

**STATEMENT OF PEGGY O'DELL, DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR OPERATIONS,
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. 1949, A BILL TO
PROVIDE FOR THE CONSIDERATION AND SUBMISSION OF SITE AND DESIGN
PROPOSALS FOR THE NATIONAL LIBERTY MEMORIAL APPROVED FOR
ESTABLISHMENT IN THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.**

March 17, 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. 1949, a bill to provide for the consideration and submission of site and design proposals for the National Liberty Memorial approved for establishment in the District of Columbia.

The Department opposes H.R. 1949, which would amend Section 2860(c) of the Military Construction Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013 (division B of Public Law 112-239; 40 U.S.C. 8903 note) by directing that the Secretary of Agriculture, rather than the Secretary of the Interior or the Administrator of General Services, shall be responsible for the consideration of site and design proposals for the National Liberty Memorial and for the submission of such proposals on behalf of the sponsor to the Commission of Fine Arts and National Capital Planning Commission.

The National Liberty Memorial (Memorial) was authorized on January 2, 2013, by Section 2860 of P.L. 112-239. It allows the National Mall Liberty Fund D.C. to establish a memorial on eligible Federal land to honor the more than 5,000 courageous slaves and free black persons who served as soldiers and sailors or provided civilian assistance during the American Revolution. On September 26, 2014, P.L. 113-176 approved the establishment of the Memorial within Area I, as depicted on the map entitled "Commemorative Areas Washington, DC and Environs", numbered 869/86501 B, and dated June 24, 2003. H.R. 1949 would amend the original memorial authorization to direct the Secretary of Agriculture, and not the Secretary of Interior or Administrator of General Services, to submit, on behalf of the sponsor, site and design proposals to the Commission of Fine Arts and the National Capital Planning Commission for their approval, and to be guided by the decision criteria set forth in Section 8905(b) of the Commemorative Works Act (CWA), 40 U.S.C. Chapter 89.

In accordance with the CWA, the National Capital Memorial Advisory Commission considered this legislation at its meeting on September 14, 2015, and concluded that the CWA sufficiently addresses the site selection and memorial design process that should take place for the Memorial. The commissioners did not believe this legislation would provide the memorial sponsor any advantage nor would it streamline the process. Rather, the commission concluded that the legislation would likely complicate the process.

H.R. 1949 prematurely assumes that the Memorial will be placed on the sponsor's preferred site on a parcel of land under the jurisdiction of the General Services Administration and occupied by

the Department of Agriculture. However, the sponsor has not yet undertaken an Environmental Assessment, a process that requires consideration of multiple sites, and will likely include several sites unrelated to the Department of Agriculture. Further, while the National Park Service and the General Services Administration are accustomed to collaborating on the process of establishing new memorials on land under the jurisdiction of their respective agencies within Washington, D.C., the Department of Agriculture does not have the same experience. A collaboration of all three agencies would be the most expeditious means of establishing the Memorial and would allow full consideration of the sponsor's preferred site as well as those under General Services Administration or National Park Service jurisdiction that might also be considered.

The Department would also note that H.R. 1949 is silent to how it would further affect other sections of the CWA. For example, Section 8906 of the CWA charges the Secretary of the Interior or the Administrator of General Services with issuing the permit for construction after determining that certain qualifications have been met. It could create confusion as to which agency would assume this role if the Department of Agriculture is directed to lead the earlier process.

In closing, the Department believes strongly that the legislation would complicate an already-established process and would likely lead to delays in the establishment of the National Liberty Memorial.

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

**STATEMENT OF PEGGY O'DELL, DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR OPERATIONS,
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. 2880, A BILL TO REDESIGNATE
MARTIN LUTHER KING, JUNIOR, NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE IN THE STATE OF
GEORGIA, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**

March 17, 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. 2880, a bill to redesignate Martin Luther King, Junior, National Historic Site in the State of Georgia, and for other purposes.

The Department supports H.R. 2880.

This legislation has two components: it would redesignate the National Historic Site as a National Historical Park and modestly expand the site's boundaries to incorporate the Prince Hall Masonic Temple, where the Southern Christian Leadership Conference established its initial headquarters on Auburn Avenue in Atlanta, Georgia in 1957. This historic and distinguished civil rights organization was co-founded by Dr. King, who also served as its first president.

The Martin Luther King, Junior, National Historic Site was established by Public Law 96-428 on October 10, 1980. The historic site, located in Atlanta, Georgia, encompasses 38.38 acres, 18.08 of which are Federally owned. The historic elements of the site include: Dr. King's birth home at 501 Auburn Avenue; the original Ebenezer Baptist Church, which he co-pastored with his father from 1960-1968; the Martin Luther King, Jr. Center for Nonviolent Social Change, Inc. (commonly referred to as the "The King Center"); the Birth Home Block which contains portions of the historically African-American Sweet Auburn residential community; and, Historic Fire Station No. 6 where white firefighters operated within a predominantly African American community. Approximately 700,000 national and international visitors come to the site each year.

H.R. 2880 would redesignate Martin Luther King, Junior, National Historic Site as the Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historical Park. National historical parks are commonly areas of greater physical extent and complexity than national historic sites. Both designations denote units of the national park system, both are considered to be national parks, and both would be subject to the same laws and eligible for the same funding streams. The change in designation would not alter the management or operation of the park in any way. However, designating a unit as a national historical park, as opposed to a national historic site, is a way to let potential visitors know that the unit probably contains a greater collection of resources, or properties, than a national historic site, which may simply be one building. It is a more accurate designation for the collection of resources at this park, and we believe that the re-designation will increase awareness of the park.

H.R. 2880 would also expand the boundary of the Martin Luther King, Junior, National Historic Site to include the Prince Hall Masonic Temple at 332-34 Auburn Avenue in Atlanta. Prince Hall was the historic national headquarters for the Southern Christian Leadership Conference where Dr. King was a co-founder and first president. Today, the SCLC is located in a new facility on the same block. Including the Prince Hall Masonic Temple within the unit's boundary will permit the National Park Service to provide technical assistance to the building's owners with respect to repairs, renovations, and maintenance that would preserve its historic integrity.

H.R. 2880 also updates the official park boundary map to recognize a land exchange between the National Park Service and the City of Atlanta that was authorized by Public Law 108-314 in 2005. That exchange permitted the National Park Service to exchange a vacant lot with no historic significance for city-owned property that has enabled the National Park Service to establish easy street access to the park's visitor center and museum. H.R. 2880 replaces the previous park boundary map with a new map that incorporates both the land exchange authorized by Public Law 108-314 and the boundary expansion proposed in H.R. 2880.

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

**STATEMENT OF PEGGY O'DELL, DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR OPERATIONS,
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BEFORE
THE SENATE SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS, COMMITTEE ON
ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES, CONCERNING S. 119, A BILL TO AMEND
THE FEDERAL LANDS RECREATION ENHANCEMENT ACT TO PROVIDE FOR A
LIFETIME NATIONAL RECREATION PASS FOR ANY VETERAN WITH A SERVICE-
CONNECTED DISABILITY**

March 17, 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. 119, a bill to amend the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act to provide for a lifetime National Recreational Pass for any veteran with a service-connected disability.

The Department supports the intent of this bill to honor the service of our veterans, but would like to work with the committee to address the issues that are discussed in this statement.

S. 119 would amend the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (FLREA) to make a lifetime America the Beautiful—the National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Pass available, without cost, to a veteran with a service-connected disability, as defined in section 101 of title 38, United States Code. It would further require the Secretary to adjust entrance fees applicable to other visitors to ensure that there is not a loss in total entrance fee receipts due to implementation of this new pass.

Men and women who have served in the armed forces have made tremendous contributions to this country, and we honor their service. In 2006, the agencies began offering fee-free days in honor of veterans at recreation fee sites across the country. Every year since 2006, the agencies have established at least one fee-free day to honor veterans.

Although veterans with service-connected disabilities are not specifically mentioned in FLREA, many of our nation's veterans are already eligible for a free or reduced-priced pass. These passes include the Senior Pass, granting lifetime access to U.S. citizens over 62 for \$10, and the Access Pass, granting free lifetime access for permanently disabled U.S. citizens.

The Department is concerned with the provision in the bill that requires the Secretary to adjust entrance fees to ensure that there is not a loss in total receipts. If enacted, this provision would require the Secretary to raise the entrance fees on all other users, including low-income families, which would put an undue burden on other visitors.

With the fee-free day in honor of veterans, and the eligibility of many veterans for the Senior Pass or the Access Pass, we believe that the agencies are providing honor and recognition for the men and women who have served our nation in the armed forces. If the committee moves forward with this legislation, we would like to work with you, and the U.S. Forest Service and

the Department of Veterans Affairs, to address a number of logistical, cost and other implementation issues associated with adding this benefit.

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

**STATEMENT OF PEGGY O'DELL, DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR OPERATIONS,
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BEFORE
THE SENATE SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS, COMMITTEE ON
ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES, CONCERNING S. 1930 AND H.R. 3371, TO
AUTHORIZE THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR TO ADJUST THE BOUNDARY
OF THE KENNESAW MOUNTAIN NATIONAL BATTLEFIELD PARK AND FOR
OTHER PURPOSES.**

March 17, 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. 1930 and H.R. 3371, bills to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to adjust the boundary of the Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park in the State of Georgia to include the Wallis House and Harriston Hill, and for other purposes.

