



WRITTEN TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF H.R. 10128

To Codify Secretary's Order 3434 of the U.S. Department of the Interior

Chairman, Ranking Member, and Members of the House Committee on Natural Resources:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony in support of H.R. 10128, legislation to codify Department of the Interior Secretary's Order 3434, Strengthening Communities.

Gateway communities are indispensable partners in the stewardship, accessibility, and long-term success of America's national parks and other Department of the Interior lands. These communities provide the lodging, restaurants, transportation, emergency response capacity, workforce, infrastructure, visitor services, and local knowledge that make public-land experiences possible for millions of Americans each year. At the same time, federal management decisions can substantially affect their local economies, public services, housing markets, transportation systems, and quality of life.

Secretary's Order 3434 recognizes this practical reality and establishes a stronger framework for communication, consultation, and partnership between the Department of the Interior and the communities adjacent to or closely connected with federal lands. The Order directs the Department to treat gateway communities as important stakeholders in public-land planning and management, improve transparency and ongoing communication, and designate a gateway-community point of contact at relevant park units.

H.R. 10128 would ensure that the federal government's partnership with gateway communities is not dependent solely on agency discretion or changing administrative priorities. Congress has an opportunity to affirm that meaningful engagement with local governments, Tribes, businesses, residents, and community organizations is an essential element of responsible public-land management.

By enacting this legislation, Congress can preserve and strengthen the Order's commitment to regular, structured communication between federal land managers and the communities most directly affected by federal decisions.

Secretary's Order 3434 reflects a straightforward but essential principle: federal lands and the communities around them succeed when they are managed through partnership rather than isolation. Gateway communities are not simply adjacent to national parks and other federal lands; they are integral to the visitor experience, local economic vitality, public safety, conservation outcomes, and practical implementation of federal policy.





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H.R. 10128 would provide lasting statutory support for that partnership. By codifying Secretary's Order 3434, Congress can promote more transparent government, more effective public-land management, better preparedness for local communities, and stronger outcomes for visitors and the natural and cultural resources entrusted to the Department of the Interior.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the House Committee on Natural Resources to favorably consider and advance H.R. 10128.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'R. Macaulay'.

Robert Macaulay
Madera County Supervisor, District 5

