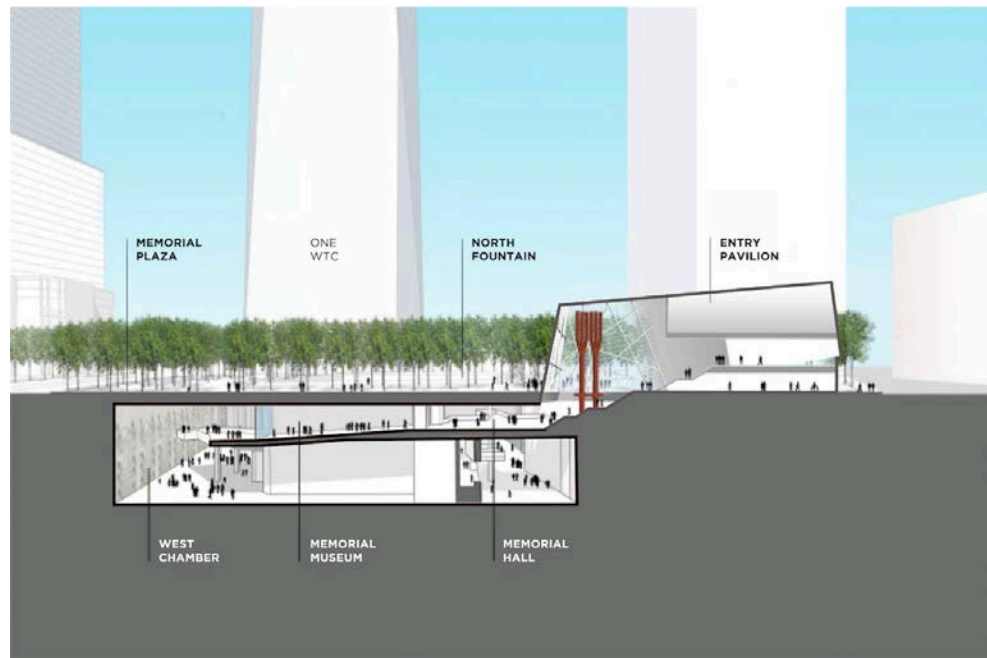
²⁶ *Id.*

²⁷ “Reps. Cammack, Matsui Introduce H.R. 3299, Bipartisan DIGITAL Applications Act To Close Digital Divide,” The Office of Congresswoman Kat Cammack, May 16, 2023, <https://cammack.house.gov/media/press-releases/rep-cammack-matsui-introduce-hr-3299-bipartisan-digital-applications-act>.

²⁸ “Financial & Legal Information,” National September 11 Memorial & Museum, 2023, <https://www.911memorial.org/financial-legal-information>.

operating expenses are approximately \$111 million annually.²⁹ Security for the premises, which must always be sustained at high levels, costs approximately \$1 million per month.³⁰

After nearly 23 years since the 9/11 attacks, it has grown increasingly important to educate younger generations about the tragic events of that day, the national response the attack elicited, and the broader consequences of terrorism.³¹ Yet the passage of time also makes funding more difficult to obtain.³² In the face of diminishing



The footprint of the Memorial and Museum in relation to the One World Trade Center.

Source: Davis Brody Bond, no date.

financial support, the 9/11 Memorial & Museum may also find itself vulnerable to increased security risks.³³ Accordingly, H.R. 5401 provides a one-time grant—from \$5 million to \$10 million—from the Department of Homeland Security to assist the 9/11 Memorial & Museum defray its significant costs.³⁴ Grant funding would come out of appropriations to the Department of Homeland Security. Specifically, the authorized funding would help the 9/11 Memorial & Museum continue operations, increase safety measures, and provide free admission for military veterans, first responders, and victims’ families.³⁵ This legislation is sponsored by Representative Anthony D’Esposito (R-NY-04) and 37 additional bipartisan cosponsors.³⁶

²⁹ National September 11 Memorial & Museum at the World Trade Center Foundation, Inc. IRS Form 990 2019. <https://911memorial.org/sites/default/files/inline-files/2019%20NaI911%20Form%20990%20-%20Public%20Inspection%20Copy.pdf>.