The Department supports S. 1930 and would support H.R. 3371 if amended in accordance with this statement. This legislation would authorize the Secretary of the Interior to acquire by donation or exchange approximately 8 acres of land or interests in land known as the Wallis House property and Harriston Hill in Cobb County, Georgia.

The Wallis house is one of the few original structures remaining from the Battle of Kennesaw Mountain. The house is in its original location, ½ mile west of the park on Burnt Hickory Road. The Wallis house was built by Josiah Wallis in 1853 and occupied by his family until the Civil War, when it was used first as a Confederate hospital and then as the headquarters for Union General O.O. Howard during the Battle of Kennesaw Mountain. General William T. Sherman was stationed at the Wallis house during the Battle of Kolb's Farm that took place at the south end of the park and immediately preceded the Battle of Kennesaw Mountain. Adjacent to the Wallis house is Harriston Hill, which offers a sweeping vista of the valley leading to the Confederate line atop Kennesaw Mountain. From this position it is clear why General Howard picked this site for his headquarters and signaling position. The majority of the park's auto tour and trails interpret Confederate positions. The acquisition of this site would enhance visitor understanding of the Union strategy during the Battle of Kennesaw Mountain. This addition would enable the park to interpret a key Union position in the last major battle leading to the fall of Atlanta during the Civil War.

The Wallis house was in imminent danger of being demolished by a developer in 2002. The developer had purchased 26.66 acres including the Wallis house and adjoining Harriston Hill with plans to construct 43 homes on the property. In cooperation with the National Park Service, the Cobb Land Trust, and the Georgia Civil War Commission, Cobb County agreed to purchase the Wallis house property and the 5.5 acres encompassing Harriston Hill with the intent of donating the properties to Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park. The Cobb Land Trust agreed to purchase 1.13 acres at the foot of Harriston Hill that are essential for providing visitor access to all properties and to donate this property to the NPS. Neither the county nor the Cobb Land Trust has the funds to restore, maintain or manage the site, and no other entity has indicated the interest or ability to do so.

The NPS estimates that the site would require an immediate one-time cost of \$1 million for repair and safety improvements, and an annual operational cost of \$204,000 for salaries, supplies, and maintenance. All funds would be subject to NPS priorities and the availability of appropriations.

The Department supports S. 1930 as introduced and would support H.R. 3371 as passed by the House if amended to conform to the language in S. 1930. As passed by the House, H.R. 3371 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. 3371 prohibits acquisition by condemnation of any land or interests in land within the boundaries of the park. However, the bill already limits acquisition to donation or exchange. If the intent of this provision is to prohibit condemnation of the approximately 8 acres that would be included in the park boundary, we believe limiting acquisition to donation or exchange achieves the same goal.

H.R. 3371 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.

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

**STATEMENT OF PEGGY O'DELL, DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR OPERATIONS,
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BEFORE
THE SENATE SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS, COMMITTEE ON
ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES, CONCERNING S. 1982, TO AUTHORIZE A
WALL OF REMEMBRANCE AS PART OF THE KOREAN WAR VETERANS
MEMORIAL AND TO ALLOW CERTAIN PRIVATE CONTRIBUTIONS TO FUND
THAT WALL OF REMEMBRANCE.**

March 17, 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. 1982, a bill to authorize a Wall of Remembrance as part of the Korean War Veterans Memorial and to allow certain private contributions to fund that Wall of Remembrance.

The Department appreciates the effort to recognize the service men and women who gave their lives during the Korean War, but we oppose S. 1982 because it would significantly alter the character of the existing Korean War Veterans Memorial, and it is inconsistent with the Commemorative Works Act.

S. 1982 would amend Public Law 99-572 to expand upon the original purpose and design of the Korean War Veterans Memorial. The bill adds new subjects for commemoration and would require the display of certain information at the memorial about members of the United States Armed Forces who served in the Korean Conflict. Also, the bill would require the display of information at the memorial about members of the Korean armed forces and other Korean military personnel as well as the 20 other non-U.S. forces that were part of the United Nations Command who served in the Korean Conflict.

The Korean War Veterans Memorial commemorates the sacrifices of over 5.7 million Americans who served in the U.S. armed services during the three-year period of the Korean War. The Memorial also recognizes the participation of the 22 nations who served as United Nations contributors. During the Korean War's relatively short duration from June 25, 1950, to July 27, 1953, 54,246 Americans died. Of these, 8,200 are listed as missing in action, lost, or buried at sea. In addition, 103,284 were wounded during the conflict.

The Memorial was designed, constructed and completed by its legislatively designated sponsor, the American Battle Monuments Commission (ABMC) and the Korean War Veterans Memorial Advisory Board, with public involvement throughout. It was dedicated on July 27, 1995.

The Memorial's design, and each of its features down to its plantings, is symbolic. The Memorial is the culmination of years of work by the ABMC, and careful reviews, followed by revisions, and ultimately approvals reached by the National Park Service and other federal entities including the National Capital Planning Commission and the U.S. Commission of Fine Arts. This painstaking and public process began with the competition design, and resulted in the completed Memorial we know today. The Memorial should not now be changed to include the

engraving of names of Americans who died in that conflict. The opportunity to mimic the design characteristics present at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial was purposefully avoided when the design was requested during an open, international design competition.

The concept of engraving names at this Memorial was considered extensively when the Memorial was being designed. The ABMC and the Korean War Veterans Memorial Advisory Board with the Department's concurrence, advised against the incorporation of engraved names at the Memorial. Both agencies arrived at this decision upon reflection of years of experience with the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. Inscribing names is a lengthy and painstaking process even when it goes smoothly. But more important, as the Vietnam Veterans Memorial experience showed, there is not always agreement on those names to be included and those names that are not, and this has led to public contention and controversy. Choosing some names and omitting others causes a place of solace to become a source of hurt. The Vietnam Veterans Memorial honors all who served in that conflict, but only the names of those killed within the combat zone, and confirmed by the Department of Defense, meet the criteria to be engraved on the Wall. This means that those killed by a fire on a Navy ship just outside the zone are not eligible to have their names engraved on the wall - a difficult message for their survivors to accept.

The ABMC and the Department felt the lessons learned at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial must not be ignored, that a different type of commemoration must occur at the Korean War Veterans Memorial, and that the Memorial should be representative in design and not include individual names. As a compromise to the Korean War veterans who wanted the names engraved, ABMC created the Korean War Honor Roll, which is an electronic registry of names. Visitors have access to this registry from the Internet or at the kiosks at the Memorial. A kiosk containing the Korean War Honor Roll stands at the west entrance of the Memorial. It is serviced by a National Park Service ranger, who provides assistance to visitors. The Honor Roll computer contains the names of all military personnel who lost their lives during the Korean War, including the individual's name, service, rank, service number, date of birth, hometown or county of entry into the service, cause of death, and date of death. If the information is furnished to ABMC, the Honor Roll includes the serviceman's unit, his awards, the circumstances surrounding his death or his going missing in action and a photograph. The ABMC also has the names of those missing engraved at the Courts of the Missing at the Honolulu Memorial.

The Korean War Veterans Memorial is located near the Lincoln Memorial on the National Mall in Washington, D.C., in an area designated by Congress in the Commemorative Works Act as the Reserve – an area in which no new commemorative works shall be located. As Congress noted in the law creating the Reserve, "...the great cross-axis of the Mall in the District of Columbia...is a substantially completed work of civic art; and ...to preserve the integrity of the Mall, a reserve area should be designated...where the siting of new commemorative works is prohibited." The Korean War Veterans Memorial is a completed work of civic art in this special landscape of the Reserve. Moreover, we cannot ignore the practical effect of this legislation. Essentially, the Memorial wall would be a second Korean War Veterans Memorial, effectively thwarting the intent of the Commemorative Works Act to prohibit new memorials within the Reserve and would be an addition that would significantly alter the character of the existing Memorial. And this second memorial would have the effect of violating the Commemorative Works Act prohibition on interfering or encroaching on an existing memorial.

We feel very strongly that the Korean War Veterans Memorial, like the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, exists to recall the exemplary service and sacrifice of outstanding Americans, and this memorial has already been completed as it stands today. The Korean War Veterans Memorial is a place of honor and dignity and we should avoid any intrusions that will become a source of contention or controversy.

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

**STATEMENT OF PEGGY O'DELL, DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR OPERATIONS,
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BEFORE
THE SENATE SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS, COMMITTEE ON
ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES CONCERNING S. 2039, TO DESIGNATE
THE MOUNTAIN AT THE DEVILS TOWER NATIONAL MONUMENT,
WYOMING, AS DEVILS TOWER.**

March 17, 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. 2039, a bill to designate the mountain at the Devils Tower National Monument, Wyoming, as Devils Tower.

The Department appreciates the long history and public interest of the name Devils Tower National Monument in Devils Tower, Wyoming. However, the Department is concerned about any decisions made by this legislation to maintain the existing name for the mountain, without taking into account the views of the tribes in the area.

Devils Tower National Monument is considered sacred to the Lakota and many other tribes that have a connection to the area. In March 2015, a number of the tribal leaders led an initiative to rename the monument to better represent the cultural significance of the area for the tribes. While the NPS has no authority to act on the name change request, the NPS and the Monument staff hold the wishes of the affected tribes in the highest regard.

