

September 16, 2026

The Honorable Bruce Westerman
Chairman, House Committee on
Natural Resources
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Jared Huffman
Ranking Member, House Committee on
Natural Resources
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Westerman and Ranking Member Huffman,

On behalf of the Combat Antisemitism Movement (CAM), an American non-profit dedicated to combating antisemitism at home and abroad, I write to express our support for H.R. 1031, the Fort Ontario Holocaust Refugee Shelter National Historical Park Establishment Act, introduced by Representative Claudia Tenney.

Fort Ontario, in Oswego, New York, is the site of “Safe Haven,” the only refugee shelter established in the United States during World War II. Between August 1944 and February 1946, the fort sheltered 982 Jewish refugees from 18 countries who were forced to flee Nazi persecution and the horrors of the Holocaust. There, they found shelter and a community that welcomed them, admitting their children to local schools and supplying food, clothing, and support as these families rebuilt their lives.

H.R. 1031 builds on the National Park Service’s (NPS) 2024 Special Resource Study, which found that these resources meet all four statutory tests for inclusion in the National Park System. The bill establishes a limited federal footprint of approximately 2.5 acres, while the existing 26.4-acre state historic site remains under New York State control, and allows NPS to preserve this history through local partnerships.

As antisemitism continues to rise in the United States and across the globe, and there are fewer and fewer Holocaust survivors left to share their stories, it is critical that we preserve historical testaments to the Holocaust, like Safe Haven at Fort Ontario, for generations to come. The Holocaust Refugee Shelter at Fort Ontario was a place of safety and hope during one of the darkest moments in history, and it deserves recognition in the National Park System. CAM appreciates the Committee’s consideration of H.R. 1031, and we are pleased to serve as a resource for you on this issue.

Sincerely,



Alyza D. Lewin
President, U.S. Affairs
Combat Antisemitism Movement