³⁰ Josh Christenson, “Rep. Anthony D’Esposito floats up to \$10M grant for 9/11 Memorial,” The New York Post, September 11, 2023, <https://nypost.com/2023/09/11/ny-rep-desposito-floats-up-to-10-million-grant-for-9-11-memorial/>.

³¹ Annual Report: 2023, 9/11 Memorial & Museum, <https://911memorial.org/sites/default/files/inline-files/2023%20Annual%20Report.pdf>.

³² *Id.*

³³ Josh Christenson, “Rep. Anthony D’Esposito floats up to \$10M grant for 9/11 Memorial,” The New York Post, September 11, 2023, <https://nypost.com/2023/09/11/ny-rep-desposito-floats-up-to-10-million-grant-for-9-11-memorial/>.

³⁴ H.R. 5401, 118th Congress, <https://www.congress.gov/bill/118th-congress/house-bill/5401?s=2&r=1>.

³⁵ Josh Christenson, “Rep. Anthony D’Esposito floats up to \$10M grant for 9/11 Memorial,” The New York Post, September 11, 2023, <https://nypost.com/2023/09/11/ny-rep-desposito-floats-up-to-10-million-grant-for-9-11-memorial/>.

³⁶ H.R. 5401, 118th Congress, <https://www.congress.gov/bill/118th-congress/house-bill/5401?s=2&r=1>.

[H.R. 6012 \(Rep. Carbajal\), “Fire Safe Electrical Corridors Act of 2023”](#)

Overgrown, unhealthy, and fire-prone federal forests are tinderboxes that pose significant threats to Western communities in the wildland-urban interface. Downed hazard trees within utility rights-of-way (ROW) remain one of the biggest ignition threats and have sparked some of the most significant and deadly fires in the country’s history. For example, the largest single wildfire in California state history, the Dixie Fire, ignited when a tree fell onto electrical lines.³⁷ Catastrophic fires in Maui and Texas over the last two years have also been linked to downed utility lines.³⁸ To address these threats, utility companies attempt to maintain clear ROW and fell hazard trees within their utility corridors under a special use permit from the USFS. To dispose of the felled timber, however, utilities companies are currently required to go through a lengthy timber sale process.³⁹ This frequently leads to wood waste stacking up in piles and not being removed, further heightening wildfire risk. This unnecessarily costly and time-consuming process for removing hazard trees in needlessly preventing active management in some of the highest risk areas of our national forests.⁴⁰ H.R. 6012, the “Fire Safe Electrical Corridors Act,” would allow USFS to permit utility companies to fully remove hazard trees and other vegetation within the vicinity of distribution or transmission lines without going through a separate timber sale. If the utilities eventually sell the used material, this legislation requires the proceeds to be returned to USFS, accounting for any transportation costs. This bipartisan legislation is sponsored by Representative Salud Carbajal (D-CA-24) and co-led by Representative Lori Chavez-DeRemer (R-OR-05).

[H.R. 7976 \(Rep. Holmes Norton\), “Civil War Defenses of Washington National Historical Park Act”](#)

By the end of the Civil War, the nation’s capital was heavily fortified by “68 forts, supported by 93 detached batteries for field guns, 20 miles of rifle pits, and covered ways, wooden blockhouses at three key points, 32 miles of military roads, several stockaded bridgeheads, and four picket stations.”⁴¹ These forts and defenses not only protected the residents of Washington, D.C. but “many enslaved people came to the fort system for protection and settled nearby.”⁴² Today, the remaining sites are collectively known as the “Civil War Defenses of Washington” (CWDW) and are dispersed among Washington, D.C., Maryland, and Virginia. 17 of the original forts associated with the CWDW are managed by the National Park Service (NPS), with other

³⁷ Tim Stelloh “California’s massive Dixie Fire ignited after tree fell on PG&E electrical lines, officials say,” NBC News, January 4, 2022,

<https://www.nbcnews.com/news/us-news/californias-massive-dixie-fire-ignited-tree-fell-pge-electrical-lines-rcna10973>.