The NPS recognizes that the name "Devils Tower" is considered offensive to some American Indian Tribes, and that the name may have been applied to the feature in the late 19th century through a misinterpretation. The names Bear Lodge, Bears Lodge, and Mato Teepee were the names assigned to the tower on most maps, with few exceptions, between 1874 and 1901. Some speculate that Bear Lodge was mistakenly interpreted as Bad God's, which later became Devils Tower. The name Devils Tower was applied to the national monument when it was established in 1906. The Tribes with close association to the monument hold it highly sacred, and find the application of the name "Devil" to be deeply offensive.

The NPS has no authority to change the names of the geologic feature, the populated place, or the national monument. The U.S. Board on Geographic Names (BGN) has the authority to change names for a geologic feature or populated place, whereas the name of a national monument can only be changed by an act of Congress or by Presidential Proclamation.

In accordance with its statutory direction to solicit the cooperation of the Federal departments and agencies most concerned, the BGN asked the NPS for its position, if any, regarding the Tribal leaders' name change proposal. Prior to the NPS submitting a position to the BGN regarding this issue, S. 2039 was introduced. This caused the BGN to cease all consideration of the matter, pursuant to its policy that the BGN "will not render a decision on a name or its application if the matter is also being considered by the Congress of the United States."

The NPS honors and respects the views of American Indians and all visitors to national park units. The NPS has incorporated the name and has used “Bear Lodge” interchangeably with Devils Tower in elements of the 2014 Foundation Document and in the Vision Statement for the park.

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

**STATEMENT OF PEGGY O'DELL, DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR OPERATIONS,
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BEFORE
THE SENATE SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS, COMMITTEE ON
ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES, CONCERNING S. 2177 AND H.R. 959, TO
AUTHORIZE THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR TO STUDY THE SUITABILITY
AND FEASIBILITY OF DESIGNATING THE MEDGAR EVERS HOUSE IN
JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI, AS A UNIT OF THE NATIONAL PARK SYSTEM, AND FOR
OTHER PURPOSES.**

March 17, 2016

Mr. Chairman and members of the subcommittee, thank you for the opportunity to present the Department of the Interior's testimony regarding S. 2177 and H.R. 959, bills to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to study the suitability and feasibility of designating the Medgar Evers House in Jackson, Mississippi, as a unit of the National Park System, and for other purposes.

The Department supports S. 2177 and H.R. 959 with amendments described later in this testimony. Priority should be given, however, to the 25 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.

S. 2177 and H.R. 959 would authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study of the Medgar Evers House in Jackson, Mississippi, for potential inclusion in the National Park System. We estimate that this study will cost approximately \$200,000 to \$300,000. Funding for this proposed study would need to be allocated from the set amount of funding that Congress appropriates for all special resource studies.

Medgar Evers was born in 1925 in Decatur, Mississippi. He was drafted into the U.S. Army in 1943, fought in both France and Germany during World War II, and received an honorable discharge in 1946. He met his future wife, Myrlie Beasley, while a student at Alcorn College in Lorman, Mississippi. Eventually, they had three children: Darrell, Reena, and James.

Mr. Evers' first job following graduation was as an insurance salesman in 1952. He gradually became involved in civil rights causes and action through the Regional Council of Negro Leadership, a society in Mississippi founded in 1951 to promote a program of civil rights, self-help, and business ownership. He later worked on behalf of the NAACP by organizing local affiliates.

In 1954 Medgar Evers applied for admission to the University of Mississippi Law School but was rejected. He filed a discrimination lawsuit against the university with the aid of his attorney, Thurgood Marshall, who later became the first African-American justice on the United States Supreme Court. Even though the lawsuit failed to gain Mr. Evers admittance to the law school, he gained national attention and in the same year became state field secretary for the NAACP.

His activities included recruiting new members, organizing voter-registration drives, and leading economic boycotts of companies that practiced discrimination.

Ultimately, these activities attracted the attention of those who opposed racial equality and desegregation, including those willing to resort to violence to maintain the status quo. These opponents of equal rights began to subject Medgar Evers and his family to threats, intimidation, and other forms of violence. His house was firebombed in May 1963 and he was assassinated by a gunshot in the back in his driveway on June 12, 1963. Subsequently, he was buried in Arlington National Cemetery with full military honors.

Mrs. Evers and her children lived in the house for a year following the murder of her husband, but she decided that she could not remain there and moved her family to California. Subsequently, she donated the house to Tougaloo College in Tougaloo, Mississippi. The house had deteriorated over the years so the Mississippi Department of Archives and History and Tougaloo College decided to restore it as a museum commemorating the life and tragic death of one of the icons of the Civil Rights movement in America. Guided tours of the house are available to the public by appointment.

S. 2177 and H.R. 959 include certain requirements for the study which we recommend deleting. Specifically, we urge deleting section 2(b)(5) of both bills, which would require an analysis of the effect of designation as a unit of the National Park System on existing commercial and recreational activities, and on the authority of state and local governments to manage those activities. We also urge deleting section 2(b)(6) of both bills, which would require an identification of any authorities that would compel or permit the Secretary of the Interior to influence or participate in local land use decisions or place restrictions on non-federal lands. H.R. 959, as introduced in the House, did not include these requirements.

The purpose of conducting a special resource study is to determine whether a resource meets the criteria for inclusion in the National Park System and, if it does not, to provide information on alternative means to protect the resource. We believe that the special resource study requirements under existing law result in a sufficient amount of information and analysis of the effects of including a resource in the National Park System. These additional requirements could potentially increase the cost of the study and the time required to complete it.

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

**STATEMENT OF PEGGY O'DELL, DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR OPERATIONS,
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BEFORE
THE SENATE SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS, COMMITTEE ON
ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES, CONCERNING S. 2309, A BILL TO AMEND
TITLE 54 UNITED STATES CODE, TO ESTABLISH WITHIN THE NATIONAL PARK
SERVICE THE U.S. CIVIL RIGHTS NETWORK AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**

MARCH 17, 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. 2309, a bill to establish within the National Park Service, the U.S. Civil Rights Network.

The Department strongly supports S. 2309, with amendments.

The NPS would be proud to be part of this program to commemorate, preserve, and interpret this important and inspiring era in American history. Well over a decade ago, the National Park Service and the Organization of American Historians conducted a theme study that helped to identify and interpret sites associated with the modern Civil Rights movement. From this effort, NPS found that a number of sites related to the African American role in the Civil Rights movement had not been recognized, with many in immediate danger of being lost or destroyed. If enacted, S. 2309 would provide a structure to identify and commemorate the activities and sites of African Americans involved in the Civil Rights movement and create a framework that could promote public education regarding this crucial chapter of the American story. This bill would allow NPS to build critical partnerships with other public and private entities, to raise public awareness, and help preserve the remaining sites and stories of the Civil Rights movement.

The modern Civil Rights movement arose in the face of systematic oppression, discrimination, and violence. The figures of this movement fought against these forces and many deservedly have become national heroes. But this movement was also powered forward on the backs of ordinary men and women and their efforts and stories are equally important to preserve and share. These stories and sites can be found in almost every community in this nation, some of which are deeply interwoven into the narrative of the units of the National Park System. But most of these resources are cared for outside of the National Park System and often need further documentation, interpretation, identification, and protection.

No single site reflects the full story of the role of African Americans in the Civil Rights narrative, and a network would help recognize and preserve these places. With the creation of the U.S. Civil Rights Network, the NPS will be directed to produce and share educational materials, become part of cooperative agreements to provide much-needed technical assistance, and create an official symbol to help with the identification of these sites and stories. This network will be made up of existing units and programs of the NPS; Federal, State, local and privately owned property, and other governmental and nongovernmental facilities that are directly related to the African American role in the Civil Rights movement.

The fundamental purpose of the U.S. Civil Rights Network Act is to honor the courage and sacrifice of those African American champions for justice; those who fought against discrimination and segregation to bring forth the vision laid out in the very foundations of our national doctrine that all men and women are created equal. We must honor their legacy and continue to carry forward their work of national reconciliation and social justice.

To that end, we recommend changing the title of the network to the African American Civil Rights Network to avoid any confusion as to the bill's purpose or the potential sites that would be eligible to participate. We would be pleased to work with the committee on the amendments need to implement this change.

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

**STATEMENT OF PEGGY O'DELL, DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR OPERATIONS,
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BEFORE
THE SENATE SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS, COMMITTEE ON
ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES, CONCERNING S. 2608, A BILL TO
AUTHORIZE THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR AND THE SECRETARY OF
AGRICULTURE TO PLACE SIGNAGE ON FEDERAL LAND ALONG THE TRAIL
KNOWN AS THE "AMERICAN DISCOVERY TRAIL", AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**

March 17, 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. 2608, a bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture to place signage on Federal land along the trail known as the "American Discovery Trail", and for other purposes.

The Department would not oppose S. 2608, if amended to make the authority to place signage discretionary rather than mandatory, as explained later in this testimony.

S. 2608 would direct the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture to place signage denoting the American Discovery Trail, which is not part of the National Trail System, on Federal land at points along the trail, as soon as practicable after signage acceptable to the respective Secretary is donated. The bill also prohibits the use of Federal funds for the acquisition of this signage.

