

**STATEMENT OF DR. STEPHANIE TOOTHMAN, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR,
CULTURAL RESOURCES, PARTNERSHIPS, AND SCIENCE, NATIONAL PARK
SERVICE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BEFORE THE SENATE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS, COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND
NATURAL RESOURCES, CONCERNING H.R. 3620, TO AMEND THE DELAWARE
WATER GAP NATIONAL RECREATION AREA IMPROVEMENT ACT TO PROVIDE
ACCESS TO CERTAIN VEHICLES SERVING RESIDENTS OF MUNICIPALITIES
ADJACENT TO THE DELAWARE WATER GAP NATIONAL RECREATION AREA,
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**

JUNE 15, 2016

Mr. Chairman and members of the subcommittee, thank you for the opportunity to present the Department of the Interior's views on H.R. 3620, to amend the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area Improvement Act to provide access to certain vehicles serving residents of municipalities adjacent to the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area, and for other purposes.

The Department supports enactment of H.R. 3620.

H.R. 3620 would amend the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area Improvement Act (P.L. 109-156) with respect to the prohibition against commercial vehicle use of Highway 209, a federally owned road within the boundaries of the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area in Pennsylvania. The bill would reinstate the authority, with some revisions, of the National Park Service (NPS) to allow commercial vehicles serving local businesses to use Highway 209 through a permit and fee program. The previous authority expired on September 30, 2015.

The bill would permit the use of Highway 209 until September 30, 2020, by commercial vehicles with four or fewer axles that: (1) are owned and operated by a business located in the recreation area or by one or more adjacent municipalities named in the bill, or (2) are necessary to provide services to businesses or persons located in the recreation area or in one or more of those municipalities. As part of the permit program authorized by this bill, the NPS would be allowed to charge an annual fee of up to \$200 per vehicle. All fees received would be set aside in a special account and made available for the administration and enforcement of the program, including registering vehicles, issuing permits and vehicle identification stickers, and personnel costs. The bill would exempt local school buses; fire, ambulance, and other safety and emergency vehicles; and commercial vehicles along specified segments of the highway from the permit and fee requirement.

In 1983, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania transferred 22 miles of State Road 209 (now referred to as Federal Road 209) to the United States to enhance the relatively new Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area. It was transferred with the understanding that commercial traffic on the road would cease. At the time, it was reported that more than a 1,000 tractor trailers per day were using the road as a pass-through route between I-80 and I-84. There were

13 trucking companies surrounding the recreation area when the road was transferred, and those companies were allowed under law a ten-year transition period to adjust to the new regulation of the road. The NPS was authorized to collect and retain fees from the commercial use of the road but only from so few entities that it cost the NPS between \$50,000 and \$150,000 every year to regulate traffic. Further, when the road was transferred there were many private properties along the 22- mile route. Now the United States owns all of the properties except for one store located on the south end within the section of road from mile 0 to Bushkill Falls Road (SR 2001) that allows commercial traffic.

Completion of the construction of Interstate 287 in New Jersey provided an alternate route to I-80 and I-84 allowing commercial traffic to effectively bypass Highway 209. Construction of a state road that will parallel Highway 209 is expected to be completed in the near future and will further reduce local commercial traffic through the park. In the meantime, the enactment of H.R. 3620 would serve the needs of local communities while offering a way for NPS to manage permitting and fee collection for commercial traffic on the park road. We hope that this approach will cover the cost of NPS fee administration and traffic enforcement, but that will depend on the number of commercial vehicles that choose to use Highway 209. A year after this program is implemented, we should have an estimate for the following years.

Mr. Chairman, this concludes my testimony. I would be happy to answer any questions that you or other members of the subcommittee may have.

**STATEMENT OF DR. STEPHANIE TOOTHMAN, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR,
CULTURAL RESOURCES, PARTNERSHIPS, AND SCIENCE, NATIONAL PARK
SERVICE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BEFORE THE SENATE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS, COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND
NATURAL RESOURCES, CONCERNING S. 4119, TO AUTHORIZE THE EXCHANGE
OF CERTAIN LAND LOCATED IN GULF ISLANDS NATIONAL SEASHORE,
JACKSON COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI, AND THE VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS, AND
FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**

JUNE 15, 2016

Mr. Chairman and members of the subcommittee, thank you for the opportunity to present the views of the Department of the Interior on H.R. 4119, a bill to authorize the exchange of lands between Gulf Islands National Seashore and the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 5699, and for other purposes.

The Department supports H.R. 4119 with technical amendments described later in this statement.

The Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post 5699 owns a piece of property that is bordered on two sides by land owned by the National Park Service (NPS) and managed as part of Gulf Islands National Seashore. The VFW property is separated from the public road, with the only access across NPS lands. Under a previous informal agreement with the National Seashore, the VFW created and maintained a one-lane dirt access road across NPS property from the public road to their building. The VFW also removed vegetation and mowed NPS property adjacent to that access road. No right-of-way or special use permit was ever issued.

The VFW approached the National Seashore in 2015 with a proposal to exchange 2.16 acres of undeveloped land, adjacent to NPS land, at the south end of their property for 1.54 acres of NPS land that would connect their property to the public road. This land exchange would formalize the existing land use, providing the VFW with ownership and permanent access, and providing the National Seashore undeveloped acreage adjacent to other undeveloped, NPS-owned lands.

H.R. 4119 would authorize this land exchange. The bill would deem the two properties to be exchanged to be considered equal in value, and would require the VFW to pay for the costs associated with the exchange, including any required costs for environmental compliance. The bill would also modify the boundary of Gulf Islands National Seashore to reflect the land exchange upon its completion.

Finally, the National Park Service recommends a technical amendment to reference an official NPS map in the legislation, and a technical amendment to clarify the boundary modification. We would be pleased to provide the Committee with the recommended language and map.

Mr. Chairman, this concludes my testimony. I would be pleased to answer any questions you or other members of the Subcommittee may have.

**STATEMENT OF DR. STEPHANIE TOOTHMAN, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR,
CULTURAL RESOURCES, PARTNERSHIPS, AND SCIENCE, NATIONAL PARK
SERVICE, DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BEFORE THE SENATE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS OF THE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND
NATURAL RESOURCES, CONCERNING H.R. 3036, A BILL TO DESIGNATE THE
NATIONAL SEPTEMBER 11 MEMORIAL LOCATED AT THE WORLD TRADE
CENTER SITE IN NEW YORK CITY, NEW YORK, AS A NATIONAL MEMORIAL,
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**

JUNE 15, 2016

Thank you for the opportunity to present the views of the Department of the Interior on H.R. 3036, a bill to designate the National September 11 Memorial located at the World Trade Center site in New York City, New York, as a national memorial, and for other purposes.

The Department understands and appreciates the significance of the events of September 11, 2001, to the nation. We support memorializing and providing educational opportunities to learn about that day and its effects on our country and on the world. However, as H.R. 3036 provides no federal role in administering, interpreting, or preserving the resources of the National September 11 Memorial at the World Trade Center, and is only intended to authorize federal funding for seven fiscal years to the organization managing the memorial, we strongly oppose this legislation.

H.R. 3036, as passed by the House, would designate the National September 11 Memorial at the World Trade Center as a national memorial, but it specifically provides that this memorial would not be a unit of the National Park System. The bill authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to establish a competitive grant program to award a grant of an unspecified amount each fiscal year for seven years to a memorial to the victims of the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center, the Pentagon, and United Airlines Flight 93 on September 11, 2001, and to the victims of the attack on the World Trade Center on February 26, 1993. Because of those specifications and others, the only organization that appears to be eligible to receive this funding would be the National September 11 Memorial & Museum at the World Trade Center, Inc. Foundation.

Thus, the objective of the bill is to have the NPS provide grants to the foundation for the memorial's operation and maintenance without any federal involvement in the operation of the memorial. There are no other circumstances where the National Park Service (NPS) provides annual operating funds to a site not managed by the NPS directly or under an agreement with the NPS, except possibly for some affiliated areas which receive relatively small amounts. There are also no other competitive grant programs administered by the NPS where only one organization would appear to meet the eligibility criteria of that program.

In addition, if the grant comes out of the NPS budget, it would reduce the amount of operational funding available for the needs of our more than 400 designated units of the National Park System. We do not believe it is appropriate to divert operational resources needed to fulfill our legislated responsibilities to a site for which the NPS has no role.

Mr. Chairman, this concludes my testimony. I would be happy to answer any questions you or other members of the subcommittee may have.

**STATEMENT OF DR. STEPHANIE TOOTHMAN, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR,
CULTURAL RESOURCES, PARTNERSHIPS AND SCIENCE, NATIONAL PARK
SERVICE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BEFORE THE SENATE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS, COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND
NATURAL RESOURCES, CONCERNING S. 2954, TO ESTABLISH THE
STE.GENEVIEVE NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE IN THE STATE OF MISSOURI, AND
FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**

JUNE 15, 2016

Mr. Chairman and members of the subcommittee, thank you for the opportunity to present the views of the Department of the Interior on S. 2954, a bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to establish the Ste. Genevieve National Historic Site in the State of Missouri, and for other purposes.

The Department supports S. 2954 with amendments.

This legislation would establish the Ste. Genevieve National Historic Site as a unit of the National Park System to preserve, protect, and interpret for the benefit of present and future generations the themes of French settlement, vernacular architecture, and community form and farming on the frontier associated with Ste. Genevieve. It would authorize the Secretary of the Interior to acquire approximately thirteen acres of land for the historic site and other significant related sites within the surrounding historic district. This bill also authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to provide interpretive tours and education programs within the historic district. Finally, it would also authorize the secretary to provide technical assistance and to enter into cooperative agreements to preserve significant sites related to the purposes of the park.

Ste. Genevieve is one of the oldest National Historic Landmark districts in the country. When initially designated it was recognized for the unique concentration of French vertical log architecture. Since then, research has identified the national significance of not only the large and rare collection of French vernacular vertical log houses, but also the contemporaneous examples of British American and German American architecture that contribute to the compelling historical associations with French exploration and settlement of the United States' interior in the late 18th and early 19th century. There is no comparably protected or managed area interpreting these themes.

The boundary of the Historic Site is encompassed by the Ste. Genevieve Historic District and National Historic Landmark, which includes lands between State Highways 61 and 31 and the Mississippi River. The National Historic Landmark, one of the oldest, was established on October 9, 1960. The proposed historic site includes a mix of privately and publicly-owned parcels. The State of Missouri owns many of those properties and could transfer them to NPS ownership by donation. Private properties may be acquired over time through donation or purchase from willing sellers as funding allows.

The Ste. Genevieve Special Resource Study and Environmental Assessment estimated the annual cost to operate the site would be \$800,000 to \$1.2 million per year, which is comparable to other

national historic sites. This operational budget would primarily fund a NPS staff of 6-12 FTE, for interpretive and educational programs, and outreach. The additional facilities and properties will increase park operational and maintenance costs, but the amount will depend on the number of facilities acquired and their condition. Additional funds for maintenance, repairs and capital improvements would be awarded through the NPS competitive process, subject to service-wide priorities and the availability of appropriations.

There is widespread support for the establishment of the historic site. The National Park Service received letters of support for the establishment of Ste. Genevieve National Historic Site from the City of Ste. Genevieve, the County Commission of Ste. Genevieve, the Foundation for the Restoration of Ste. Genevieve, Les Amis, the Missouri Parks Association, the National Society Colonial Dames of America in the State of Missouri, the New Bourbon Regional Port Authority, the Sierra Club (Eastern Missouri Group), the State Historical Society of Missouri, Ste. Genevieve Chamber of Commerce, the Ste. Genevieve Downtown Renewal Project, the Ste. Genevieve Museum, and the Ste. Genevieve Tourism Tax Commission.

