

Written Testimony of Rep. Tyler Clancy

Legislative hearing on H.R. 926, H.R. 3922, H.R. 4038, H.R. 4684 and H.R. 6300

January 14, 2026,

2:00 p.m EST

1324 Longworth House Office Building

Chairman Tiffany and Members of the Subcommittee, thank you for the opportunity to testify today. My name is Representative Tyler Clancy and I represent Provo in the Utah House of Representatives. I am here to speak in support of H.R. 4684 also known as the Star-Spangled Summit Act.

For generations, Kyhv Peak has been a place where families hike, where scouts learn perseverance, and where our community looks out over the home we love. Long before modern trails, the peak held meaning for the Northern Ute tribe [1], and later it became a landmark for early pioneers in the Utah Valley.

For more than twenty years, a patriotic Provo resident, Robert Collins, has hiked that mountain after the snowmelt to raise the American flag, then returned in the fall to respectfully take it down. He did this with his son, with neighbors, and with members of the community who came together to honor the ideals that bind us together.

Kyhv Peak – and the flag at its summit – is deeply woven into the cultural identity of Utah Valley. It stands out in the work of local artists as a defining silhouette on our skyline, and as a shared point of reference that has come to symbolize Provo and the surrounding communities [2].

Yet in 2021, the Collins' tradition was abruptly halted. Not because it harmed the land or endangered the public. The hangup came from a federal permitting policy that treats a small, seasonal flag display the same as a permanent commercial structure, all but banning Mr. Collins' patriotic display. The Star-Spangled Summit Act fixes that, and lets our American flag fly again.

This bill directs the Forest Service to issue a special-use permit for this one specific purpose and provides for review, renewal, or termination if the terms are violated.

[1] - Colton, R. C. (1946). A historical study of the exploration of Utah Valley and the story of Fort Utah (Master's thesis, Brigham Young University). BYU ScholarsArchive.

[2] - Utah Valley Convention & Visitors Bureau. (n.d.). Explore Utah Valley. <https://www.utahvalley.com/explore/>

In short, it restores common sense while respecting environmental stewardship.

It's a shame our permitting process has become so far-reaching that we need a bill to raise and lower a flag somewhere. These issues uniquely impact Utah because nearly seventy percent of our land is managed by the federal government [3]. Decisions that would normally be handled locally in other states often require congressional action here. Our state has been suffocated by these Federal rules.

H.R. 4684 also connects with something deeper. The American outdoors has always been tied to our national character and who we are as Americans. President Theodore Roosevelt wrote, "*...The nation behaves well if it treats the natural resources as **assets** which it must turn over to the next generation increased, and not impaired, in value.*" [4] He also believed that time in nature strengthens citizenship, courage, and moral clarity. Standing on a pristine mountain peak above your home, looking out over the valley, does exactly that. Moments like these connect people to place, to responsibility, and for many, to the Divine.

I also want to briefly recognize the meaningful work this committee takes on. The House Natural Resources Committee has shown the ability to solve real problems. As recently as December, this body came together in a bipartisan way to pass the SPEED Act [5], led by Chairman Westerman & Congressman Golden, to modernize a permitting system that had become slow, costly, and disconnected from its original purpose. That legislation sent a clear message that we can protect the environment while also restoring common sense to federal decision-making.

The Star-Spangled Summit Act fits squarely within that same tradition. This legislation is targeted and grounded in practical problem-solving. It does not weaken environmental stewardship in any way – it simply fixes a narrow issue where bureaucracy has overstepped. This proposed fix from Congressman Kennedy respects both the land and the people who care for it.

As one of Utah's Representatives from Provo, I can tell you this absolutely matters to my constituents and thousands of families across Utah Valley. At a time when Americans are hungry for institutions that work and symbols that unite, allowing the flag to fly once again over Kyhv Peak is a small but meaningful affirmation of our shared patriotism.

I respectfully urge this committee to support this effort and to stand with Utahns who believe that honoring our land and honoring our flag are not competing values, but complementary ones.

[3] - Bureau of Land Management. (n.d.). Public land statistics. U.S. Department of the Interior. <https://www.blm.gov/about/data/public-land-statistics>

[4] - The Idaho Springs Siftings-News. (1910, September 3). The Idaho Springs Siftings-News, 6(17).

[5] - H.R. 4776, 119th Cong. (2025). Standardizing Permitting and Expediting Economic Development Act.
<https://www.congress.gov/bill/119th-congress/house-bill/4776>