The American Discovery Trail (ADT) was proposed in 1990 as a continuous mid-continent, coast-to-coast trail to link metropolitan areas to the nation's major long-distance trails, as well as to shorter local and regional trails. In October 1992, through P.L. 102-461, Congress directed the Secretary of the Interior to study the feasibility and desirability of adding the ADT to the National Trails System. This study was completed in December of 1995, and submitted to Congress in 1998. The over 6,000-mile route of the ADT, as described in this legislation and mapped in the feasibility study, extends from Cape Henlopen State Park in Delaware to Point Reyes National Seashore in California.

The study found that the ADT could be appropriate for designation as a new class of national trails – National Discovery Trails – separate from National Scenic Trails or National Historic Trails. One of the primary reasons for proposing the establishment of National Discovery Trails would be to address a potential conflict with National Scenic Trails following roads. When the ADT was initially proposed, a guiding principle in identifying the trail's route was that it be located on public lands and rights-of-way to avoid the acquisition of private land. This meant that the proposed trail often was routed along roads. The National Trails System Act specifically prohibits the use of motorized vehicles along National Scenic Trails. This new class of trails could be located along roadways, if necessary, to make the trails continuous.

Congress has not taken action to authorize a new category of national trails within the national trails system or to designate the American Discovery Trail as part of that national system as the first National Discovery Trail.

In addition, the Department is concerned that the requirement in S. 2608 to place signage denoting the American Discovery Trail on Federal land at points along the trail could compromise Federal land managers' ability to exercise their discretion with regard to the location of signage and the protection of sensitive resources.

Individual Federal land managers may allow the signage of non-Federal trails upon Federal lands, where appropriate, and in accordance with existing Federal laws, regulations, and policies. However, Federal land managers also may decline a request to allow signage of a non-Federal trail in instances where they believe the signage may have a detrimental impact upon visitor safety or resource protection.

Furthermore, significant portions of the American Discovery Trail are located along roadways. While existing Federal laws and regulations related to the signage of hiking trails along roadways could potentially preclude some conflicts, there are other instances in which the signage of a hiking trail is not specifically prohibited in law, but the Federal land manager may determine that the siting of signage in a particular location is inappropriate.

The Department believes that Federal land managers should retain the ability that they have under current law to determine the appropriateness of signage on Federal lands. For that reason, the Department would not oppose the legislation if it is amended to allow individual Federal land managers the discretion to make the final determination regarding the location or inclusion of signage on Federal lands, consistent with Federal laws, regulations, and policies. We would be happy to provide suggested language to the committee.

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

**STATEMENT OF PEGGY O'DELL, DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR OPERATIONS,
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BEFORE
THE SENATE SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS, COMMITTEE ON
ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES, CONCERNING S. 2628, A BILL TO
AUTHORIZE THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES MEMORIAL
FOUNDATION TO ESTABLISH A COMMEMORATIVE WORK IN THE DISTRICT
OF COLUMBIA AND ITS ENVIRONS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**

March 17, 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. 2628, a bill to authorize the National Emergency Medical Services Memorial Foundation to establish a commemorative work in the District of Columbia and environs, and for other purposes.

The Department supports S. 2628 that would authorize a memorial commemorating the commitment and service of the Emergency Medical Services profession. This proposal provides that no federal funds be used for establishing the memorial.

Although this proposal does not seek any exceptions to the Commemorative Works Act (CWA), 40 U.S.C. Chapter 89, it should be noted that this proposal to honor the commitment and service of the Emergency Medical Services profession does not fit the typical mold for commemoration. The concept of establishing a memorial to “commitment and service” is not explicitly described in the CWA. However, there is precedent for such commemoration: specifically, the National Peace Corps Memorial, which Congress authorized in 2014.

The CWA precludes a memorial to members of the EMS profession as a group because the memorialization of members of a group may not be authorized until after the 25th anniversary of the death of the last surviving member. Therefore, our support for this proposal is based upon our understanding that this memorial will recognize the “commitment and service” of the Emergency Medical Services profession, not the organization’s members.

At the September 15, 2015, meeting of the National Capital Memorial Advisory Commission, the Commission reviewed H.R. 2274, the nearly-identical companion bill to S. 2628. It was the consensus of the Commission that the language within the bill addressed the provisions of the CWA that authorize works commemorating individuals or groups. We share the Commission’s support for the idea of commemorating the commitment and service of the Emergency Medical Services profession.

Finally, we support the provision of S. 2628 that provides that unspent funds raised for the construction of the memorial be provided to the National Park Foundation for deposit in an interest-bearing account as stated in 40 U.S.C. Section 8906(b)(3).

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

**STATEMENT OF PEGGY O'DELL, DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR OPERATIONS,
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BEFORE
THE SENATE SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS, COMMITTEE ON
ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES, CONCERNING S. 651 and H.R. 1289, BILLS
TO ADJUST THE BOUNDARY OF JOHN MUIR NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE TO
ACCEPT A LAND DONATION.**

March 17, 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. 651 and H.R. 1289, bills to adjust the boundary of John Muir National Historic Site to accept a land donation, and for other purposes.

The Department strongly supports this legislation to adjust the boundary of John Muir National Historic Site (park) by 44 acres, but we recommend the committee conform the language of S. 651 to that of H.R. 1289 for the reasons described below. The boundary adjustment would help the National Park Service (NPS) protect the southern boundary from potential development and also help to preserve the scenic and biological resources of this property.

The proposed boundary modification includes 44 acres of land acquired by the John Muir Land Trust (formerly the Muir Heritage Lands Trust) adjacent to the southern boundary of the park. The John Muir Land Trust (Trust), a local land trust preserving open space in Contra Costa County, acquired the property in May 2015. The Trust pursued the acquisition for a number of years in an attempt to prevent development adjacent to the park's south boundary, with the intent of donating the land to the NPS to become part of the park. S. 651 requires that the Trust acquire the land by August 31, 2015, while H.R. 1289 has no similar language. We prefer the House language because the Trust has already acquired the land.

The parcel was originally part of the John Swett Ranch, a neighbor and friend of John Muir, and there are no structures present on the property. The property is critical habitat for the Alameda whipsnake, federally listed as threatened. This acquisition would open up the area to recreational uses that are currently inaccessible to the public, but compatible with the protection and preservation of the plant communities and critical species habitat. There are existing unimproved roads on the site, which connect to the exiting trail access in the park and would require little if any improvements for immediate use.

The boundary modification is supported by the City of Martinez. It is not anticipated that any facilities would be proposed for the 44-acre parcel due to its current undeveloped and undisturbed condition. Therefore, there would be minimal cost associated with the long-term operation and maintenance of the property, which would be easily absorbed into the current operations of the park. The property is being donated, so acquisition costs are not an issue.

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 PEGGY O'DELL, DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR OPERATIONS,
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BEFORE
THE SENATE SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS, COMMITTEE ON
ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES, CONCERNING S. 718, A BILL TO MODIFY
THE BOUNDARY OF PETERSBURG NATIONAL BATTLEFIELD IN THE
COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**

March 17, 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. 718, a bill to modify the boundary of Petersburg National Battlefield in the Commonwealth of Virginia, and for other purposes.

The Department supports S. 718 with amendments described later in this statement.

S. 718 has two components. First, the bill would expand the authorized boundary of Petersburg National Battlefield by approximately 7,238 acres. The boundary expansion proposal results from an analysis of “core battlefields” and a subsequent boundary adjustment study conducted as part of Petersburg National Battlefield’s General Management Plan completed in 2004. Second, the bill would effect a land exchange between the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of the Army involving approximately one acre.

The City of Petersburg lies in the corridor of intensive growth from Washington, D.C., to south of Richmond, Virginia. The region surrounding Petersburg National Battlefield has been experiencing significant development pressures impacting areas immediately adjacent to the park and unprotected battlefield sites. This development not only threatens park resources and public enjoyment but also the core portions of the battlefields.

The park commemorates the Petersburg Campaign, the longest sustained combative military front on American soil, in both time and distance. When Congress created the park in 1926, only a fraction of the battlefield acreage associated with the 26 major battles of the Petersburg Campaign was included in the boundary. The additional lands proposed to be added to the park by S. 718 would allow the public to better understand the size, complexity, and duration of the 9½ month Petersburg Campaign and siege while offering protection to existing park resources.

In 2002, in response to significant development pressures in the region surrounding the park and as part of its General Management Plan process, Petersburg National Battlefield undertook a detailed assessment of battlefields in the Petersburg Campaign cited in the Civil War Sites Advisory Commission (CWSAC) report of 1993 entitled “Report on the Nation’s Civil War Battlefields.” The CWSAC report identified 100,000 acres of the Petersburg battlefields as “core battlefields” encompassing all of the critical phases defined for a battle. Of the 100,000 acres cited, 23,000 acres were determined to retain historic integrity.

During its more detailed analyses of the 23,000 acres, the park concentrated on those portions of the battlefields that were south of the Appomattox River and directly associated with the siege or

defense of Petersburg, and that were identified as Class A (decisive) and Class B (major) by the CWSAC. Additionally, the park used historical maps and documentation to further refine the acreage to that constituting the portion of the battlefield on which both armies were engaged directly and that had a bearing on the outcome for each battle. Park staff further analyzed the integrity of these areas and their potential for public access and interpretation. The analyses found that 7,238 acres met the criteria for integrity and interpretability.