We recommend two amendments to the bill. First, we recommend that the language for cooperative agreements in §3(f) of the bill be revised to authorize the Secretary to enter into an agreement for a project related to the management of the historic site in addition to an agreement to identify, mark, interpret, improve, or restore a “property” within the historic district or site. Cooperative agreements may include the expenditure of federal funds to help maintain a property, but also may be provided for projects such as interpretive signage or other informational materials found in wayside exhibits. The reference to a “project” assures that the interests of the federal government are protected in all instances where federal funds are provided.

Second, we recommend adding a definition for the special resource study referred to in the bill. This definition is important to determine which nationally properties are being considered for acquisition to the national historic site. The special resource study has an inventory of the properties contributing to the national significance of the study area in Chapter 6. We would be happy to provide the committee with language for our recommended amendments.

Mr. Chairman, this concludes my testimony. I would be happy to answer any questions you or other members of the subcommittee may have.

**STATEMENT OF DR. STEPHANIE TOOTHMAN, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR,
CULTURAL RESOURCES, PARTNERSHIPS, AND SCIENCE, NATIONAL PARK
SERVICE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BEFORE THE SENATE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS, COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND
NATURAL RESOURCES, CONCERNING S. 2627, TO ADJUST THE BOUNDARY OF
THE MOJAVE NATIONAL PRESERVE.**

JUNE 15, 2016

Mr. Chairman and members of the subcommittee, thank you for the opportunity to appear before your committee to present the views of the Department of the Interior on S. 2627, a bill to adjust the boundary of the Mojave National Preserve.

The Department supports the enactment of S. 2627, but recommends a technical correction regarding the acreage of land that would be returned to the park as mitigation for the land being removed from the Preserve.

S. 2627 would remove approximately 520 acres on the north side of Mojave National Preserve from the boundary of the park. This acreage would be transferred from the National Park Service (NPS) to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) for the proposed XpressWest rail alignment. XpressWest is constructing a high-speed rail line from Victorville, California, to Las Vegas, Nevada.

The proposed route would follow and generally parallel Interstate 15 (adjacent to the north boundary of the Preserve), except for the grade to Mountain Pass, which is too steep and the road curves too sharply to allow for the rail line to follow the Interstate. The NPS lacks authority to grant rights-of-way for railroads; the BLM, however, has such authority and can grant any necessary permits, in accordance with section 501 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, to XpressWest to complete the project. The area proposed for transfer to the BLM would accommodate the grade and curve requirements for the proposed high-speed train through Mountain Pass.

As mitigation for the removal of land from the boundary of the park, this bill authorizes that other land would be acquired by donation. The bill would authorize the transfer of 520 acres of NPS land to the BLM to accommodate the necessary railroad right-of-way, and the Preserve to receive in exchange a donation of approximately 2,100 acres of private land.

Section 3(b) authorizes up to 4 acres of land be acquired for every acre of land removed from the Preserve. We recommend a technical correction to this section that replaces “up to 4 acres” with “at least 4 acres.” This correction will ensure the intent of the mitigation requirement is satisfied, and is consistent with the ratio that alternative energy developers have provided as mitigation in the desert.

S. 2627 also authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to permit cattle grazing, in accordance with applicable NPS laws and policies, on the land acquired under Section 3(a) by donation. The bill

states that cattle grazing shall take place during the period beginning on the date on which the land is acquired and ending on the date that is 25 years after the date on which the land is acquired, to the same extent permitted on the day before the date of enactment of the Act.

Mr. Chairman, this concludes my testimony. I would be happy to answer any questions you or other members of the subcommittee may have.

**STATEMENT OF DR. STEPHANIE TOOTHMAN, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR,
CULTURAL RESOURCES, PARTNERSHIPS, AND SCIENCE, NATIONAL PARK
SERVICE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BEFORE THE SENATE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS, COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND
NATURAL RESOURCES, CONCERNING S. 2923, TO REDESIGNATE THE SAINT-
GAUDENS NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE AS THE “SAINT-GAUDENS NATIONAL
PARK FOR THE ARTS,” AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**

JUNE 15, 2016

Mr. Chairman and members of the subcommittee, thank you for the opportunity to present the views of the Department of the Interior on S. 2923, a bill to redesignate the Saint-Gaudens National Historic Site as the “Saint-Gaudens National Park for the Arts,” and for other purposes.

The Department cannot support S. 2923 unless amended in accordance with this statement.

S. 2923 would redesignate the Saint-Gaudens National Historic Site in Cornish, New Hampshire, as the “Saint-Gaudens National Park for the Arts.” We understand the desire to have a park’s name reflect a park’s purpose, assets, or characteristics more precisely than simply “historic site.” However, “National Park for the Arts” would be a unique designation within the National Park System. The National Park Service (NPS) is trying to avoid the further proliferation of non-standard designations in order to bring more consistency to national park names. We could, however, support redesignating the site as a “national historical park”.

There are presently 28 different designations for units of the National Park System. This large number of types of unit designations, including national park, national monument, national preserve, national historic site, national battlefield, national military park, national recreation area, and more, create public confusion as to what properties are managed by the NPS and diminish the NPS identity. The NPS is in the process of completing an updated National Park System plan, which we hope to release later this year. The plan is expected to address the naming conventions for national park units with the aim of ultimately reducing the number of different types of designations. The creation of a singular, unique designation for one park would be inconsistent with that effort.

Authorized in 1964, Saint-Gaudens National Historic Site preserves the home, studios, gardens, and artwork of sculptor Augustus Saint-Gaudens (1848-1907), the greatest American sculptor of the Gilded Age. During his career, Saint-Gaudens completed a variety of important monuments and memorials around the country, many of them, like the *Robert Gould Shaw Memorial* in Boston, Massachusetts, the *Sherman Monument* and *Farragut Monument* in New York City, and the Standing and Seated Abraham Lincoln monuments in Chicago, Illinois, memorializing heroes of the Civil War.

Saint-Gaudens began his association with Cornish, New Hampshire, in 1885 when he and his family began using the property that today comprises Saint-Gaudens National Historic Site as their summer residence. The presence of the famous sculptor in Cornish attracted a variety of

other artists to the area, forming the Cornish Colony of Artists, one of the earliest examples of an unplanned artist colony in the United States. The colony included painters, sculptors, authors, poets, playwrights, musicians, architects, and many other artistic disciplines, and during the presidency of Woodrow Wilson, served as the summer White House.

In addition to the Saint-Gaudens estate, Saint-Gaudens National Historic Site also includes the Blow-Me-Down Farm, historically the social hub of the Cornish Colony, which was added to the park via a donation from the park's partner group, the Saint-Gaudens Memorial, in 2010. This addition expanded the park's interpretive themes beyond Augustus Saint-Gaudens and his work to include the full range of artists and artistic disciplines, as well as the historical impact of the Cornish Colony.

Generally, National Park System units designated as national historic sites tell a discrete story or contain a small number of historic resources related to that story. National Park System units designated as national historical parks have a greater diversity of historical resources and interpretive themes and may be spread out over non-contiguous lands. The addition of the Blow-Me-Down Farm to the park in 2010 added new historical resources and interpretive themes to Saint-Gaudens National Historic Site. This increased scope provides a basis for supporting redesignating this park as a national historical park. The name "Saint-Gaudens National Historical Park" would incorporate the word "park" into the title, to more closely associate the site with the NPS, and it would better reflect the broad historical context and resource diversity found at this park, while conforming to naming conventions for National Park System units.

In addition to amending S. 2923 by substituting "National Historical Park" for "National Park for the Arts", we recommend deleting section 3(b)(3). Section 3(b)(3) provides that laws or rules that are applicable solely to units that are designated as national parks shall not apply to "Saint-Gaudens National Park for the Arts." This provision is not only unnecessary, it is also confusing and misleading. Even if the name is not amended to redesignate the unit as a "national historical park," it would not be a "national park" but rather a "national park for the arts" which would be a unique designation, different from a national park.

Mr. Chairman, this concludes my testimony. I would be happy to answer any questions you or other members of the subcommittee may have.

**STATEMENT OF DR. STEPHANIE TOOTHMAN, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR,
CULTURAL RESOURCES, PARTNERSHIPS, AND SCIENCE, NATIONAL PARK
SERVICE, DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BEFORE THE SENATE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS, COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND
NATURAL RESOURCES, CONCERNING S. 3028, TO REDESIGNATE THE OLYMPIC
WILDERNESS AREA AS THE DANIEL J. EVANS WILDERNESS.**

JUNE 15, 2016

Mr. Chairman, thank you for the opportunity to present the Department of the Interior's views on S. 3028, a bill to re-designate the Olympic Wilderness as the Daniel J. Evans Wilderness.

The Department supports S. 3028. The proposed bill would change the name of the Olympic Wilderness in Olympic National Park to the "Daniel J. Evans Wilderness" after former Washington Governor and Senator Daniel Evans, who was the sponsor of the 1988 legislation that created the Olympic Wilderness.

The Olympic Wilderness is Washington State's largest wilderness area and is one of the most diverse in the United States. It encompasses 876,447 acres managed by the National Park Service within Olympic National Park. It is bordered by the Buckhorn Wilderness to the northeast, the Brothers Wilderness to the east, the Mount Skokomish Wilderness to the southeast, the Wonder Mountain Wilderness to the south, and the Colonel Bob Wilderness to the south and east.

The heart of the Olympic Wilderness is made up of the rugged Olympic Mountains and some of the most pristine forests south of the 49th parallel. The temperate rainforest valleys of the mountains' west and south flanks receive 140 to 180 inches of precipitation annually. Mount Olympus (7,980 feet), the highest peak in the Olympic Mountains, receives more than 100 feet of snow annually. Mount Olympus has the third largest glacial system in the conterminous United States after Mounts Rainier and Baker, which are also located in Washington state.

The Olympic Wilderness contains 48 miles of wilderness coast with its beaches, rugged headlands, tide pools, seastacks and coastal rainforests. Just over 600 miles of trails lead into the interior of the park. The Olympic Wilderness is one of the most popular wilderness destinations in North America, with more than 40,000 overnight wilderness visitors each year.

The Olympic Wilderness is part of the Olympic World Heritage Site designated by the World Heritage Convention in 1981. The park is also designated as an International Biosphere Reserve (1976).

The proposed bill would require that all maps and references to the Olympic Wilderness be changed to reflect the new name. The costs for such changes are expected to be nominal if the agency is permitted to incorporate the name change concurrent with future routine updates to signs, periodicals, and maps.

Mr. Chairman, this concludes my testimony. I would be happy to answer any questions you and the other members of the subcommittee may have.

**STATEMENT OF DR. STEPHANIE TOOTHMAN, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR
CULTURAL RESOURCES, PARTNERSHIPS, AND SCIENCE, NATIONAL PARK
SERVICE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BEFORE THE SENATE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS, COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND
NATURAL RESOURCES, CONCERNING S. 2087, TO MODIFY THE BOUNDARY OF
FORT SCOTT NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**

JUNE 15, 2016

Mr. Chairman and members of the Subcommittee, thank you for the opportunity to present the views of the Department of the Interior on S. 2087, a bill to modify the boundary of Fort Scott National Historic Site in the State of Kansas, and for other purposes.