³⁸ “Preliminary After-Action Report:2023 Maui Wildfire”, U.S. Fire Administration February 8, 2024,

<https://www.usfa.fema.gov/blog/preliminary-after-action-report-2023-maui-wildfire/>. Kane Wells, “500+ structures destroyed by Smokehouse Creek fire”, Reinsurance News, March 4, 2024,

<https://www.reinsurancene.ws/500-structures-destroyed-by-smokehouse-creek-fire/>.

³⁹ *Id.*

⁴⁰ “Creating Fire-Safe Electrical Corridors”, Northern California Power Agency, February 2024,

https://republicans-naturalresources.house.gov/UploadedFiles/NCPA_Creating_Fire-Safe_Electrical_Corridors_Issue_Paper_2024.pdf.

⁴¹ “History & Culture,” Civil War Defenses of Washington, NPS, <https://www.nps.gov/cwdw/learn/historyculture/index.htm>.

⁴² *Id.*

sites under state, local, or private ownership.⁴³ Collectively, these sites tell an important story about the Civil War and the efforts of the Union Army to make the nation’s capital “one of the most heavily fortified cities of the world.”⁴⁴ They also serve as hallowed reminders of the sacrifices made to protect democracy, freedom, and the union during the Civil War.

H.R. 7976 redesignates the CWDW as the “Civil War Defenses of Washington National Historical Park.” National Historical Parks (NHP) are considered the most appropriate designation for NPS units with multiple historic sites included within the boundaries. Included in this designation are 18 federally owned forts or batteries. The bill designates four additional areas as affiliated units with the CWDW NHP. The bill requires several studies to evaluate potential additional areas for inclusion or affiliation with the NHP, as well as a study on broader Civil War history. This legislation will ensure the rich and storied history associated with the CWDW carries on through generations and told in a more holistic, organized, and cohesive manner.

[H.R. 8012 \(Rep. Waltz\), “Jackie Robinson Commemorative Site Act”](#)



Jackie Robinson Ballpark.
Source: City of Daytona Beach, Florida, no date.

In 1946, Brooklyn Dodgers manager Branch Rickey invited Jackie Robinson to spring training in Daytona Beach, Florida, following a standout college baseball career.⁴⁵ At the time, Jim Crow laws prevented integrated baseball throughout the South. However, Rickey worked with city officials and convinced the mayor to provide an exception for Robinson. On March 17, 1946, the first racially integrated spring training

game was played at what is today known as the Jackie Robinson Ballpark in Daytona Beach.⁴⁶ Throughout the rest of spring training, many games outside of Daytona Beach were cancelled, despite high demand from many tourists to support Robinson in the stands.⁴⁷ Robinson would go on to lead the Montreal Royals, the Triple-A affiliate of the Brooklyn Dodgers, to a minor league

⁴³ NPS’s own accounts on this number vary, with some NPS sources citing 17 under ownership and some sources citing 19. 18 sites are included in H.R. 7976. “The Capital Can’t Be Taken!,” Civil War Defenses of Washington, NPS, <https://www.nps.gov/cwdw/learn/historyculture/index.htm>.

⁴⁴ *Id.*

⁴⁵ Bill Schumann, “Why the First Racially Integrated Spring Training in Modern Professional Baseball Took Place in Daytona Beach in 1946”, <https://jackierobinsonballpark.com/>.

⁴⁶ *Id.*

⁴⁷ *Id.*

championship later that year.⁴⁸ Following this success, on April 10, 1947, Jackie Robinson signed his first National League contract. Five days later, Robinson would make his Major League Baseball (MLB) debut in front of over 26,000 spectators at Ebbets Field in Brooklyn. In doing so, Robinson broke the MLB's color barrier, becoming the league's first African American to play in an MLB game in the modern era.⁴⁹ He would go on to finish his career with a .311 batting average, amass over 1,500 hits, and become a six-time all-star.⁵⁰

H.R. 8012 would designate the Jackie Robinson Ballpark in Daytona Beach, Florida, as the "Jackie Robinson Ballpark National Commemorative Site." As a National Commemorative Site, the ballpark would not be a unit of the National Park System. The bill includes provisions to prevent any interference with the rights of private property owners, local zoning ordinances, or land use plans. Additionally, the new National Commemorative Site would be included in the African American Civil Rights Network.⁵¹ By designating the ballpark as a National Commemorative Site, H.R. 8012 recognizes the facility's historic role in advancing civil rights without adding to the federal estate or using taxpayer dollars. The legislation is sponsored by Representative Michael Waltz (R-FL-06) and has 50 bipartisan cosponsors.