The estimated time period for acquisition of the 7,238 acres of these nationally significant lands is 15-20 years. Virtually all of the land subject to the boundary adjustment represents a mixture of private and non-profit organization-owned parcels. Agricultural and conservation easements will be the preferred method of acquisition for most parcels. Easements enable protection of these battlefields from inappropriate development while retaining private ownership and compatible use of the land. Where easements are not possible, and there is interest by the landowners, other acquisition methods, such as donation and fee simple acquisition from willing sellers based on available funding, will be utilized for battlefield preservation.

Under a 2008 estimate, the total estimated cost of purchasing in fee simple all of the 7,238 acres would be \$29.7 million. Protection of land through easements and donations, which is anticipated for a large portion of the lands, would likely significantly lower acquisition costs and is the Department's preferred method of protection. The estimated cost for capital expenses (trails, wayside exhibits, rehabilitation of existing visitor contact station, etc.) and expansion-related costs (surveys, hazardous materials studies, etc.) is \$1.9 million. Development of visitor services and interpretation at these new battlefield locations would be minimal and include small parking areas, wayside exhibits, and trails and other enhancements to the sites. The annual increase in park operation and maintenance is estimated to be \$531,000. Development and operational numbers are in 2014 dollars. All funds would be subject to NPS priorities and the availability of appropriations.

Public response to the General Management Plan and the proposed boundary expansion has been favorable among local governments, organizations, and individuals. The Dinwiddie County Board of Supervisors adopted a resolution supporting future legislation to expand the boundary of the park as outlined in the General Management Plan. Many civic organizations in the Petersburg region have also indicated support for the proposal.

The bill would also effect a transfer of administrative jurisdiction between the Secretary of the Army and the Secretary of the Interior involving two small parcels of land. Following the attacks of September 11, 2001, the Army was required to erect a perimeter fence around the Fort Lee Military Reservation, located adjacent to Petersburg National Battlefield. The fence intruded slightly into the boundary of the park. Effective upon enactment of this bill, the Army would receive administrative jurisdiction over the 1.170 acres of park land where the perimeter fence is located and the National Park Service would receive 1.171 acres of land at Fort Lee. The Secretary of the Army is supportive of this provision. There is no cost associated with this authorization.

We recommend amending S. 718 to increase the acreage ceiling at the City Point unit from 21 acres to 25 acres. In 1978, Petersburg National Battlefield was authorized to acquire the Eppes

family property at City Point in Hopewell, provided that the amount of land acquired did not exceed 21 acres [Public Law 95-625]. The Conservation Fund owns land adjacent to the park property at the City Point unit that was purchased for the battlefield, and that land would be added to the park boundary under this bill. However, the addition of that land would exceed the 21-acre limit on land the park is authorized to acquire at City Point. Raising that limit to 25 acres would ensure that there is no conflict between the 1978 authority and this bill. In addition, ensuring clear legal authority for the park's acquisition of the Conservation Fund land would facilitate a potential land exchange that would enable the NPS to dispose of a portion of the park's property at City Point that has no relevance to the park's mission or interpretive themes.

In addition, due to the need for technical corrections in both of the maps that are referenced in the bill, we recommend amending both of the map references to reflect the updated maps. We also recommend language that specifies that the land transferred to the Army be excluded from the park boundary. We will provide the committee with the revised maps and suggested amendments.

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

**STATEMENT OF PEGGY O'DELL, DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS,
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BEFORE
THE SENATE SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS, COMMITTEE ON
ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES, CONCERNING S. 770, TO AUTHORIZE
ESCAMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA, TO CONVEY CERTAIN PROPERTY THAT WAS
FORMERLY PART OF SANTA ROSA ISLAND NATIONAL MONUMENT AND THAT
WAS CONVEYED TO ESCAMBIA COUNTY SUBJECT TO RESTRICTIONS ON USE
AND RECONVEYANCE.**

March 17, 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. 770, a bill to authorize Escambia County, Florida, to convey certain property that was formerly part of Santa Rosa Island National Monument and that was conveyed to Escambia County subject to restrictions on use and reconveyance.

The Department could only support S. 770 if amended in accordance with this testimony.

S. 770 would provide authority to Escambia County to convey property, subject to certain conditions, that it received from the Federal government in 1947. The bill is intended to resolve a longstanding land use issue for the county. However, the Department would like to ensure that this bill does not result in the removal of protection for the undeveloped lands that remain from the 1947 conveyance.

S. 770 would supersede the Act of July 30, 1946, which deauthorized the Santa Rosa Island National Monument in the State of Florida and authorized the transfer of the Federal lands administered by the Department of the Interior to Escambia County. The Act of 1946 placed restrictions on the use of the lands, specifying that they must be used for purposes deemed in the public interest, and that they may not be conveyed by Escambia County except to the Federal government or the State of Florida. Pursuant to the 1946 Act, on January 15, 1947, the lands on Santa Rosa Island were transferred to Escambia County. In 1971, the Gulf Islands National Seashore was established which includes much of Santa Rosa Island. Many significant natural and cultural resources exist on the island, including Fort Pickens, several rare and endangered species, and many miles of beach. This park has also proven to be an important recreation resource, with more than five million visitors annually coming to the seashore.

S. 770 pertains to those portions of Santa Rosa Island excluded from the boundary of Gulf Islands National Seashore: a nine-mile segment in Escambia County known as Pensacola Beach and a four-mile segment in Santa Rosa County known as Navarre Beach. In 1956, Escambia County leased Navarre Beach to Santa Rosa County. The State of Florida modified the county boundaries in 1991, placing Navarre Beach within the jurisdiction of Santa Rosa County. However, the Navarre Beach lands remained in Escambia County ownership due to the restrictions on reconveyance contained in the 1946 Act. Communities have been developed at Pensacola Beach and Navarre Beach under leases granted by the counties. These are mostly privately owned residential structures.

Our primary concerns lie with the lands within Navarre Beach and Pensacola Beach that remain natural, in a pristine condition, and that provide vital wildlife habitat and have outstanding opportunities for public recreation. As written, S. 770 does not adequately define those areas to ensure they remain in public ownership, protected from development, and available for public use and enjoyment, as intended by the Act of July 30, 1946. Specifically, the county resolutions referenced by the bill do not identify current planning documents by date for both counties, leaving land use zones subject to change, rezoning, and redefinition of management prescriptions and permitted uses. Further, if rezoned, nothing in this bill would prevent the sale of these lands for private ownership and development.

Over the years, there have been various proposals to dredge a channel through Santa Rosa Island at Navarre Beach to promote further development. Any dredge and fill activities to open a channel through the island, and the construction of associated bulkheads, groins, revetments, and jetties to sustain this feature, would likely have significant adverse impacts upon Gulf Islands National Seashore. Existing estuaries, wetlands, water quality and quantity, wildlife habitat and natural communities, and endangered species would likely be substantially degraded or destroyed. Interference with the natural lateral transport of sand along the barrier island beaches would not only have significant effects upon park resources, but would also contribute to substantial erosion of public beaches leading to costly proposals to stabilize and restore the beaches. Furthermore, we are concerned that construction of this proposed channel would restrict public access to adjacent portions of Santa Rosa Island currently within Eglin Air Force Base (AFB). Management of the Eglin AFB lands on Santa Rosa Island will eventually revert to Gulf Islands National Seashore in accordance with P.L. 91-660 and section 2872 of P.L. 109-163. Unless specifically prohibited, this bill could potentially permit this channel with its substantial alteration and impairment of the island resources and restriction of public access.

Approximately 140 acres in Navarre Beach between the Navarre Bridge and Eglin AFB contain a 99-year leased parcel that is zoned for commercial development and would allow for virtually any type of commercial development including a high rise resort, shopping complex, or commercial marina. These leased lands are currently pristine and surrounded by other lands managed as a county park providing for beach access, use and enjoyment. We are concerned that the changes in land use restrictions proposed in this bill could potentially lead to inappropriate development of this important property. The leaseholder has inquired about exchanging this leased property for comparable leasable property within the developed zone of Navarre Beach. The NPS wholly supports this proposal and encourages Santa Rosa County to pursue this and to rezone this parcel as conservation/recreation similar to the surrounding county park lands.

Santa Rosa Island has long been recognized as an important public resource. The intent of the Act of 1946 was to prevent inappropriate development and to ensure the availability of these pristine beaches for public recreation and enjoyment. When portions of Santa Rosa Island were originally conveyed by the United States to Escambia County, it was on the condition that the property be used in perpetuity in the public interest. We do not object to certain developed lands being conveyed into private ownership, thus allowing the counties the benefit of having the lands on the tax rolls and allowing the federal government the benefit of any profits from the conveyances. However, we believe that the undeveloped portions of Pensacola Beach and

Navarre Beach should be excluded from commercial or residential development, retained in public ownership, and managed in their natural condition for wildlife habitat and guaranteed public access and use.