The Department supports S. 2087 with a proposed amendment to substitute an updated map.

This bill would amend P.L. 95-484, the establishing legislation for Fort Scott, to modify the boundary to include four parcels totaling approximately 3.81 acres of land and to authorize the Secretary to acquire properties by purchase with appropriated funds as well as donation.

Fort Scott was designated a National Historic Landmark in 1964. On October 19, 1972, Fort Scott was authorized as a unit of the National Park Service “to commemorate the significant role played by Fort Scott in the opening of the west, as well as the Civil War and strife in the State of Kansas that preceded it.” The historic site is currently 16.69 acres, but it does not include four significant parcels adjacent to or on or near the boundary of the park. The four properties are identified as the Westar property, the Cummings property, the Chamber of Commerce property, and the Lunette Blair Blockhouse.

The Westar property is 2.87 acres located adjacent to the western boundary of the park where the first civilian merchants in the area sold supplies to soldiers, Indians, tradespeople, travelers, and farmers. The Westar property also includes part of the historical landscape associated with the Civil War, including entrenchments and fortification structures that surrounded the fort. It is also the site associated with two of the earliest African-American neighborhoods in Fort Scott, both during and after the Civil War. These African-American families and refugees escaped from Indian Territory and followed the Union Army to Fort Scott. They rented or owned houses on the present-day Westar property, one of which was occupied by an African-American Civil War veteran with the 2nd Kansas Colored Infantry who lived on his property until the 1920s.

The Westar property includes an 18,940 square-foot brick structure of various elevations and storage spaces. The building has administrative and visitor services potential and could be utilized as an educational, orientation center or as exhibit/museum space that is accessible since this would be the only on-grade building in the boundary. Additionally, this brick building could improve public safety since it would be the only appropriate space in the park for providing visitor and employee safety in the event of a natural disaster such as a tornado or a severe thunderstorm.

The Lunette Blair Blockhouse is located near the park boundary. It is the last remaining Civil War-era military structure, built to defend the town of Fort Scott and its robust military supply depot from Confederate attack. For more than 50 years, the blockhouse has been maintained and preserved through a public-private partnership between the City of Fort Scott, and local individuals and organizations. The president of the organization approached the park to donate the property because the members were no longer physically or financially able to continue their preservation efforts. No other organization has shown interest in preserving the Blockhouse. Without regular maintenance, this structure will continue to deteriorate and the opportunity for visitors to experience the epic stories of those who fought for freedom and the Union from 1861 to 1865 will be lost.

The Cummings property is 0.73 acres adjacent to the park's eastern boundary and separates the historic site from U.S. Highway 69. This parcel would provide visitors with more direct access to the park. The owners have expressed interest in selling their property. The site includes a 13,159 square-foot building on the property suitable for administrative purposes.

The Chamber of Commerce property consists of 0.24 acres adjacent to the park's eastern boundary. The site currently houses the chamber offices. The building is bordered by the park on three sides, and including this property would allow for a continuous boundary. The Chamber of Commerce would continue the use of this building for the foreseeable future.

The estimated cost of acquisition for the Cummings property is approximately \$147,500 and the estimated cost for acquisition of the Westar Property is \$350,000. The Lunette Blair Blockhouse would be acquired through donation. The additional facilities and properties will increase park operational and maintenance costs, but the amount will depend on the number of facilities acquired and their condition. Additional funds for maintenance, repairs and capital improvements would be awarded through the NPS competitive process, subject to service-wide priorities and the availability of appropriations.

Support for the boundary modification has been expressed by various community organizations and community members, including the City of Fort Scott, the Bourbon County Economic Development Association, the Bourbon County Commissioners, the Bourbon County Riverfront Authority, the Bourbon County Chamber of Commerce, and the Friends of Fort Scott NHS, Inc.

The Department requests an amendment to substitute an updated map. The map referenced in the bill, includes a parcel we do not want be included in the expansion.

Mr. Chairman, this concludes my testimony. I would be happy to answer any questions you or other members of the subcommittee may have.

**STATEMENT OF DR. STEPHANIE TOOTHMAN, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR
CULTURAL RESOURCES, PARTNERSHIPS, AND SCIENCE, NATIONAL PARK
SERVICE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BEFORE THE SENATE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS, COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND
NATURAL RESOURCES, CONCERNING S. 2087, TO MODIFY THE BOUNDARY OF
FORT SCOTT NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**

JUNE 15, 2016

Mr. Chairman and members of the Subcommittee, thank you for the opportunity to present the views of the Department of the Interior on S. 2087, a bill to modify the boundary of Fort Scott National Historic Site in the State of Kansas, and for other purposes.

The Department supports S. 2087 with a proposed amendment to substitute an updated map.

This bill would amend P.L. 95-484, the establishing legislation for Fort Scott, to modify the boundary to include four parcels totaling approximately 3.81 acres of land and to authorize the Secretary to acquire properties by purchase with appropriated funds as well as donation.

Fort Scott was designated a National Historic Landmark in 1964. On October 19, 1972, Fort Scott was authorized as a unit of the National Park Service “to commemorate the significant role played by Fort Scott in the opening of the west, as well as the Civil War and strife in the State of Kansas that preceded it.” The historic site is currently 16.69 acres, but it does not include four significant parcels adjacent to or on or near the boundary of the park. The four properties are identified as the Westar property, the Cummings property, the Chamber of Commerce property, and the Lunette Blair Blockhouse.

The Westar property is 2.87 acres located adjacent to the western boundary of the park where the first civilian merchants in the area sold supplies to soldiers, Indians, tradespeople, travelers, and farmers. The Westar property also includes part of the historical landscape associated with the Civil War, including entrenchments and fortification structures that surrounded the fort. It is also the site associated with two of the earliest African-American neighborhoods in Fort Scott, both during and after the Civil War. These African-American families and refugees escaped from Indian Territory and followed the Union Army to Fort Scott. They rented or owned houses on the present-day Westar property, one of which was occupied by an African-American Civil War veteran with the 2nd Kansas Colored Infantry who lived on his property until the 1920s.

The Westar property includes an 18,940 square-foot brick structure of various elevations and storage spaces. The building has administrative and visitor services potential and could be utilized as an educational, orientation center or as exhibit/museum space that is accessible since this would be the only on-grade building in the boundary. Additionally, this brick building could improve public safety since it would be the only appropriate space in the park for providing visitor and employee safety in the event of a natural disaster such as a tornado or a severe thunderstorm.

The Lunette Blair Blockhouse is located near the park boundary. It is the last remaining Civil War-era military structure, built to defend the town of Fort Scott and its robust military supply depot from Confederate attack. For more than 50 years, the blockhouse has been maintained and preserved through a public-private partnership between the City of Fort Scott, and local individuals and organizations. The president of the organization approached the park to donate the property because the members were no longer physically or financially able to continue their preservation efforts. No other organization has shown interest in preserving the Blockhouse. Without regular maintenance, this structure will continue to deteriorate and the opportunity for visitors to experience the epic stories of those who fought for freedom and the Union from 1861 to 1865 will be lost.

The Cummings property is 0.73 acres adjacent to the park's eastern boundary and separates the historic site from U.S. Highway 69. This parcel would provide visitors with more direct access to the park. The owners have expressed interest in selling their property. The site includes a 13,159 square-foot building on the property suitable for administrative purposes.

The Chamber of Commerce property consists of 0.24 acres adjacent to the park's eastern boundary. The site currently houses the chamber offices. The building is bordered by the park on three sides, and including this property would allow for a continuous boundary. The Chamber of Commerce would continue the use of this building for the foreseeable future.

The estimated cost of acquisition for the Cummings property is approximately \$147,500 and the estimated cost for acquisition of the Westar Property is \$350,000. The Lunette Blair Blockhouse would be acquired through donation. The additional facilities and properties will increase park operational and maintenance costs, but the amount will depend on the number of facilities acquired and their condition. Additional funds for maintenance, repairs and capital improvements would be awarded through the NPS competitive process, subject to service-wide priorities and the availability of appropriations.

Support for the boundary modification has been expressed by various community organizations and community members, including the City of Fort Scott, the Bourbon County Economic Development Association, the Bourbon County Commissioners, the Bourbon County Riverfront Authority, the Bourbon County Chamber of Commerce, and the Friends of Fort Scott NHS, Inc.

The Department requests an amendment to substitute an updated map. The map referenced in the bill, includes a parcel we do not want be included in the expansion.

Mr. Chairman, this concludes my testimony. I would be happy to answer any questions you or other members of the subcommittee may have.

**STATEMENT OF DR. STEPHANIE TOOTHMAN, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR,
CULTURAL RESOURCES, PARTNERSHIPS, AND SCIENCE, NATIONAL PARK
SERVICE, DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BEFORE THE SENATE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS, COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND
NATURAL RESOURCES, CONCERNING S. 211, A BILL TO ESTABLISH THE
SUSQUEHANNA GATEWAY NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA IN THE STATE OF
PENNSYLVANIA, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**

JUNE 15, 2016

Mr. Chairman, thank you for the opportunity to present the Department of the Interior's views on S. 211, a bill to establish the Susquehanna Gateway National Heritage Area in the State of Pennsylvania, and for other purposes.

The Department supports enactment of S. 211, as the proposed Susquehanna Gateway National Heritage Area has been found to meet the National Park Service's interim criteria for designation as a national heritage area. We recommend an amendment described later in this statement.

However, along with designating any new national heritage areas, the Department recommends that Congress pass national heritage area program legislation. There are currently 49 designated national heritage areas, yet there is no authority in law that guides the designation and administration of these areas. Program legislation that establishes criteria to evaluate potentially qualified national heritage areas and a process for the designation, funding, and administration of these areas would provide a much-needed framework for evaluating proposed national heritage areas. It would offer guidelines for successful planning and management, clarify the roles and responsibilities of all parties, and standardize timeframes and funding for designated areas. The Department also notes that newly-authorized national heritage areas will compete for limited resources in the Heritage Partnership Program. The President's FY17 Budget proposes \$9.4 million for the current 49 areas. The authorization of additional national heritage areas will leave less funding for each individual national heritage area.

Flowing for 441 miles, the Susquehanna River is the longest river on the East Coast and the largest contributor of fresh water to the Chesapeake Bay. The portions of the river flowing through Lancaster and York Counties in Pennsylvania exhibit exceptional natural and recreational value and traverse landscapes of historical importance to our nation.

The region of the proposed Susquehanna Gateway National Heritage Area was first inhabited by Native Americans who left evidence of their occupation in a myriad of archeological sites, as well as rock art at several petroglyph sites. When Captain John Smith journeyed up the Susquehanna River in the summer of 1608, he sent emissaries to the Susquehannock town located on the east side of the river near present day Washington Boro in Lancaster County. Tribal leaders there entered a trade alliance, opening to the English a trade network extending hundreds of miles.

In 1668, William Penn set the tone for religious tolerance in Pennsylvania and brought colonists who settled the great fertile valley of the Susquehanna Gateway region, beginning its long history as an abundant agricultural center. Serving as an important transportation corridor, the river provided opportunities for commerce and invention. It was here that John Elgar constructed the first iron steamboat in America. The birthplace of Robert Fulton, the original inventor of steam powered boats, is a National Historic Landmark in Lancaster County. Here, too, Phineas Davis designed and built the first practical coal burning steam locomotive, thereby revolutionizing railroad transportation.