IV. MAJOR PROVISIONS & SECTION-BY-SECTION

[H.R. 3283 \(Rep. Miller-Meeks\), "Facilitating DIGITAL Applications Act"](#)

Section 2. Report on Barriers to Establishing Online Portals to Accept, Process, and Dispose of Certain Form 299s.

- Directs the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information to submit, not later than 90 days after enactment of the bill and every 60 days thereafter, reports to Congress on whether the Secretaries of Agriculture and the Interior have established separate online portals for the acceptance, processing, and disposal of a Form 299 for communications use authorizations. The Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information must also report on any barriers to the establishment of such portals.
- Requires the Secretaries of Agriculture and the Interior to notify the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information within three business days of establishing their respective online portal.

[H.R. 3299 \(Rep. Cammack\), "DIGITAL Applications Act"](#)

⁴⁸ *Id.*

⁴⁹ Farrell Evans, "6 Decades Before Jackie Robinson, This Man Broke Baseball's Color Barrier", History.com, <https://www.history.com/news/moses-fleetwood-walker-first-black-mlb-player>.

⁵⁰ "Robinson Debuts Five Days After Signing with Dodgers," National Baseball Hall of Fame, <https://baseballhall.org/discover/inside-pitch/robinson-signs-first-big-league-contract>.

⁵¹ "African American Civil Rights Network," U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, <https://www.nps.gov/subjects/civilrights/african-american-civil-rights-network.htm>.

Section 2. Establishment of Online Portals to Accept, Process, and Dispose of Certain Form 299s.

- Requires the Secretaries of Agriculture and the Interior to establish, not later than one year after enactment of the bill, respective online portals for the acceptance, processing, and disposal of a Form 299 for communications use authorizations.
- Requires the Secretaries to notify the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information within three business days of their respective portal being established.
- Directs the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information to publish, on the National Telecommunications and Information Administration’s official website, a link to each online portal established by the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior after being notified that such portal has been established.

[H.R. 5401 \(Rep. D’Esposito\), “9/11 Memorial and Museum Act”](#)

Section 3. One-Time Grant for National September 11 Memorial & Museum.

- Directs the Secretary of Homeland Security to award, within 90 days of the receipt and approval of an application, to the 9/11 Memorial & Museum a one-time grant of not less than \$5 million but not more than \$10 million. Such grant shall be for the purposes of the operation, security, and maintenance of the 9/11 Memorial & Museum.
- Sets considerations for awarding the grant, including the needs of the grantee, number of visitors to the Memorial and Museum, and the ability to use funds to increase the number of visitors to the site.
- Conditions the grant on free admission to the 9/11 Memorial & Museum for active and retired members of the Armed Forces, first responders to the 9/11 attacks, and 9/11 victims’ family members. Further, the 9/11 Memorial & Museum must use the grant funds to provide free admission hours to the general public at least once per week and must allow for federal audits of its financial statements.
- Requires a report to Congress on the expenditure of grant funds.

[H.R. 6012 \(Rep. Carbajal\), “Fire Safe Electrical Corridors Act of 2023”](#)

Section 2. Permits and Agreements with Electrical Utilities.

- Authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture to provide permission to electrical utilities to cut and remove trees and other vegetation from within the vicinity of distribution or transmission lines without requiring a separate timber sale under a special use permit or easement provided to such utility.
- Requires such actions to comply with the applicable land management plan and all other applicable laws.
- Requires electrical utilities that sell any portion of the removed material under the permit or easement to provide the Secretary of Agriculture with proceeds from those sales, less any transportation costs incurred in the sale.
- Specifies that nothing in the bill requires a timber sale.

H.R. 7976 (Rep. Holmes Norton), “Civil War Defenses of Washington National Historical Park Act”

Section 2. Findings and Purpose.