To ensure protection of the undeveloped portions of Pensacola Beach and Navarre Beach, we recommend amending the bill to accomplish the following:

1. To assure public beach access in perpetuity, public parking and beach access corridors identified within the Escambia County and Santa Rosa County planning and land use documents as of August 1, 2013 (other than parking and beach facilities), should remain publicly owned and undeveloped. This could be accomplished by retaining the applicability of the reversionary clause from the Act of July 30, 1946, for those lands, and by specifically referencing in the bill the county planning and land use documents as they existed on August 1, 2013.
2. Lands zoned “preservation” or “conservation/recreation” within the Escambia County and Santa Rosa County planning and land use documents as of August 1, 2013, should remain in public ownership and in preservation or conservation/recreation status in perpetuity. This, too, could be accomplished by retaining the applicability of the reversionary clause from the Act of July 30, 1946, for those lands, and by specifically referencing in the bill the county planning and land use documents as they existed on August 1, 2013. The language should include the definitions, management prescriptions and permitted activities for “preservation” and “conservation/recreation” zones in the county planning and land use documents as they existed on August 1, 2013, so that the terms cannot be redefined or reinterpreted at a later date. Further, the term “recreation” should be clarified to refer to passive recreation only for these lands.
3. Authority should be provided for Gulf Island National Seashore to accept by donation conservation easements for the lands zoned preservation or conservation/recreation within Navarre Beach and Pensacola Beach on Santa Rosa Island.
4. There should be a prohibition on any dredge and fill permits that would allow for the construction of a channel through Santa Rosa Island, and the construction of associated jetties, groins, bulkheads or revetments, and the dredging or filling of any wetlands, estuaries, or embayments.

We would be happy to provide the committee with recommended language for these amendments.

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

**STATEMENT OF PEGGY O'DELL, DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR OPERATIONS,
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BEFORE
THE SENATE SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS, COMMITTEE ON
ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES, CONCERNING S. 1329 AND H.R. 2288,
BILLS TO REMOVE THE USE RESTRICTIONS ON CERTAIN LAND
TRANSFERRED TO ROCKINGHAM COUNTY, VIRGINIA, AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES.**

March 17, 2016

Mr. Chairman and members of the subcommittee, thank you for the opportunity to present the Department of the Interior's views on S. 1329 and H.R. 2288, bills to remove the use restrictions on certain land transferred to Rockingham County, Virginia, and for other purposes.

The Department supports H.R. 2288 and would support S. 1329 if amended to conform to H.R. 2288. H.R. 2288 as passed by the House addresses the concerns the Department had with the bills as introduced about the potential loss of public park and recreation land in Rockingham County. The Department appreciates the work of Senator Kaine and Representative Goodlatte in making the changes in the legislation that are reflected in the House-passed bill.

S. 1329 and H.R. 2288 as introduced would require the removal of all deed restrictions imposed by the transfer of the surplus federal property formerly known as the Broadway Work Center A-VA-681 in Rockingham County, Virginia, under the terms of the National Park Service's Federal Lands to Parks (FLP) Program. In 1989, the National Park Service conveyed this 3.03-acre property at no cost to Rockingham County under the authority of the Federal Property and Administrative Services Act of 1949 (40 U.S.C. 550(b) and (e)) on the condition that it be used in perpetuity for public park and recreation purposes.

The purpose of the FLP program is to help communities increase opportunities for public recreation by increasing park and recreation areas. By conveying this land at no cost, the federal government provided a public benefit to the citizens of Rockingham County by increasing the quantity of the county's public park land.

Public Law 101-479, enacted in 1990, allowed a specified portion of 3.03 acres of the transferred land to be used for a child care center. However, it left in place the use restriction (enforced by a reverter clause) that was part of the deed. As introduced, H.R. 2288 and S. 1329 would release the entire property from the use restriction in the deed in an effort to enhance the child care center operator's ability to finance repairs even though, consistent with the terms of Public Law 101-479, only about 1 acre of the 3-acre site is used for the facility. As passed by the House, H.R. 2288 would limit the deed release to the 1-acre portion of the property already authorized by law to be used for a child care facility. The other 2 acres would continue to be subject to the existing deed's use restriction and reverter clause.

By limiting the deed release to the portion of the property already determined by Congress to be appropriate for a child care facility, the amended legislation would accomplish its intent while

also ensuring that a community that received Federal land at no cost for the purpose of public recreation would continue to benefit from having the land dedicated to that purpose. This solution helps protect the integrity of the FLP program and avoids setting a precedent for other communities that may want a legislated release from obligations for use of federally conveyed land.

H.R. 2288 as passed by the House also eliminates the requirement in section 2(d) of Public Law 101-479 for Rockingham County to report biennially to the Secretary of the Interior about the use of the property for a child care center, as well as other language in that section that is inconsistent with releasing the center from the deed restriction.

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

**STATEMENT OF PEGGY O'DELL, DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR OPERATIONS,
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BEFORE
THE SENATE SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS, COMMITTEE ON
ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES, CONCERNING S. 1943, TO MODIFY THE
BOUNDARY OF SHILOH NATIONAL MILITARY PARK LOCATED IN THE STATES
OF TENNESSEE AND MISSISSIPPI, TO ESTABLISH PARKER'S CROSSROADS
BATTLEFIELD AS AN AFFILIATED AREA OF THE NATIONAL PARK SYSTEM,
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**

MARCH 17, 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. 1943, a bill to modify the boundary of Shiloh National Military Park in the States of Tennessee and Mississippi, to establish Parker's Crossroads Battlefield in the state of Tennessee as an affiliated area of the National Park System, and for other purposes.

The Department supports S. 1943 with technical amendments.

S. 1943 would add three sites related to the Siege and Battle of Corinth to the boundary of Shiloh National Military Park. In 1991, the "Siege and Battle of Corinth Sites" was designated a National Historic Landmark. The Corinth Battlefield Protection Act of 2000 (Public Law 106-271) authorized the creation of the Corinth Unit, as part of Shiloh National Military Park, to "interpret the Siege and Battle of Corinth and other Civil War actions in the area in and around the city of Corinth, Mississippi." The legislation defined a large partnership role with state, local, and private park partners in the planning, development and interpretation of the unit. The law also authorized a special resource study to identify and determine any other areas that would be appropriate for inclusion in the unit.

The "Corinth Special Resource Study and Boundary Adjustment Environmental Assessment," completed in 2004, identified 18 sites that have a high degree of integrity and significant resources that would provide opportunities for public enjoyment, and recommended that these be included in the boundary of the Corinth Unit of Shiloh National Military Park. In 2007, Congress amended the Corinth Battlefield Protection Act of 2000 (Public Law 110-161, Section 127) to expand the boundary of the Corinth Unit of Shiloh National Military Park to include 12 of those sites.

S. 1943 would modify the boundary of Shiloh National Military Park to include three of the six remaining sites identified in the 2004 special resource study. These three sites – the battlefields of Fallen Timbers, Russell House, and Davis Bridge – would contribute significantly to telling the remarkable story of the United States Army's Mississippi Valley Campaign during the Civil War, especially the Battle of Shiloh, Tennessee, and the Siege of Corinth, Mississippi. The Mississippi Valley Campaign was a major milestone on the road that led to the final success of the Union Army in the war and the ultimate reunification of the nation.

The first battlefield that S. 1943 would include in Shiloh's authorized boundary is Fallen Timbers. On April 8, 1862, after two days of fierce fighting at Shiloh, Major General Ulysses S. Grant dispatched Brigadier General William T. Sherman on a reconnaissance to investigate Confederate intentions. Sherman encountered a large Confederate field hospital protected by a force of Southern cavalry under Lieutenant Colonel Nathan Bedford Forrest in an area called Fallen Timbers. Sherman advanced against the Confederate force and captured the field hospital with its surgeons and about 250 wounded Southern soldiers and about 50 wounded U.S. soldiers that had been previously captured by the Confederates. After this engagement, the Confederates retreated to Corinth and Sherman returned to Shiloh Church. Thus, the final shots of the Battle of Shiloh were fired at Fallen Timbers. A cautious and methodical U.S. Army advance would mark the beginning of the advance upon, and siege of Corinth.

The Fallen Timbers Battlefield site consists of 468 acres of agricultural and forested land, a small portion of which is developed. The Civil War Trust has acquired approximately 270 acres of this land with the intention of donating it to the federal government. The remaining 198 acres that would be included in the boundary are in private ownership.

The second battlefield that S. 1943 would include in Shiloh's authorized boundary is the Russell House. On May 17, 1862, during the advance upon Corinth, U.S. forces, led by Major General Sherman, fought a Confederate brigade and compelled the southern force to abandon its strong outpost at the Russell House situated on the Tennessee-Mississippi state line. Because the position possessed a great natural strength, Sherman's men lost no time fortifying it and driving the enemy further south toward Corinth.

The pastoral setting of the Russell House Battlefield retains a high degree of integrity, contains the extant remains of field fortifications, and has high potential for archeological survey and research. The approximately 666-acre tract that would be included in the boundary is in private ownership.

The third battlefield that S. 1943 would include in Shiloh's authorized boundary is Davis Bridge. On October 5, 1862, U.S. troops attacked a retreating Confederate force at Davis Bridge on the Hatchie River. The Federals drove the Confederates back across the river, seized the bridge, and charged into a thicket east of the river. Confederates defending the heights overlooking the crossing to the east inflicted heavy casualties on the Federals and checked their further advance, thereby permitting the defeated Confederate force to retreat south into Mississippi. The engagement at Davis Bridge was the last Confederate offensive in Mississippi.

In 1998, a 598-acre portion of the Davis Bridge Battlefield was listed in the National Register of Historic Places. The bridge across the Hatchie River has long since washed away and the banks of the river have undergone erosion, but the 1,090 acres proposed to be included in the park boundary retain a high degree of integrity with much of the acreage remaining in agricultural cultivation or woodlands. The State of Tennessee owns approximately 845 of these acres. An approximately five-acre plot, which is a contributing property to the Siege and Battle of Corinth National Historic Landmark, has been donated to the National Park Service by the Davis Bridge Memorial Foundation.