The region is the home ground of the “Plain People” – the Amish and Mennonites. Their religious values, simple way of life, and well-tended farms speak to the deepest feelings that Americans have about ourselves and our national experience.

In this region, visitors also find evidence of our Revolutionary War past. Lancaster and York Counties served as venues for the Continental Congress when it left Philadelphia upon the British occupation of that city. In the courthouse in York, the Congress approved the Articles of Confederation and Perpetual Union, the nation’s “first constitution,” and sent it forth to the states for ratification. In the summer of 1781, Continental Army General James Wood established Camp Security, housing more than a thousand British soldiers from General John Burgoyne’s army, which had surrendered at Saratoga.

The region also has an abundance of natural resources including migratory bird nesting sites, remnants of old growth forests, and areas of both ecological diversity and scenic quality. Ferncliff, known for its wildflowers, and the Susquehanna Gorge are both designated National Natural Landmarks. Recreational resources abound in the region, including the Kelly’s Run and Susquehanna River Water Trails, both National Recreation Trails.

S. 211 would designate the Susquehanna Heritage Corporation, a non-profit organization, as the local coordinating entity for the Susquehanna Gateway National Heritage Area. This organization has served as the coordinator for the state heritage area covering this region that was designated in 2001. The Susquehanna Heritage Corporation has demonstrated success in coordinating diverse partners in Lancaster and York Counties. Over the past 15 years, the corporation has been effective in facilitating preservation, interpretative, and educational projects and in leveraging community participation and funding. The heritage area has strong support from the public and from a myriad of state, local, federal, and non-governmental partners throughout the area. In 2008, the corporation prepared a national heritage area feasibility study that was reviewed by the National Park Service and found to meet the interim criteria for potential designation found in the *National Heritage Area Feasibility Study Guidelines*.

Most of the language in S. 211 is standard for national heritage area designation legislation that Congress has enacted in the last decade. However, the bill’s management plan requirements are missing some of the standard provisions. We recommend an amendment to make these requirements consistent with designation legislation for other national heritage areas. We would be pleased to submit language for that purpose.

Mr. Chairman, this concludes my testimony. I would be happy to answer any questions you or other members of the subcommittee may have.

**STATEMENT OF DR. STEPHANIE TOOTHMAN, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR,
CULTURAL RESOURCES, PARTNERSHIPS, AND SCIENCE, NATIONAL PARK
SERVICE, DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BEFORE THE SENATE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS, COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND
NATURAL RESOURCES, CONCERNING S. 630, TO ESTABLISH THE
SACRAMENTO-SAN JOAQUIN DELTA NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA.**

JUNE 15, 2016

Mr. Chairman, thank you for the opportunity to present the Department of the Interior's views on S. 630, a bill to establish the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta National Heritage Area.

The Department supports enactment of S. 630 as the proposed Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta National Heritage Area has been found to meet the National Park Service's interim criteria for designation as a national heritage area.

However, along with designating any new national heritage areas, the Department recommends that Congress pass national heritage area program legislation. There are currently 49 designated national heritage areas, yet there is no authority in law that guides the designation and administration of these areas. Program legislation that establishes criteria to evaluate potentially qualified national heritage areas and a process for the designation, funding, and administration of these areas would provide a much-needed framework for evaluating proposed national heritage areas. It would offer guidelines for successful planning and management, clarify the roles and responsibilities of all parties, and standardize timeframes and funding for designated areas. The Department also notes that newly-authorized national heritage areas will compete for limited resources in the Heritage Partnership Program. The President's FY17 Budget proposes \$9.4 million for the current 49 areas. The authorization of additional national heritage areas will leave less funding for each individual national heritage area.

The Feasibility Study for a Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta National Heritage Area was completed and published by the Delta Protection Commission in July 2012. The Delta Protection Commission is identified as the Heritage Area's local coordinating entity. The proposed national heritage area will cover the counties of Contra Costa, Sacramento, San Joaquin, Solano, and Yolo, in the State of California.

The Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta is the largest estuary on the West Coast of the Americas, a rare inland/inverse Delta at the confluence of the Sacramento and San Joaquin Rivers. The delta was formed after the last ice age 10,000 years ago, when a rapid rise in sea level inundated the alluvial valley of the Sacramento River.

Native Americans lived among the extensive freshwater and brackish marshes, oak woodland, savannah, chaparral, and riparian habitat rich with wildlife. Early fur traders such as Jedediah Smith trekked into the region in search of otter, mink and beaver. Then, gold seekers on their way from San Francisco to the gold fields in the Sierra Nevada recognized the fertility of the delta's soils. Beginning in the 1880s, using Chinese, Japanese, Filipino, East Indian, Portuguese

and Italian laborers, one of the largest reclamation projects in the United States converted the vast swamps into the leveed landscape that characterizes the delta today.

The Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta is the lynchpin of a huge watershed that links San Francisco Bay and the Pacific Ocean to waterways flowing from the Cascade, Coastal and Sierra Nevada mountain ranges. After more than a century and a half of reclamation and development, the delta still supports over one hundred crop types, and hundreds of species of flora and fauna. It is a key stopover on the Pacific Flyway. While its quiet waterways and historic towns are untapped recreational and tourism attractions for large adjacent populations in the San Francisco Bay Area and the Central Valley, the delta supplies irrigation and drinking water to far away California farmers and households, and is at the heart of statewide water conflicts.

The Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta is a hidden gem of a region located at a key geographic and historic crossroads in our country. It is a land of ethnic diversity, innovation, industry, enduring history, and both fragile and robust physical features. Artists such as Jack London and Joan Didion have written about the delta as both a place and an idea.

The mission of the proposed Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta National Heritage Area is to recognize, enhance and promote the theme 'Delta as Place' to help cultivate appreciation and understanding of the Delta's heritage, and to build support and economic activity around its preservation and enhancement. The Delta Protection Commission has conducted a Delta Narratives project in collaboration with regional academic and cultural institutions to communicate the region's historic and cultural importance. A cultural resources inventory and planning for the Great Delta Trail are underway. Agri-tourism businesses – markets, farm stays, wineries – increasingly showcase and share the region's agricultural traditions.

Through the work of such partnerships in a Sacramento-San Joaquin National Heritage Area, the Delta Protection Commission has significant potential to engage the broader community in protecting, enhancing, and enjoying the heritage values of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta region well into the future.

Mr. Chairman, this concludes my prepared remarks. I would be happy to answer any questions you or any other members of the subcommittees may have.

**STATEMENT OF DR. STEPHANIE TOOTHMAN, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR,
CULTURAL RESOURCES, PARTNERSHIPS AND SCIENCE, NATIONAL PARK
SERVICE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BEFORE THE SENATE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS, COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND
NATURAL RESOURCES, CONCERNING S. 1007 TO AMEND DAYTON AVIATION
HERITAGE PRESERVATION ACT OF 1992 TO RENAME A SITE OF DAYTON
HERITAGE NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK.**

JUNE 15, 2016

Mr. Chairman and members of the subcommittee, thank you for the opportunity to present the views of the Department of the Interior on S. 1007, a bill to amend the Dayton Aviation Heritage Preservation Act of 1992 to rename a site of the Dayton Heritage National Historical Park.

The Department does not object to S. 1007.

This bill would amend the enabling act for the Dayton Aviation Heritage National Historical Park (Park), a unit of the National Park System, to provide that the Park shall include a site known as the “John W. Berry, Sr. Wright Brothers National Museum” rather than the “John W. Berry, Sr. Wright Brothers Aviation Center.”

The John W. Berry, Sr. Wright Brothers Aviation Center is managed by Dayton History, a not-for-profit partner of the NPS, as part of the Dayton Aviation Heritage National Historical Park. The center’s exhibits focus on the Wright brothers’ early printing and bicycle businesses, their family history, and their association with schoolmate, poet and author, Paul Laurence Dunbar. The center also houses the 1905 Wright Flyer III, the only airplane in the United States designated as a National Historic Landmark.

The facility that is the subject of this legislation is a private parcel within the boundary of the Park. It is a major attraction within Carillon Historical Park, a larger attraction owned and managed by Dayton History. Dayton History is planning to change the name of the facility from the John W. Berry, Sr. **Aviation Center** to the John W. Berry, Sr. **National Museum**. This bill would ensure that there is consistency between the actual name of the facility and the name used to identify it in the Park’s establishing legislation, which designates the site within the Park.

If the committee moves forward with this legislation, the Department would recommend amending the title of the bill to more accurately reflect the bill’s purpose. The bill does not rename the site; rather the bill amends the act to reflect the new name of the site that Dayton History will be giving it. We recommend the bill be titled “to amend the Dayton Aviation Heritage Preservation Act of 1992 to reflect the renaming of a site of the park.”

If this bill is enacted, the costs for the National Park Service would be minimal. We would need to modify or replace the park entrance sign and update interpretive materials, but these would be made in the course of normal replacement and updating of these items.

Mr. Chairman, this concludes my testimony. I would be happy to answer any questions you or other members of the subcommittee may have.

**STATEMENT OF DR. STEPHANIE TOOTHMAN, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR
CULTURAL RESOURCES, PARTNERSHIPS, AND SCIENCE, NATIONAL PARK
SERVICE, DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BEFORE THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON
NATIONAL PARKS OF THE SENATE ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMITTEE, CONCERNING S. 1623, TO ESTABLISH THE MARITIME
WASHINGTON NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA IN THE STATE OF WASHINGTON,
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**

JUNE 15, 2016

Mr. Chairman, thank you for the opportunity to present the Department of the Interior's views on S. 1623, a bill to establish the Maritime Washington National Heritage Area in the State of Washington.

The Department supports the enactment of S. 1623, as the proposed Maritime Washington National Heritage Area has been found to meet the National Park Service's interim criteria for designation as a national heritage area.

However, along with designating any new national heritage areas, the Department recommends that Congress pass national heritage area program legislation. There are currently 49 designated national heritage areas, yet there is no authority in law that guides the designation and administration of these areas. Program legislation that establishes criteria to evaluate potentially qualified National heritage areas and a process for the designation, funding, and administration of these areas would provide a much-needed framework for evaluating proposed national heritage areas. It would offer guidelines for successful planning and management, clarify the roles and responsibilities of all parties, and standardize timeframes and funding for designated areas. The Department also notes that newly-authorized national heritage areas will compete for limited resources in the Heritage Partnership Program. The President's FY17 Budget proposes \$9.4 million for the current 49 areas. The authorization of additional national heritage areas will leave less funding for each individual national heritage area.

The proposed area includes land that is as located within one-quarter mile landward of the shoreline in the counties of Whatcom, Skagit, Snohomish, San Juan, Island, King, Pierce, Thurston, Mason, Kitsap, Jefferson, Clallam, and Grays Harbor, approximately 3,000 linear miles of a "Salt Water Coast." The proposed local coordinating entity for the Maritime Washington National Heritage Area would be the Washington Trust for Historic Preservation. A *Feasibility Study for a Washington State National Maritime Heritage Area* was completed by the Washington Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation in April 2010. The National Park Service conducted a review of the study for consistency with the interim *National Heritage Area Feasibility Study Guidelines*, and with a subsequent revised Statement of Importance and boundary justification submitted March 5, 2012, and found that the area meets these criteria for national heritage area designation. The Washington Trust for Historic Preservation was informed of this decision in a letter on June 5, 2012.