- States the purposes of the bill are to protect, preserve, enhance, and interpret the CWDW as well as to study and consider creative and cost-effective ways the stories of the defenses of Washington and the Shenandoah Valley Campaign of 1864 can be interpreted to the public.

Section 3. Redesignation.

- Redesignates the CWDW as the “Civil War Defenses of Washington National Historical Park.”

Section 4. Areas Included in the Civil War Defenses of Washington National Historical Park.

- Specifies the CWDW NHP shall include Battery Kemble, Fort Bayard, Fort Bunker Hill, Fort Carroll, Fort Chaplin, Fort Davis, Fort DeRussy, Fort Dupont, Fort Foote, Fort Greble, Fort Mahan, Fort Marcy, Fort Reno, Fort Ricketts, Fort Slocum, Fort Stanton, Fort Stevens, and Fort Totten. These sites are owned and operated by NPS.
- Specifies that Fort Circle Drive, Battleground National Cemetery, Fort Washington, and Oxon Cove Park and Oxon Hill Farm will be affiliated areas of the NPS.
- Allows affiliated sites owned by local and state governments to be affiliated with the NHP through a cooperative agreement. These sites include Fort Ward, Fort C.F. Smith, Fort Ethan Allen, and Fort Willard in Virginia and Battery Bailey in Maryland.

Section 5. Possible Inclusion of Additional Areas.

- Allows privately owned sites to become affiliated areas of the NHP in consultation with relevant stakeholders including state and local governments and interested organizations or members of the public.
- Requires consent from non-Federal property owners and prevents and condemnation in land.

Section 6. National Civil War History Education Center Report.

- Requires a study and report to Congress on creative and cost-effective ways to facilitate improved interpretation of the Civil War in coordination with relevant stakeholders.

Section 7. Administration

- Requires the Secretary of the Interior to administer the NHP consistent with the laws governing the National Park System.
- Allows the Secretary to provide technical assistance for the management, interpretation, and preservation of the CWDW.
- Allows the Secretary to accept donations and enter into cooperative agreements with state or local governments, private organizations or individuals to further the purposes of the bill.

- Allows the Secretary to identify significant federally or non-federally owned sites related to Civil War history in Washington, D.C., Maryland, and Virginia.

H.R. 8012 (Rep. Waltz), “Jackie Robinson Commemorative Site Act”

Section 2. Jackie Robinson Ballpark National Commemorative Site.

- Designates the Jackie Robinson Ballpark in Daytona Beach, Florida, as the “Jackie Robinson Ballpark National Commemorative Site.”
- Adds the Jackie Robinson Ballpark Commemorative Site to the African American Civil Rights Network established under the African American Civil Rights Network Act of 2017.⁵²
- Authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to enter into cooperative agreements with public or private entities for interpretative and educational purposes involving the Jackie Robinson Ballpark National Commemorative Site.
- Clarifies the site is not a unit of the National Park System.
- Clarifies that the Secretary of the Interior is not authorized to acquire property or interfere with private property rights, local zoning ordinances, or state or local land-use plans.
- Requires the Secretary of the Interior to conduct and submit to Congress, not later than two years after funding is made available, a special resource study of the Jackie Robinson Ballpark Commemorative Site. The study must evaluate the facility’s national significance and determine the feasibility of designating it as a unit of the National Park System.

V. COST

The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) estimated H.R. 3283 and H.R. 3299 would not affect direct spending or revenues.⁵³ None of the other bills on the agenda have received a formal cost estimate from CBO.

VI. ADMINISTRATION POSITION

The administration’s position is unknown at this time.

VII. EFFECT ON CURRENT LAW (RAMSEYER)

None of the bills on the agenda amend current law.

⁵² Pub. Law 115–104, <https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/PLAW-115publ104/pdf/PLAW-115publ104.pdf>.

⁵³ “H.R. 3283, Facilitating DIGITAL Applications Act,” Congressional Budget Office, August 2, 2023, <https://www.cbo.gov/publication/59454>. “H.R. 3299, DIGITAL Applications Act,” Congressional Budget Office, August 25, 2023, <https://www.cbo.gov/publication/59526>.