If this legislation is enacted, we anticipate that we would acquire the majority of land by donation and that we would not develop visitor services or facilities at the three sites for the foreseeable future. Therefore, land acquisition and development costs would be minimal. Our current estimate for administrative costs associated with land donation at the three sites is \$60,000 to cover title searches, environmental site assessments, and closing actions, subject to the availability of appropriations.

S. 1943 would also establish Parker's Crossroads Battlefield in the State of Tennessee as an affiliated area of the National Park System. The bill designates the city of Parkers Crossroads and the Tennessee Historical Commission as the management entity for the affiliated area and authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to provide technical assistance and enter into cooperative agreements with the management entity for the purpose of providing financial assistance for the marketing, marking, interpretation, and preservation of the affiliated area. As an affiliated area, Parker's Crossroads Battlefield would continue under non-federal ownership and management, but the owner would be required to administer the site consistent with laws applicable to units of the National Park System.

Affiliated areas comprise a variety of locations in the United States that preserve significant properties outside of the National Park System. Some of these have been designated by Acts of Congress and others have been designated administratively. All draw on technical assistance or financial aid from the National Park Service.

The Parker's Crossroads Battlefield is listed in the National Register of Historic Places and is significant for its role in the military history of the Civil War and its archeological potential to yield information concerning the battle. The Parker's Crossroads Battlefield was the final engagement of Confederate now-Brigadier General Nathan Bedford Forrest's West Tennessee raid of December, 1862, which resulted in the disruption of Major General Ulysses S. Grant's supply lines as his army advanced towards Vicksburg. Forrest's raid and the simultaneous destruction of Grant's supply depot at Holly Spring, Mississippi, caused Grant to end his overland campaign against Vicksburg.

Since the battle, the area has remained largely in agricultural fields and forests consistent with its appearance in 1862, and the site retains a high degree of integrity. It is likely that the site contains physical remnants of the battle that can provide information concerning troop movements and areas where primary fighting occurred. The site is known to contain the remains of soldiers who were killed during the fighting and other burials may have also occurred there.

We recommend amending both of the dates of the map referenced in S. 1943 to allow for more current maps to be substituted. Those amendments are attached.

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

Proposed Amendments to S. 1943, Shiloh National Military Park Boundary Adjustment and Parker’s Crossroads Battlefield Designation Act

On page 2, line 18, strike “April 2012” and insert “July 2014”.

On page 3, line 11, strike “April 2012” and insert “July 2014”.

Explanation:

The above amendments would update the map references to more current maps.

**STATEMENT OF PEGGY O'DELL, DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR OPERATIONS,
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BEFORE
THE SENATE SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS, COMMITTEE ON
ENERGY & NATURAL RESOURCES, CONCERNING S. 1975, A BILL TO
ESTABLISH THE SEWALL-BELMONT HOUSE NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE AS A
UNIT OF THE NATIONAL PARK SYSTEM, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**

March 17, 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. 1975, a bill to establish the Sewall-Belmont House National Historic Site as a unit of the National Park System, and for other purposes.

The Department supports S. 1975.

S. 1975 would establish the Sewall-Belmont House National Historic Site as a new unit of the National Park System to preserve and protect the site and to interpret the nationally significant resources related to the women's rights movement.

The bill establishes the boundaries of the historic site within the parcel located at 144 Constitution Avenue, Northeast, in Washington, D.C. The bill allows the Secretary to establish the Sewall-Belmont House National Historic Site as a unit once the Secretary determines that the National Woman's Party (NWP) has transferred the land and any improvements to the land within the boundary to the Secretary, and when the Secretary and the NWP have entered into a management agreement. The bill requires that the management agreement provide for the National Park Service (NPS) operation and management of the national historic site while the NWP retains ownership and management of the NWP collection, which includes extensive library, archival, and museum holdings relating to the woman's suffrage movement. The management agreement shall also provide for collaboration and cooperation by the NPS and the NWP on management and interpretation of the Sewall-Belmont House National Historic Site.

The Sewall-Belmont House was constructed on Capitol Hill around 1800 by Robert Sewall and has been home to the NWP since 1929. From here, Alice Paul, longtime leader of the NWP, wrote new language in 1943 for the Equal Rights Amendment, which became known as the "Alice Paul Amendment," and led the fight for its passage in Congress. Throughout the 20th century, the NWP was a leading advocate of women's political, social, and economic equality.

During the 1920s and 1930s, the NWP drafted more than 600 pieces of legislation in support of equal rights for women on the state and local levels, including bills covering divorce and custody rights, jury service, property rights, ability to enter into contracts, and the reinstatement of one's maiden name after marriage. It launched two major "Women For Congress" campaigns in 1924 and 1926 and lobbied for the appointment of women to high federal positions. The party also worked for federal and state "blanket bills" to ensure women equal rights and was instrumental in changing federal legislation to provide equal nationality and citizenship laws for women. NWP lobbying helped to eliminate many of the sex discrimination clauses in the National

Recovery Administration's codes and assisted in the adoption of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938. The NWP successfully campaigned for the inclusion of Title VII in the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and remained a political action committee until 1997.

Alice Paul continued to work actively out of the Sewall-Belmont House until failing health forced her to relocate to Connecticut in 1972. As the only extant structure associated with the NWP, the Sewall-Belmont House continues to serve as NWP headquarters as well as a museum and research library.

The political strategies and tactics of Alice Paul and the NWP became a blueprint for civil-rights organizations and activities throughout the twentieth century. The Sewall-Belmont House National Historic Site is an appropriate place in which to interpret the women's rights movement and tell the stories of women's suffrage and the ongoing fight for the Equal Rights Amendment. The site would tell the story of a determined band of women who put their lives on the line to get the vote for half the nation's population.

On May 30, 1974, the Secretary of the Interior designated the site a National Historic Landmark based on its role as the headquarters of the National Woman's Party and its association with Alice Paul. At the time, it was the only site in the United States dedicated to the contemporary women's movement. Later in 1974, Congress established the Sewall-Belmont House as a National Historic Site and authorized a cooperative agreement between the NWP and the Secretary of the Interior for the preservation and interpretation of the house. The site is currently an affiliated area of the National Park System with the NPS providing financial and technical assistance for preservation and interpretation through a series of cooperative agreements.

S. 1975 reflects the recommendations of the November 2014 *Sewall-Belmont House: Feasibility Study of Potential Operating Models under NPS Stewardship* (NPS feasibility study) which evaluated criteria of feasibility and a need for NPS management. National significance and suitability criteria were satisfied by the site's National Historic Landmark designation and affiliated area status. The NPS feasibility study recommended a model that would transfer ownership of the house and associated property to the United States with day-to-day operational responsibilities and visitor services to the NPS, while allowing NWP to retain ownership and management of the museum's collection and to lead educational programs and outreach efforts.

If established based upon the management model recommended in the study, the NPS estimates that the site would require an immediate one-time cost of \$1.2 million for repair and replacement of equipment that is in danger of failure, and an annual operational cost of \$693,000 for salaries, supplies, operations and management. All funds would be subject to NPS priorities and the availability of appropriations.

The inclusion of the Sewall-Belmont House National Historic Site in the National Park System would assure the preservation and interpretation of the nationally significant story of women's suffrage and women's rights in the United States -- a critical part of our Nation's history and culture.

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

**STATEMENT OF PEGGY O'DELL, DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR OPERATIONS,
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BEFORE
THE SENATE SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS, COMMITTEE ON
ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES, CONCERNING S. 1993, THE 21ST CENTURY
CONSERVATION SERVICE CORPS ACT OF 2015.**

March 17, 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. 1993, the 21st Century Conservation Service Corps Act of 2015.

The Department supports enactment of S. 1993, which would codify, strengthen, and broaden the Administration's 21CSC program, helping to better fulfill the Administration's commitment to increase employment and training opportunities for our nation's young people. We would welcome the opportunity to work with the committee on amendments and clarifying language described later in this statement.

In 2010, President Obama created the America's Great Outdoors Initiative to encourage Americans, particularly young people, to enjoy our country's rivers and waterways, farms and forests, and local and national parks. As part of this initiative, the President called for the creation of the 21st Century Conservation Service Corps (21CSC) to establish quality jobs, career pathways and service opportunities for youth and veterans. Building on this vision, Secretary Jewell launched a youth initiative to inspire millions of young people to play, learn, serve and work outdoors.

As a part of this effort, the Department and its land management bureaus, along with the U.S. Forest Service, have established public-private partnership programs that we identify as 21CSC partnerships. The Department carries out these activities under authorities provided in the Public Lands Corps Act, which is limited to the Department of the Interior and the Department of Agriculture.

The Administration's 21CSC builds on existing partnerships with youth conservation corps across the country, placing young people, including those from underserved communities, and veterans in the United States, in national service positions to work protecting, restoring and enhancing America's public lands, waterways and cultural heritage sites. The 21CSC also helps federal land management agencies meet their missions by leveraging existing resources to carry out cost-effective natural and cultural resource protection and conservation projects while providing valuable community service opportunities, job skill development and pathways to careers in resource stewardship.