The proposed Maritime Washington National Heritage Area stretches from northern ports in Bellingham and Blaine to the protected harbors of Aberdeen and Hoquiam. The landscape tells the stories of a rich Native American civilization, development of the farthest territorial corner of the United States, of gold rushers and shipbuilders, and of a gateway to Alaska, Asia and the seaports of the world.

Living between steep glacier-clad mountain ranges and a temperate saltwater shoreline, native people built a complex culture around canoe routes and salmon cycles. By the late 18th century, the region was being mapped and named by Spanish, English, and Russian explorers in the interest of science and the pursuit of colonial empire. After the 49th parallel was established as the nation's northern border in 1846, this new corner of the country entered a dramatic period of social, political and military development. The vast conifer forests were easily accessible for timber production, and the coastal geography made possible its transportation to the developing American west. The timber trade and abundant marine resources, especially salmon, of the San Juan de Fuca straight, the Puget Sound and the Pacific Ocean attracted American, European and Pan-Asian settlers who provided the labor for thriving port economies in Port Angeles, Port Townsend, and Port Gamble.

At the heart of the heritage area is the greater Puget Sound, a system of interconnected marine waterways, harbors, bays and inlets that wet the shores of the San Juan Archipelago and the many waterfront towns, cities, and ports that have grown up here over time. The naval facilities on Puget Sound have built and repaired vessels in our fleet for over a century. Even today the region relies on the country's largest marine highway system – its famous ferries – for day-to-day transportation.

These stories are represented in the traditional Native American sites, lumber towns, logging mills, salmon processing plants, historic ships, lighthouses, museums and the host of other maritime-related sites, scenes, and traditions that comprise the proposed Maritime Washington National Heritage Area. Under the leadership of the Washington Trust for Historic Preservation, the heritage area would encourage and support the work of the many organizations committed to the recognition, preservation and continued economic, recreational and educational use of this unique and vital region and its resources.

Mr. Chairman, this concludes my testimony. I would be happy to answer any questions you or any other members of the subcommittee may have.

**STATEMENT OF DR. STEPHANIE TOOTHMAN, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR,
CULTURAL RESOURCES, PARTNERSHIPS, AND SCIENCE, NATIONAL PARK
SERVICE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BEFORE THE SENATE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS, COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND
NATURAL RESOURCES, CONCERNING S. 1662, A BILL TO INCLUDE
LIVINGSTON COUNTY, THE CITY OF JONESBORO IN UNION COUNTY, AND THE
CITY OF FREEPORT IN STEPHENSON COUNTY, ILLINOIS, TO THE LINCOLN
NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**

JUNE 15, 2016

Mr. Chairman and members of the subcommittee, thank you for the opportunity to present the views of the Department of the Interior on S. 1662, a bill to expand the boundary of the Abraham Lincoln National Heritage Area (NHA), and for other purposes.

The Department recommends that the committee defer action on S. 1662 until such time as the National Park Service (NPS) determines if this proposed expansion is appropriate. The NHA was authorized on May 10, 2008, to help tell the stories of the places that President Abraham Lincoln lived for almost 30 years. These important sites include the Lincoln Log Cabin, the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum, and the Lincoln Home National Historic Site. The NHA includes 42 counties in Central Illinois. The Looking for Lincoln Heritage Coalition (LFLHC), a non-profit organization, was authorized to manage the NHA, which is a consortium of Illinois communities and sites that share the legacy of Abraham Lincoln.

Prior to beginning any effort to designate an area as a national heritage area, the NPS recommends that interested community members or organizations undertake a feasibility study to assess several factors, including: whether the landscape has an assemblage of natural, cultural, historic and scenic resources that, when linked together, tell a nationally important story; whether an organization exists with the financial and organizational capacity to coordinate heritage area activities; and, whether the level of support for designation exists within the region.

The LFLHC completed their feasibility study in 2002. The NPS recommends that the LFLHC submit an addendum to their feasibility study that includes a boundary justification for the inclusion of Livingston County, the City of Jonesboro in Union County, and the City of Freeport in Stephenson County, Illinois. The addendum will document that the LFLHC has reached out to these communities and that there is public support for the inclusion of their cities and county in the boundary of the NHA. Additionally, the addendum will ensure that the proposed inclusion of these cities and county supports the original intent of the NHA.

Once the LFLHC completes the amended feasibility study, the NPS will undertake our evaluation as expeditiously as possible. The NPS recommends that the committee defer action until the feasibility study amendment is completed and the NPS can make a determination on the proposed expansion.

Mr. Chairman, this concludes my testimony. I would be happy to answer any questions you or other members of the subcommittee may have.

**STATEMENT OF DR. STEPHANIE TOOTHMAN, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR,
CULTURAL RESOURCES, PARTNERSHIPS, AND SCIENCE, NATIONAL PARK
SERVICE, DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BEFORE THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON
NATIONAL PARKS OF THE SENATE ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMITTEE, CONCERNING S. 1690, TO ESTABLISH THE MOUNTAINS TO
SOUND GREENWAY NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA.**

JUNE 15, 2016

Mr. Chairman, thank you for the opportunity to present the Department of the Interior's views on S. 1690, a bill to establish the Mountains to Sound Greenway National Heritage Area in the State of Washington.

The Department supports enactment of S. 1690 as the proposed Mountains to Sound Greenway National Heritage Area has been found to meet the National Park Service's interim criteria for designation as a national heritage area.

However, along with designating any new national heritage areas, the Department recommends that Congress pass national heritage area program legislation. There are currently 49 designated national heritage areas, yet there is no authority in law that guides the designation and administration of these areas. Program legislation that establishes criteria to evaluate potentially qualified national heritage areas and a process for the designation, funding, and administration of these areas would provide a much-needed framework for evaluating proposed national heritage areas. It would offer guidelines for successful planning and management, clarifying the roles and responsibilities of all parties, and standardize timeframes and funding for designated areas. The Department also notes that newly-authorized national heritage areas will compete for limited resources in the Heritage Partnership Program. The President's FY17 Budget proposes \$9.4 million for the current 49 areas. The authorization of additional national heritage areas will leave less funding for each individual national heritage area.

The Mountains to Sound Greenway National Heritage Area would include lands within King and Kittitas Counties stretching from Snoqualmie Pass to Seattle. The proposed local coordinating entity would be the nonprofit corporation Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust.

Initially, NPS review of the *Mountains to Sound Greenway National Heritage Area Feasibility Study* completed by the Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust (Trust) in March 2012, found that the study did not meet the NPS *Interim National Heritage Area Feasibility Study Guidelines*. In a subsequent May 27, 2014, *Addendum* the Trust provided a revised statement of national importance; themes and a list of associated resources; a summary of traditions, customs, beliefs and folk life; and a boundary justification.

The proposed Mountains to Sound Greenway National Heritage Area is important for its association with the expansion of our national transportation system and creation of our modern timber industry. It tells the story of how the Northern Pacific and Milwaukee railroads, and later the Sunset Highway and Interstate 90, created the final section of an historic transportation

corridor that wove the Northwest into the nation's fabric, opened up trade between the United States and Asia, and led to development of the industrial timber practices in use today .

Although by 1850 the Puget Sound area was part of the United States, the Cascade Range isolated this region with its abundant natural resources and sheltered deep-water ports from the rest of the nation. In 1864, the Northern Pacific Railroad was chartered by President Lincoln. Constructed along a Native American pathway through the nearly impassible Snoqualmie Pass, it reached Seattle 20 years later. This railroad connection from the Eastern seaboard and the Great Lakes to the western most reaches of the continental United States reinforced the newly drawn American-Canadian border. The city of Seattle grew into a booming hub for shipbuilding and trade of foreign goods and the region's own wealth of natural resources, opening the country's first trade routes on the Pacific Rim. Rail towns sprung up along the main lines, mill and coal towns on the spurs, while piers stretched into Puget Sound, attracting immigrant workers whose descendants live in the region today.

The Milwaukee Road crossed the Cascades in the early 1900s, pioneering tunneling and electrification techniques that allowed the high speed electric trains to carry Japanese silk, the nation's most precious rail commodity after gold and silver bullion, to New York. But the Milwaukee Road made its money carrying passengers to ski, hike and climb at Snoqualmie Pass. The conservation ethic that developed in the region from enjoyment of the region's natural beauty is strongly held today.

Washington's modern economy has developed directly from the Northern Pacific Land Grant used to build the railroad. In place of public financing, the railroad received the largest federal land grant in American history – 40 million acres – every other square mile of land in a checkerboard pattern up to forty miles on either side of the right-of-way. This consolidated ownership, along with the steam technology brought by the railroad, created the booming timber industry that helped rebuild San Francisco after the 1906 earthquake and fueled shipbuilding in World War I. Airplanes entering large-scale military production for the first time were built from the region's prized spruce. Demand for this aircraft led William Boeing in 1916 to found a company that supplies the nation's air transportation industry today.

Plantation forestry, involving sustained-yield harvest and reforestation, now the industry standard across much of the country, was invented in this region in the 1930's. William Weyerhaeuser, having amassed one-and-a-half million acres of Washington timberland, established the first seedling industry at Snoqualmie Falls, rolled out his "Timber is a Crop!" public relations campaign, and began to manage timber across multiple harvests, a radical idea at the time.

The cultural heritage of the Mountains to Sound Greenway National Heritage Area is alive in the ethnic diversity of the region's population and its traditions, customs and celebrations, and in the museums, festivals, historic sites and interpretive trails that both residents and visitors enjoy today. The proposed heritage area boundaries pragmatically follow modern-day political and land-management structures, a formula for long-term success as communities and their partners seek to manage, enhance, and interpret resources across this landscape.

Mr. Chairman, this concludes my testimony. I would be happy to answer any questions you or any other members of the subcommittee may have.

STATEMENT OF DR. STEPHANIE TOOTHMAN, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR, CULTURAL RESOURCES, PARTNERSHIPS AND SCIENCE, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BEFORE THE SENATE SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS, COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES, CONCERNING H.R. 482 AND S. 1696, TO REDESIGNATE OCMULGEE NATIONAL MONUMENT IN THE STATE OF GEORGIA AND REVISE ITS BOUNDARY, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

JUNE 15, 2016

Mr. Chairman and members of the subcommittee, thank you for the opportunity to present the Department of the Interior's testimony regarding H.R. 482 and S. 1696, bills to redesignate Ocmulgee National Monument in the State of Georgia and revise its boundary, and for other purposes.

The Department supports S. 1696 and would support H.R. 482 if amended in accordance with this testimony. This legislation has three components: it would redesignate the national monument, expand the monument's boundaries, and authorize a special resource study of the Ocmulgee River corridor in Georgia from Macon to Hawkinsville. With respect to the special resource study, the Department feels that priority should be given to the 24 previously authorized studies for potential units of the National Park System, potential new National Heritage Areas, and potential additions to the National Trails System and National Wild and Scenic River System that have not yet been transmitted to Congress.

Ocmulgee National Monument, authorized by Congress in 1934 and established by Presidential proclamation in 1936 after the purchase of lands by local citizens, encompasses 701 acres in two separate units. The Main Unit (656 acres), includes seven prehistoric mounds, a funeral mound, a reconstructed earth lodge, prehistoric trenches, and numerous archeological features. This unit also includes the site of a British colonial trading post dating to 1690 (which the Creek Indians frequented), the historic Dunlap House, an Art Moderne visitor center, Civil War earthworks, substantial urban green space, six miles of hiking trails, and a picnic area. The smaller Lamar Mounds Unit (45 acres), named for a Late Mississippian agricultural society, is located about two and one-half miles southeast of the Main Unit. Both sites are part of a larger archeological area known as the Ocmulgee Old Fields.

In 1999, the Ocmulgee Old Fields was listed on the National Register of Historic Places as a "traditional cultural property," the first location in the eastern United States to receive this designation. The monument and surrounding area is the site of one of the largest archeological investigations in North American history. The investigation and recovery of artifacts and information in this area was instrumental in the development of scientific archeology. The traditional cultural property extends well beyond the current boundaries of the monument to encompass areas traditionally associated with the cultural beliefs and practices of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation and related tribes.

REDESIGNATION

H.R. 482 and S. 1696 would redesignate Ocmulgee National Monument as "Ocmulgee Mounds National Historical Park", a more appropriate name for the site. For generations, Middle Georgians have known Ocmulgee National Monument simply as "the Indian mounds." The addition of the

word “mounds” to the name would not only clarify the identity of the site for residents of the region, it would also give all potential visitors a better idea of the principal resource of the site. In addition, the title “National Historical Park” recognizes the complexity of the site and the fact that it is much more than a collection of Indian mounds. The proposed title also provides better identification of the site as a unit of the National Park System.

BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENT

H.R. 482 and S. 1696 would also expand the boundary of the Ocmulgee National Monument consistent with the preferred alternative of a boundary study the National Park Service completed in 2014. The study evaluated lands that were part of the Ocmulgee Old Fields and found that approximately 2,100 acres of these lands were suitable and feasible for inclusion in the monument. These additional lands would link Ocmulgee’s Main Unit and the Lamar Unit and create a contiguous park unit of approximately 2,800 acres.

Of the 2,100 acres proposed for inclusion in the monument, approximately 707 acres (34% of expansion area) would likely be acquired by donation. The remaining lands, approximately 1,350 acres (66% of expansion area) would likely be acquired through purchase from willing sellers. Based on tax assessments, the value of the private tracts that would be purchased is just under \$2 million, but actual acquisition costs could be higher. Costs would eventually be incurred to demolish non-historic structures. Some relatively low-cost improvements for recreational enhancement are anticipated, such as trailhead kiosks, maintenance of old roadbeds for biking/hiking trails, and installation of canoe launching facilities. Funding for these activities would be subject to the availability of appropriations.

The proposed boundary expansion enjoys strong community support. Resolutions in favor of the expansion have been passed by the Board of Commissioners of Wilkinson County, the Macon-Bibb County Commission, the Historic Macon Foundation, Inc., the Georgia Small Business Lender Board of Directors, and the Hawkinsville-Pulaski County Chamber of Commerce. Other organizations and governmental entities have also expressed support for the expansion, including Altamaha River Keeper, the Georgia Conservancy, Main Street Macon, New Town Macon, the Macon Chamber of Commerce, the Middle Georgia Regional Commission Council, the Macon-Bibb County Convention and Visitors Bureau, the Mayor and City Council for the City of Perry, the Georgia River Network, the National Trust for Historic Preservation, Save our Rivers INC. and the Macon-Bibb County Urban Development Authority.

SPECIAL RESOURCE STUDY

H.R. 482 and S. 1696 would also authorize the Secretary to conduct a special resource study of the Ocmulgee River corridor between Macon and Hawkinsville, a distance of about 50 miles and an area encompassing approximately 70,000 acres. Although the study area would be contiguous with Ocmulgee National Monument, the size of the area and the complexity of resources warrant the authorization of a special resource study, rather than another boundary study. The study area would encompass a patchwork of privately and publicly owned land, including the Bond Swamp National Wildlife Refuge and two State of Georgia wildlife management areas. It would also include much of the Ocmulgee Old Fields Traditional Cultural Property not already included in the national monument or the proposed expansion of the monument. We estimate that this study would cost approximately \$350,000 to \$500,000. Funding for this proposed study would need to be allocated from the set amount of funding that Congress appropriates for all special resource studies.

The Department supports S. 1696 as introduced and would support H.R. 482 as passed by the House if amended to conform to the language in S. 1696. As passed by the House, H.R. 482 makes the establishment of the expanded boundary subject to the written consent of the owners of properties that would be included within the new boundary. This places landowners, rather than Congress or the Administration, in the position of determining the boundary of a federal park, which we believe is inappropriate. This provision has the potential to create legal and practical confusion over the boundary since it is possible that a landowner could give consent, then change his or her mind and withdraw consent or convey the property to another owner who withdraws consent. If the intent of this language is to ensure that no land is included within the park boundary without the consent of the landowner, we recommend amending the bill to provide that the park boundary shall not be adjusted unless and until a specified property is acquired for the park. By waiting to include land in the boundary until it is acquired by the federal government, this approach avoids entirely the potential problems we see with the approach used in the House bill. Our recommended approach has precedent in other park laws.

H.R. 482 allows land acquisition by donation or exchange only, not purchase. At this time, only about one third of the land in the proposed boundary adjustment area is anticipated to be donated. We support allowing the purchase from a willing seller with donated or appropriated funds, as provided by S. 1696. This language would also render unnecessary the prohibition on condemnation included in H.R. 482.

H.R. 482 also includes language that says that an activity outside the boundary shall not be precluded because it can be heard or seen inside the park boundary. The Department has concerns about this language. It is misleading, as it suggests that the NPS may have authority to preclude activities outside the boundaries, which it does not. Of even greater concern, however, is that the language could discourage park managers from addressing threats to park resources from external sources. Even though the NPS does not control what happens outside of its boundaries, park managers have a responsibility under the NPS Organic Act and other laws to work with owners of properties outside of park boundaries to resolve problems that could negatively impact the resources the NPS is responsible for protecting.

Finally, we note that S. 1696 as introduced has blank lines for references for a map that would depict the boundaries of the expanded and redesignated Ocmulgee Mounds National Historical Park. The National Park Service has developed a map to accompany this bill and we would be happy to submit the map to the bill's sponsor and the committee.

Mr. Chairman, this concludes my testimony. I would be happy to answer any questions that you or other members of the subcommittee may have.

**STATEMENT OF DR. STEPHANIE TOOTHMAN, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR,
CULTURAL RESOURCES, PARTNERSHIPS, AND SCIENCE, NATIONAL PARK
SERVICE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BEFORE THE SENATE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS, COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND
NATURAL RESOURCES, CONCERNING S. 1824, TO AUTHORIZE THE
SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR TO CONDUCT A STUDY TO ASSESS THE
SUITABILITY AND FEASIBILITY OF DESIGNATING CERTAIN LAND AS THE
FINGER LAKES NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA IN THE STATE OF NEW YORK,
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**

JUNE 15, 2016

Mr. Chairman, thank you for the opportunity to present the views of the Department of the Interior on S. 1824, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study to assess the suitability and feasibility of designating certain land as the Finger Lakes National Heritage Area in New York, and for other purposes.

The Department supports enactment of S. 1824. However, we believe that priority should be given to the 24 previously authorized studies for potential units of the National Park System, potential new National Heritage Areas, and potential additions to the National Trails System and National Wild and Scenic Rivers System that have not yet been transmitted to Congress.

S. 1824 would authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study to assess the suitability and feasibility of designating an area in the State of New York as the Finger Lakes National Heritage Area in New York. The study area would include the counties of Monroe, Wayne, Cayuga, Onondaga, Cortland, Tioga, Chemung, Steuben, Livingston, Ontario, Yates, Schuyler, Seneca, and Tompkins. Resources in other counties in the vicinity could be included in the study. This study would determine whether within the area there is an assemblage of natural, historic, and cultural resources that represent distinctive aspects of the heritage of the United States; are worthy of recognition, conservation, interpretation, and continuing use; and would be best managed through partnerships among public and private entities. These, and other criteria listed in the bill, are the criteria that the National Park Service supports using to determine whether to recommend to Congress the designation of an area as a national heritage area.

Collectively, the counties within the Finger Lakes National Heritage Area study area contain a broad array of natural, historic, and cultural resources of national, state, and local significance. Within the counties listed in the bill, there are 760 properties listed on the National Register of Historic Places representing every era of the American experience. Twelve of the properties are designated National Historic Landmarks. The study area contains an established national park unit, Women's Rights National Historical Park, as well as the recently authorized Harriet Tubman National Historical Park, and portions of the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor, the Finger Lakes National Forest, and five National Natural Landmarks, representing resources ranging from climax forest to woodland marsh to glacial geology. Portions of the North Country National Scenic Trail lie within the study area, as does the Finger Lakes Trail network.

State parks and private organizations within the study area provide public recreational and educational opportunities for similar resources not recognized through federal programs. Opportunities for the sharing of cultural heritage and folkways are available throughout the year through a variety of established organizations and the federally recognized tribes within the region. The study would be conducted in consultation with the various non-federal stakeholders in the area.

Mr. Chairman, this concludes my testimony. I would be happy to answer any questions you or other members of the subcommittee may have.

**STATEMENT OF DR. STEPHANIE TOOTHMAN, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR,
CULTURAL RESOURCES, PARTNERSHIPS, AND SCIENCE, NATIONAL PARK
SERVICE, DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BEFORE THE SENATE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS, COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND
NATURAL RESOURCES, CONCERNING S. 2412, TO ESTABLISH THE TULE LAKE
NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE IN THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA, AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES.**

JUNE 15, 2016

Mr. Chairman and members of the subcommittee, thank you for the opportunity to present the Department of the Interior's views on S. 2412, to establish the Tule Lake National Historic Site in the State of California, and for other purposes.

The Department supports S. 2412.

S. 2412 would establish the Tule Lake National Historic Site as a stand-alone unit of the National Park Service, separating it from the World War II Valor in the Pacific National Monument. It would include portions of the Tule Lake Segregation Center National Historic Landmark and Camp Tulelake.

The World War II Valor in the Pacific National Monument, including the Tule Lake Unit, was created by a presidential proclamation on December 5, 2008. The monument consists of nine sites in Alaska, California, and Hawaii. Eight of the nine sites in the monument are World War II battle sites that memorialize battles on American soil and actual engagement with foreign enemies. This is in stark contrast to the purpose of the Tule Lake site, which is to preserve, study, and interpret the history and setting of the incarceration and later segregation of *nikkei*, first-generation Japanese Americans, at Tule Lake during World War II.

Since designation, many former detainees have expressed concerns about whether the name of the monument, "World War II Valor in the Pacific," is appropriate for a site aimed at remembering the grave injustice done to more than 120,000 Japanese Americans nationwide during the war. Additionally, public input from over 30 public scoping meetings held in western states in 2013 for the park's general management plan revealed strong public opinion to detach the Tule Lake Unit from World War II Valor in the Pacific National Monument. The rationale expressed that the name is inappropriate, and even offensive, for an internment site to be associated with wartime valor.

The Tule Lake Segregation Center, which was opened in May 1942, was the largest of the 10 War Relocation Authority camps. More than 29,000 Japanese Americans from western Washington, Oregon, and northern California were interned there. Its population made up a quarter of the 120,000 people affected by World War II Japanese American internment. Tule Lake also imprisoned the largest number of individuals categorized as disloyal, and was subsequently converted to a maximum-security segregation center. Due to turmoil and strife, Tule Lake was the last camp to close, on March 28, 1946.

Presently the park includes Camp Tulelake, where there are several historic structures once used to imprison Japanese Americans and detain German and Italian prisoners of war; the Peninsula, an iconic landscape to those who lived there and where detainees tended livestock that supported the self-contained camp; and the Segregation Center, which encompasses the original segregation center's stockade, the War Relocation Authority motor pool, the post engineer's yard and motor pool, and a small part of the military police compound.