In 2014, the Department, in partnership with the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and Interior bureaus including the Bureau of Land Management, the Bureau of Reclamation, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the National Park Service and the

U.S. Geological Survey, collaborated on 51 21CSC projects that benefited youth and veterans. These 51 projects leveraged \$1,992,067 into more than \$7 million, employed approximately 700 youth and veterans, engaged more than 1,850 volunteers within the local communities, and conducted activities on over 200 miles of public lands. Activities undertaken by 21CSC participants included, among others, trail maintenance, watershed restoration, and forest regeneration, invasive species removal, and historic preservation.

A few specific examples of public-private partnerships help illustrate the success of the 21CSC.

In Oregon and California, as part of this initiative, the Klamath Bird Observatory (KBO) built on a long-standing partnership with the BLM and FWS to expand its internship program and improve outreach to underserved communities, including Native American and Hispanic youth. The combination of KBO's established long-term monitoring program and an intensive bird banding training curriculum foster the integration of youth engagement and professional training. The internships have provided opportunities for training and practical experience in bird monitoring techniques; learning through a well-rounded curriculum in field biology; and attaining bird bander certification through the North American Banding Council.

In Arizona, the Conservation Legacy worked with Bureau of Indian Affairs to lead an eight-person Native American youth crew in completion of natural resource conservation projects on the Navajo Nation. The crew consisted of local area high school students and two adult crew leaders. During the four-week program the crew restored and stabilized Hubble Wash, maintained trails, and repaired and constructed wildlife fencing.

In New Mexico, the Talking Talons Youth Leadership, in partnership with the Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge (NWR), the Bureau of Reclamation, the New Mexico State Land Office, Ciudad Soil and Water Conservation District, the Bosque Ecosystem Monitoring Program, Amigos Bravos, Friends of the Valle de Oro, and Friends of the Sandia Mountains provided approximately 560 hours of paid employment for urban and minority youth in conservation work that benefited the public lands and mission of the Valle de Oro NWR, Reclamation, and State of New Mexico. In addition to receiving in-depth education and training in diverse aspects of environmental restoration, monitoring, and stewardship, crew members conducted surface and groundwater quality monitoring and remove invasive vegetation on 80 acres on the Refuge and adjacent federal and state lands.

And, in Maine, Friends of Acadia hired young people to work on projects with the National Park Service in Acadia National Park, including creating the "Acadia Technology Trail," working to engage the public in raptor viewing opportunities, and working on a trail crew mediating trail issues. Many of the youth work experiences occur in accessible, highly visited areas, such as Sieur de Monts Springs.

If enacted, S. 1993 would establish into law the 21CSC and increase the number of federal departments and agencies authorized to partner with 21CSC organizations and participants to support and carry out 21CSC projects. These entities would include the Departments of the Interior, Agriculture, Transportation, Labor, Energy, Defense, Veterans Affairs and Commerce and the Environmental Protection Agency, the Council on Environmental Quality, the

Corporation for National and Community Service, Army Corps of Engineers and any other agencies as designated by the President. The authority provided by this bill would give participating agencies flexibility to support 21CSC projects in a manner consistent with each agency's mission and resources.

The bill would require coordination among federal agencies to ensure project efficiencies and facilitate approval of corps organizations to participate in the 21CSC. Under the bill, participating agencies would be required to report to Congress to ensure 21CSC activities are carried out in a cost-effective and efficient manner.

The legislation would also allow agencies to provide non-competitive hiring status for participants for two years after completing service if certain terms are met. We believe that this is an essential expansion of the non-competitive hire period of 120 days provided under the Public Lands Corps, which provides an authority the Department uses currently to hire former conservation corps participants. We strongly support this provision which we believe will increase diversity in recruitment and note that it is consistent with Public Lands Corps Act amendments the Administration included in the National Park Service Centennial Act which has been introduced in this Congress by Senator Cantwell as S. 2257.

S. 1993 would also provide a 10 percent cost-share requirement for 21CSC organizations. Under the Public Lands Corps Act, this required cost-share is 25 percent. The Department supports this provision which would enable a greater range of organizations such as smaller, community-based organization that draw from low-income and rural populations to participate in the 21CSC.

We recommend amending the definition of "youth" in S. 1993 to expand eligibility of young people to age 35, to broaden the range of eligible participants. Under the bill as introduced, eligibility ends at age 28. We would also welcome the opportunity to work with the sponsors and the Subcommittee to clarify provisions related to service hour requirements for eligibility for noncompetitive hire status, in addition to other technical changes. Finally, we note that the Department of Labor has identified concerns with section 6(c) regarding certain labor laws. Interior is committed to working with the Department of Labor and the Subcommittee to address those concerns.

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

**STATEMENT OF PEGGY O'DELL, DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR OPERATIONS,
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
BEFORE THE SENATE SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS, COMMITTEE
ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES, CONCERNING S. 2061 TO DESIGNATE
A NATIONAL MEMORIAL TO FALLEN EDUCATORS AT THE NATIONAL
TEACHERS HALL OF FAME IN EMPORIA KANSAS.**

March 17, 2016

Mr. Chairman, thank you for the opportunity to appear before your committee to present the views of the Department of the Interior on S. 2061, a bill to designate a National Memorial to Fallen Educators at the National Teachers Hall of Fame in Emporia, Kansas.

The Department of the Interior would defer to the Department of Education for a position on S. 2061 since the purpose of the legislation is to honor teachers. The memorial is located at a site that is not under the jurisdiction of the Department of the Interior, and this bill does not provide for any management or funding by the National Park Service.

S. 2061 would designate a national memorial to fallen educators at the National Teachers Hall of Fame in Emporia, Kansas. The memorial is intended to recognize teachers who not only dedicated their lives to teaching, but were sadly taken from us while "in the line of duty." The National Teachers Hall of Fame is a non-profit organization that annually honors five school teachers who demonstrate exceptional commitment and dedication to teaching. The Hall of Fame was founded in 1989, by Emporia State University (ESU), the ESU Alumni Association, the City of Emporia, Emporia Public Schools, and the Emporia Area Chamber of Commerce. On June 13, 2013, the National Teachers Hall of Fame broke ground to build a memorial for the teachers that have fallen in the "line of duty."

This legislation explicitly states that this memorial is not a unit of the National Park System. However, the use of the title "national memorial" creates a reasonable expectation among the general public that the memorial must have an affiliation with the National Park Service, which currently administers 30 national memorials across the country. This is not the first time this issue has arisen, nor is it likely to be the last, and the Department respectfully encourages only the most thoughtful and judicious designation of any future "national" memorials or other similar sites.

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

**STATEMENT OF PEGGY O'DELL, DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR OPERATIONS,
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BEFORE
THE SENATE SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS, COMMITTEE ON
ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES, CONCERNING S. 2620, A BILL TO
FACILITATE THE ADDITION OF PARK ADMINISTRATION AT THE COLTSVILLE
NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK.**

March 17, 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. 2620, a bill to facilitate the addition of park administration at the Coltsville National Historical Park.

The Department supports S. 2620.

S. 2620 would amend the law that authorizes the establishment of the Coltsville National Historical Park in Hartford, Connecticut, by making a technical change in one of the requirements for establishing the park. Section 3032(b)(2)(B) of Public Law 113-291 requires the donation of 10,000 square feet of space for park administration and visitor services in the East Armory building of the Colt Armory complex in order for the Secretary of the Interior to designate Coltsville as a unit of the National Park System. S. 2620 would allow this requirement to be met by a donation of 10,000 square feet anywhere in the armory complex, not just specifically in the East Armory building.

The East Armory is the most visible and best-known building within the Colt Armory complex. It houses the site's iconic blue onion dome, and it has been the primary focus of redevelopment of the complex. Immediately adjacent to the East Armory are two brownstone buildings, the Forge Shop and the Foundry, that date to 1855. They are key historic resources within the Colt Armory complex and closely associated with the East Armory.

As the National Park Service (NPS) began working with the property owners (Colt Gateway LLC) and the city of Hartford to implement the legislation, it became clear that a much better location for park administration and visitor services than the East Armory itself would be the adjacent brownstone buildings. This is for two reasons: first, the redevelopment of the East Armory building is far enough along that locating park administration and visitor service facilities within the building would disrupt existing occupancy, including a school and residences. Second, the two brownstone buildings are better suited to welcome visitors because they are at grade and directly adjacent to parking and, therefore, provide universal accessibility. The brownstones together contain approximately 18,000 square feet of space, well in excess of the 10,000 square feet of space required by the law.

A joint letter sent to the NPS by Senator Richard Blumenthal and Representative John Larson, on February 16, 2016, stated that it was their view that an agreement for the donation of the 18,000 square feet of space for park administration and visitor services in the two brownstones immediately adjacent to the East Armory would meet the law's intention, so long as the

agreement also provides for visitor access to the East Armory dome. They noted that the brownstone buildings are so close that it would be logical to infer that the term “East Armory” includes these smaller buildings in the immediate vicinity of the actual East Armory building. The letter from the House and Senate sponsors of the original Colt legislation has given the NPS confidence to move forward with plans to accept the donation of the brownstone buildings. Even so, the Department would like to have the legal certainty about meeting the donation requirement that S. 2620 would provide.

The NPS continues to make steady progress in meeting the other requirements for establishing the Coltsville National Historical Park. Agreements with the property owners (Colt Gateway LLC) and the city of Hartford are nearing completion. The donation of the required space for park administration and visitor services is the next critical step necessary to officially establish Coltsville National Historical Park as a unit of the National Park System, which we would like to complete in the NPS’s Centennial year.

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