The Tule Lake Unit is currently administered jointly by the National Park Service and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Tule Lake National Wildlife Refuge) and is managed in accordance with both NPS and USFWS laws and regulations. This bill would not affect existing land rights or alter the site's current management scheme or operational costs.

Establishing the Tule Lake National Historic Site will enable us to increase focus on understanding the high price paid by Japanese Americans on the home front during World War II. It would elevate the recognition of this site to be consistent with our other Japanese relocation centers -- Manzanar National Historic Site and Minidoka National Historic Site -- as stand-alone parks in the National Park System. And, it is in keeping with the public's and former detainees' expressed opinions on the matter.

Mr. Chairman, this concludes my testimony. I would be happy to answer any questions you or other members of the subcommittee may have.

STATEMENT OF DR. STEPHANIE TOOTHMAN, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR FOR CULTURAL RESOURCES, PARTNERSHIPS, AND SCIENCE, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BEFORE THE SENATE SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS, COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES, CONCERNING S. 2548, A BILL TO ESTABLISH THE 400 YEARS OF AFRICAN-AMERICAN HISTORY COMMISSION, AND FOR OTHERS PURPOSES.

JUNE 15, 2016

Mr. Chairman and members of the subcommittee, thank you for the opportunity to present the views of the Department of the Interior on S. 2548, a bill to establish the 400 Years of African-American History Commission.

The Department supports S. 2548, however, we would like to work with the committee on the composition of the commission.

S. 2548 would create the 400 Years of African-American History Commission (Commission) to commemorate four centuries of African-American history in the United States. Through programs, activities, education, and outreach, the Commission would honor the arrival of Africans in the United States and the contributions of African-Americans throughout the nation.

The Commission would consist of 15 members appointed by the Secretary of the Interior, including an employee of the National Park Service (NPS). It also authorizes the Commission to provide grants of up to \$20,000 and technical assistance to communities and nonprofit organizations for the development of programs, projects, and activities to assist in the commemoration. It would also provide grants to research and scholarly organizations to research, publish, and distribute information relating to the arrival of Africans in the United States. The bill would allow federal employees to be detailed to the Commission, at the Commission's request. Finally, the bill provides the authorization of funds until the Commission terminates on July 1, 2020.

When the first African people arrived in the English colonies at Point Comfort, Virginia, in 1619, it was not in the pursuit of a new life, wealth, or freedom from oppression; it was in bondage, against their will, with a loss of their freedom. Their arrival marked the beginning of a long and difficult narrative of slavery, resistance, reconstruction, and civil rights, with the story still being written today. However, in all the tragedy and hardship that is interwoven into the history of slavery in America, there is a greater narrative of resilience and perseverance, making it one of the greatest survival stories rarely told and not fully understood. The work of this Commission would support the research, preservation, and commemoration of this 400-year history of courage, determination, and great accomplishment in the face of brutal oppression.

There are several units in the National Park System that help to tell the story of the African-American struggle and triumph, including the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad National Monument, the Charles Young Buffalo Soldiers National Monument, and the African Burial Ground National Monument. However, the NPS recognizes that there are countless sites outside

of the system that deserve recognition. These sites and stories related to African-American history have not always been fully recognized or preserved, and are often in danger of being lost or destroyed. If enacted, S. 2548 would establish a Commission that could prevent further loss through partnership coordination, research, educational outreach efforts, technical assistance, and commemoration activities leading up the 400-year anniversary of African-American history. Establishing a commission to commemorate and recognize the resilience and contributions of African-Americans since 1619, as envisioned in S. 2548, would provide the nation an opportunity to reflect upon their struggles and successes within an environment that would be inclusive and contemplative. The Department of the Interior and the National Park Service stand ready to contribute their resources and expertise to this important commemoration. Ultimately, the Commission would create greater public insight, foster preservation, and promote increased awareness of this 400-year narrative of great resilience and immeasurable contribution to our American story.

While we support establishment of this Commission, we would like to work with the committee to ensure that the Commission represents a diverse composition of national, state, local, and private individuals.

Mr. Chairman, this concludes my testimony. I would be happy to answer any questions you or other members of the subcommittee may have.

STATEMENT OF STEPHANIE TOOTHMAN, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR, CULTURAL RESOURCES, PARTNERSHIPS, AND SCIENCE, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BEFORE THE SENATE SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS, COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES, CONCERNING S. 2805, TO MODIFY THE BOUNDARY OF VOYAGEURS NATIONAL PARK IN THE STATE OF MINNESOTA, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

JUNE 15, 2016

Mr. Chairman and members of the subcommittee, thank you for the opportunity to present the views of the Department of the Interior on a bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to modify the boundary of Voyageurs National Park (Voyageurs) in the State of Minnesota.

The Department supports S. 2805.

This bill would allow for the transfer of administrative jurisdiction of lands between the National Park Service (NPS) and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). It would also authorize the Secretary of the Interior to acquire lands owned by the State of Minnesota by donation or exchange.

Voyageurs National Park is a 218,200-acre national park located on the northern edge of Minnesota's border, 15 miles east of International Falls, Minnesota. Fifty-five miles of the park meanders along the Canadian border with the province of Ontario. The park lies in the southern part of the Canadian Shield, representing some of the oldest exposed rock formations in the world. The surrounding waterways once served as the route for the French-Canadian voyageurs.

The NPS seeks to transfer to the State of Minnesota a 32.79 acre parcel of NPS managed lands which is outside the park boundary. In exchange, Minnesota will transfer to the NPS, 48.87 acres of State lands within the boundary of the park. Additionally the NPS would like to acquire five more parcels of land totaling 91 acres owned by the State of Minnesota that are within the boundary of the park. This bill authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to acquire by donation or exchange any land within or adjacent to the boundary of the park that is owned by the State of Minnesota, or a political subdivision of the State. There have been incidences of activities on some of these tracts of state-owned land that are inconsistent with park purposes.

Sixty one (61) BLM land tracts encompassing forty-nine (49) acres were not transferred to the National Park Service when Voyageurs National Park was established. Without specific language directing BLM to transfer ownership of its lands to the NPS, the BLM is limited to its existing authority under the Federal Land Management Policy Act (FLMPA). FLMPA authorizes BLM to transfer management authority over the lands to the National Park Service for no more than a twenty-year period and permanent transfer of the management of these lands requires Congressional action. Transfer of these parcels to the NPS would facilitate ease of management for both agencies and eliminate any future concerns related to ownership, and other administrative issues.

The cost of managing these boundary revisions and any future acquisitions is minimal as there are no structures on any of the lands. The park would absorb the minimal cost of producing new maps and brochures and signage.

The BLM, the State of Minnesota and adjacent land owners support the boundary modifications in this bill.

Mr. Chairman, this concludes my testimony. I would be happy to answer any questions you or other members of the subcommittee may have.

**STATEMENT OF DR. STEPHANIE TOOTHMAN, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR,
CULTURAL RESOURCES, PARTNERSHIPS, AND SCIENCE, NATIONAL PARK
SERVICE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BEFORE THE SENATE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS, COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND
NATURAL RESOURCES, CONCERNING S. 2807, TO REQUIRE STATE APPROVAL
BEFORE THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR RESTRICTS ACCESS TO WATERS
UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE FOR
RECREATIONAL OR COMMERCIAL FISHING.**

JUNE 15, 2016

Mr. Chairman and members of the Subcommittee, thank you for the opportunity to present the views of the Department of the Interior on S. 2807, a bill to amend title 54, United States Code, to require state approval before the Secretary of the Interior restricts access to waters under the jurisdiction of the National Park Service for recreational and commercial fishing.

The Department is strongly opposed to S. 2807, because it is inconsistent with the National Park Service (NPS) mandate under the Organic Act to protect natural resources. In addition, we believe that existing policies calling for cooperation and consultation between the NPS and states on management activities related to fish and wildlife resources already provides a collaborative and effective framework for managing those resources.

Under the NPS Organic Act and park enabling legislations, the NPS has an affirmative responsibility to conserve, protect, and manage fish and wildlife, as well as other resources and values of park units. State laws governing fish and marine resource management apply different standards and may not provide the protections necessary to ensure that park resources are preserved unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations.

Department of the Interior policy calls for each land managing bureau, including the National Park Service, to consult with states regarding management of fish and wildlife resources, including any potential closures or restrictions. The NPS's fishing regulations allow for recreational fishing with reasonable and minimal restrictions, adopt non-conflicting state fishing regulations, and require consultation with states prior to restricting or closing park areas to fishing.

Language contained in S. 2807 also appears to open all park units to commercial fishing, which could detrimentally impact park natural resources and opportunities for visitor enjoyment. Under current regulations commercial fishing is only permissible in park units if that use is specifically and directly authorized by Federal statutory law. In addition, several key terms in S. 2807 are currently undefined, including "fishing access," "coastal waters," and "estuaries."

It is important to note that NPS fishing management has a fractional impact on overall fishing access within a state. Within the coastal states of this country, there are millions of water acres that are managed by states for fishing, such as territorial waters, coastal bays and sounds, and inland waters. For example, of the more than 9 million water acres in Florida, Biscayne National

Park contains only 164,800 water acres (less than 2% of Florida's overall water acreage). In Texas, which contains more than 4 million water acres, Padre Island National Seashore contains only 72,500 water acres (less than 2% of Texas's overall water acreage).

The NPS is keenly aware of how important national parks are to states and gateway communities, and how changes in rules for recreational and commercial activities can affect the businesses and visitors in those communities. If a decision is made to restrict recreational or commercial fishing, it is done based on the best available science and, in accordance with law and policy, only after consultation and coordination with states and other interested and impacted parties through a public planning process. By changing the current emphasis on collaboration to mandatory state or territory approval, S. 2807 would undoubtedly result in greater variation in fishing management across the National Park System. Because each state and territory has its own interests and laws, S. 2807 would result in less consistent management of fisheries and marine resources, contrary to the intent of the Organic Act.

The NPS has successfully consulted and collaborated with states regarding fishing and marine resources. One example is the Dry Tortugas National Park research natural area, a 46 square-mile marine reserve designed to restore ecological integrity. The research natural area was created after consultation with the state of Florida, and the subsequent science plan to assess the efficacy of the research natural area was developed in partnership by the NPS and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC). Implementation of the science plan involved continuous coordination between FWC and NPS, and data have shown that the abundance and sizes of mutton snapper, red grouper, yellowtail snapper, and hogfish have all increased since establishment of the research natural area in that park.

National parks are areas where the NPS is responsible for protecting fish and wildlife, ecosystems, water quality, and natural quiet; preserving our nation's culture and history; educating visitors; and leaving a legacy of our nation's natural and cultural heritage. The protections afforded within parks have resulted, like at the Dry Tortugas research natural area, in positive impacts on resources the fisheries that lie outside park boundaries. The NPS will continue to consult and coordinate with state agencies in the management of fish and marine resources and will also seek public input prior to any closures or restrictions.

Mr. Chairman, this concludes my statement. I would be pleased to answer any questions you or any members of the subcommittee may have.

**STATEMENT OF DR. STEPHANIE TOOTHMAN, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR,
CULTURAL RESOURCES, PARTNERSHIPS, AND SCIENCE, NATIONAL PARK
SERVICE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BEFORE THE SENATE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS, COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND
NATURAL RESOURCES, CONCERNING S. 2839 AND H.R. 3004, BILLS TO AMEND
THE GULLAH/GEECHEE CULTURAL HERITAGE ACT TO EXTEND THE
AUTHORIZATION FOR THE GULLAH/GEECHEE CULTURAL HERITAGE
CORRIDOR COMMISSION**

JUNE 15, 2016

Mr. Chairman and members of the subcommittee, thank you for the opportunity to present the views of the Department of the Interior on S. 2839 and H.R. 3004, bills to amend the Gullah/Geechee Cultural Heritage Act to extend the authorization for the Gullah/Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor Commission.

The Department supports S. 2839 and H.R. 3004, which are virtually identical.

Both bills would extend the authorization for the Gullah/Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor Commission (Commission) to serve as the local coordinating entity for the Gullah/Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor (Corridor) an additional five years, through October 12, 2021. This extension of authority would match the authorization for the Corridor to receive Federal funding. If reauthorized, the Commission, as the local coordinating entity, would continue to implement the management plan for the Corridor, developed in 2013, and would be eligible to receive Federal grant money and technical assistance.

The Department recognizes the important work of the Gullah/Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor and their efforts to highlight, interpret, and preserve the important contributions of the African Americans known as Gullah/Geechee in coastal counties of North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida to American history and culture.

The Gullah/Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor comprises approximately 12,800 square miles from the northern border of Pender County, North Carolina, to the southern boundary of St. Johns County, Florida. Extending 425 miles along the coast and 30 miles inland, it encompasses all or part of 27 counties in four states and covers an area larger than Maryland and Delaware combined. The entire Corridor has been identified as an ethnographic resource for its rich cultural complexity, which expresses itself in its folk life and traditions such as foodways, music, language and oral traditions, craft traditions, and religion and spirituality. The Corridor's mission is three-fold, and centers around: preservation of land, language, and culture; public education of Gullah/Geechee culture; and, supporting Gullah/Geechee communities.

The Gullah/Geechee Cultural Heritage Act charged the Commission, as the local coordinating entity, with preparing and submitting a management plan to the Secretary. The Commission was further charged with conducting public meetings on, and assisting units of local government with, the management plan's implementation. The extension of the Commission's authorization will allow the critical time needed to implement the plan's recommendations.

To date, the Commission has already taken steps such as: providing outreach education materials to State welcome centers; providing highway Corridor marker signs along U.S. Highway 17; providing education programs to schools and groups; and, developing and supporting the Gullah/Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor website. The Commission has also served as a consulting party on several items of concern to communities within the Corridor including the planning of the U.S. Forest Service/U.S Army Corps of Engineers McClellanville transmission line project and the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management's Environmental Assessment for offshore commercial wind leasing in South Carolina.

Mr. Chairman, this concludes my testimony. I would be happy to answer any questions you or other members of the subcommittee may have.

**STATEMENT OF DR. STEPHANIE TOOTHMAN, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR,
CULTURAL RESOURCES, PARTNERSHIPS, AND SCIENCE, NATIONAL PARK
SERVICE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BEFORE THE SENATE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS, COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND
NATURAL RESOURCES, CONCERNING S. 3020, TO UPDATE THE MAP OF, AND
MODIFY THE ACREAGE AVAILABLE FOR INCLUSION IN, THE FLORISSANT
FOSSIL BEDS NATIONAL MONUMENT.**

JUNE 15, 2016

Mr. Chairman and members of the subcommittee, thank you for the opportunity to present the views of the Department of the Interior on S. 3020, to increase the acreage limit and update the boundary map of Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument in the State of Colorado.

The Department supports S. 3020, with a technical correction described later in this statement.

This bill would increase the acreage limit and update the boundary map, which would allow the National Park Service to accept donation of 280 acres of land from a private landowner to Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument in Teller County, Colorado. Including this land within the boundary of the monument would allow for enhanced wildfire protection as well as additional habitat for wildlife and recreational opportunities for visitors.

Public Law 91-60 limited the size of the monument to 6,000 acres. The current monument boundary includes 5,992 acres, leaving the National Park Service unable to accept the 280-acre donation. This 280-acre parcel would provide critical access to the park's western boundary for wildland fire protection, including improving opportunities for completing future hazardous fuel mitigation projects. Teller County Road 1 runs through the center of the monument and is currently the only main road that exists. The county also manages two other roads on the east side of the monument. As a result, fuels mitigation work on the monument's western boundary is limited because fire crews can only access the western boundary by foot. If the donation is approved, fire and emergency vehicles will have direct access to the western boundary of the park via a private road.

Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument is located in a high-mountain valley just west of Pikes Peak and 35 miles west of Colorado Springs, Colorado. The park was established as a national monument in 1969 to preserve one of the most diverse fossil deposits in the world and interpret its paleontological resources and geologic significance. The park maintains a collection of more than 12,000 fossil specimens, conducts inventory and monitoring of the fossil sites, has ongoing university collaborations and continues to be the subject of scientific publications.

Today, the park also offers a variety of recreational experiences to a growing community, including sightseeing, interpretive visitor center exhibits, hiking, picnicking, daily ranger-guided programs during the summer, Junior Ranger programs, and curriculum-based education programs for visiting school groups. Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument provides opportunities for exploration and discovery, as well as trails that offer easy day-hiking experiences for visitors.

The park does not anticipate additional staff or resources will be needed to support inclusion of the 280-acre donation as there are no plans to build or install any facilities there. The park superintendent provided local outreach to the community regarding the proposal and did not receive opposition from the local, county and adjacent landowners to accept the donation.

The department recommends a technical correction to the bill. On page 2, line 2, strike “numbered” and insert “entitled ‘Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument Proposed Boundary Adjustment’, numbered” to include the name of the revised map in addition to the number and date. This correction will ensure the language is consistent with the standards for identifying maps in public laws related to the National Park Service.

Mr. Chairman, this concludes my testimony. I would be happy to answer any questions you or other members of the subcommittee may have.

**STATEMENT OF DR. STEPHANIE TOOTHMAN, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR,
CULTURAL RESOURCES, PARTNERSHIPS, AND SCIENCE, NATIONAL PARK
SERVICE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BEFORE THE SENATE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS, ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMITTEE, CONCERNING S. 3027, TO CLARIFY THE BOUNDARY OF ACADIA
NATIONAL PARK, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**

JUNE 15, 2016

Mr. Chairman and members of the subcommittee, thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today to present the Department of the Interior's views on S. 3027, to clarify the boundary of Acadia National Park, and for other purposes.

The Department would support the sections of S. 3027 that address Acadia National Park's boundary, the National Park Service's (NPS) authority to adjust the park boundary, and the use of property conveyed from the NPS to the town of Tremont, if those sections are amended in accordance with this statement. Regarding the bill's removal of the statutory time limit for the authorization of the Acadia National Park Advisory Commission, the Department is not opposed to that provision.

Section 2 of S. 3027 would modify the boundary of Acadia National Park (Acadia) established in law in 1986 to include approximately 1,441 acres of land on the Schoodic Peninsula that comprise the Schoodic Woods property that was donated to the NPS in 2015. The Schoodic Woods donation was an extremely generous gift by an anonymous donor that included not only the land but also a newly constructed campground, trails, and other visitor amenities; an endowment to help pay for operating expenses at the site; and funds to pay local governments to help offset the loss of tax revenue. The addition to the park of this land, adjacent to existing national park land and ready to welcome visitors, was strongly supported by the communities on the Schoodic Peninsula and throughout the area surrounding Acadia.

The NPS accepted the donation of the Schoodic Woods property and added it to the boundary of the park under the authority of 16 U.S.C. 342(a), which was enacted as part of the Act of January 19, 1929, and which authorizes the National Park Service to accept donations of lands, easements, and buildings within Hancock County, Maine, the county in which most of Acadia is located. The NPS published the notice of the boundary adjustment reflecting the imminent acceptance of fee title to the Schoodic Woods property in the Federal Register of November 17, 2015.

The intent of Section 2 appears to be to confirm in statute the action the NPS took administratively to add Schoodic Woods to the boundary of Acadia. Although we believe that the NPS was on solid legal ground in using the 1929 authority for this boundary adjustment, we are aware of the concerns that have been raised about the use of this authority, given that Congress passed legislation in 1986 establishing a "permanent boundary" for the park (Section 102 of P.L. 99-420). However, we are concerned that legislation that amends the 1986 law to modify the boundary to include Schoodic Woods not only is redundant, it may also have

unintended consequences for actions that took place with respect to those lands between the dates the United States accepted title and the effective date of this legislation. We would like to work with the sponsor and the committee on an amendment that, rather than modifying the boundary, would confirm that the “permanent boundary” has been modified to include this parcel.

Section 3(c) of S. 3027 would prohibit the use of the 1929 authority, and authority under section 3 of the Act of February 26, 1919, to acquire land by donation outside of the “permanent boundary” established in 1986. Because the 1986 law effectively precludes the use of the minor boundary adjustment authority under the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act (54 U.S.C. 100506), the effect of section 3(c) would be to eliminate any administrative authority for the NPS to accept a donation of even a fraction of an acre of land with important resource values if it is located outside the 1986 boundary. Most national parks may use this limited administrative authority to acquire small parcels of land by purchase, exchange or donation. Those parks are able to respond quickly to opportunities or circumstances that are relevant to the park not only to accept donations, but also to make relatively modest purchases of land outside the boundary. We believe that Acadia should have that authority as well. We would like to work with the sponsor and the committee to find a way to provide the same limited flexibility that other national parks have for acquiring land outside their boundary.

Section 4 of S. 3027 would permanently authorize the Acadia National Park Advisory Commission. The commission was first authorized in 1986 and is currently due to expire in 2026. The Department is not opposed to eliminating the expiration date. There are several other advisory commissions for units of the National Park System that are permanently authorized, including the ones at Gettysburg National Battlefield Park, Jimmy Carter National Historic Site, and the National Park of American Samoa.

The Department recognizes the important work of the Acadia National Park Advisory Commission. The commission advises the Secretary of the Interior, through her designee, the superintendent of Acadia, on matters relating to the management and development of the park including, but not limited to, the acquisition of land and interests in land, and the termination of rights of use and occupancy. The advisory commission is composed of 16 members, ten of whom are appointed based on recommendations from the park’s host communities including the four towns of Mount Desert Island, three Hancock County mainland towns, and three island towns.

Finally, Section 5 of S. 3027 provides that specified lands that were part of Acadia and that were conveyed by the NPS to the town of Tremont, on Mt. Desert Island, for school purposes shall no longer be required to be used exclusively and perpetually for school purposes if the land is being used for public purposes.

Public Law 81-629, enacted in 1950, permitted the NPS to convey a parcel identified as NPS Tract 06-126 to the town to locate a new school. The conveyance was completed in 1951, with a reverter clause included in the deed specifying that the land would revert back to the United States of America if no longer used exclusively for school purposes. The town is now consolidating schools with a neighboring town and thus will no longer use this property

exclusively for school purposes, but would like to retain ownership and continue to use the developed property for community purposes. This legislation would allow it to do so.

The NPS has no intended uses for the property, and is agreeable to allowing the town to use the property for similar public purposes, so long as the use of the property will not degrade or adversely impact park resources and values, and the property remains in public ownership for recreational, educational or similar public purposes. We would support this section if amended to provide for those specific terms. We would be happy to provide recommended language.

Mr. Chairman, this concludes my statement. I would be happy to answer any questions you or other members of the subcommittee may have.