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S. HRG. 116–308

PENDING LEGISLATION

HEARING

BEFORE THE

SUBCOMMITTEE ON
NATIONAL PARKS

OF THE

COMMITTEE ON
ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES
UNITED STATES SENATE

ONE HUNDRED SIXTEENTH CONGRESS

FIRST SESSION

ON

S. 225	**S. 774**
S. 298	**S. 849**
S. 327	**S. 1152**
S. 389	**S. 1582**
S. 641	**S. 1705**

JUNE 19, 2019



Printed for the use of the
Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

Available via the World Wide Web: http://www.govinfo.gov

U.S. GOVERNMENT PUBLISHING OFFICE

37–817 WASHINGTON : 2020

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PENDING LEGISLATION

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 19, 2019

U.S. SENATE,
SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS,
COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES,
Washington, DC.

The Subcommittee met, pursuant to notice, at 10:02 a.m. in Room SD–366, Dirksen Senate Office Building, Hon. Steve Daines, presiding.

OPENING STATEMENT OF HON. STEVE DAINES, U.S. SENATOR FROM MONTANA

Senator DAINES [presiding]. The Subcommittee will come to order.

Before we get started today, I especially want to thank the Ranking Member, Senator King, and take a moment to talk about the bipartisan work we accomplished together here last Congress.

During the 115th Congress, the National Parks Subcommittee held five legislative hearings examining nearly 90 individual pieces of legislation in addition to our regular oversight and field hearings. I mention this because a number of priorities for individual Senators came through the National Parks Subcommittee; much of our work, ultimately, came to fruition in the passage of Senate bill 47, the John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act.

In fact, three titles in the Act, the National Parks title, the National Heritage Area title and several items in the miscellaneous title are primarily comprised of legislation heard in this very Subcommittee.

It is my hope that starting today we can continue to build upon this great record of bipartisan success and look to some new items for consideration.

We have a number of interesting items on today's agenda, including Senate bill 849, legislation that would allow for the inclusion of individuals killed in active duty on the U.S.S. Frank E. Evans during the Vietnam War, to have their names added to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall. Seventy-four men lost their lives on June 3rd, 1969, when the U.S.S. Frank E. Evans collided with the HMAS Melbourne off the coast of Vietnam, including Seaman Apprentice William Fields from Great Falls, Montana, who was inducted into the Navy just 17 days prior to his tragic death. I am a proud co-sponsor of this bill. I hope to see it move quickly and be signed into law so the stories of sailors like William can be told for generations to come.

I would also like to mention Senate bill 1705, the Every Word We Utter Monument. This legislation would create a national monument to honor those who dedicated their life to the Women's Suffrage Movement. Montana has a proud tradition of supporting women's equality, including that of Jeanette Rankin, who was not only a leader in the suffragist movement, but also the very first woman ever elected to federal office in the United States and she was from Montana. Ms. Rankin was first elected to represent Montanans in Congress in 1916. We are proud of this tradition in Montana and look forward to celebrating the centennial of the ratification of the 19th amendment next August.

The purpose of this hearing is to consider the Administration's views on pending legislation and allow Committee members an opportunity to ask questions. We will also include written statements and letters that have been sent to the Subcommittee in the official hearing record. The complete agenda will also be included in the official record, without objection.

[The complete agenda referred to follows:]

UNITED STATES SENATE

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS

Wednesday, June 19, 2019

AGENDA

- **S. 225**, to provide for partnerships among State and local governments, regional entities, and the private sector to preserve, conserve, and enhance the visitor experience at nationally significant battlefields of the American Revolution, War of 1812, and Civil War, and for other purposes (Isakson);
- **S. 298**, to establish the Springfield Race Riot National Historic Monument in the State of Illinois, and for other purposes (Duckworth);
- **S. 327**, to amend the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act to provide for a lifetime National Recreation Pass for any veteran with a service-connected disability (Shaheen);
- **S. 389**, to authorize the Society of the First Infantry Division to make modifications to the First Division Monument located on Federal land in Presidential Park in the District of Columbia, and for other purposes (Moran);
- **S. 641**, to update the map of, and modify the maximum acreage available for inclusion in, the Yucca House National Monument (Gardner);
- **S. 774**, to adjust the boundary of the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area to include the Rim of the Valley Corridor, and for other purposes (Feinstein);
- **S. 849**, to provide for the inclusion on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall of the names of the lost crew members of the U.S.S. Frank E. Evans killed on June 3, 1969 (Cramer);
- **S. 1152**, to provide for the transfer of administrative jurisdiction over certain parcels of Federal land in Arlington, Virginia, and for other purposes (Boozman);
- **S. 1582**, to establish the White Sands National Park in the State of New Mexico as a unit of the National Park System, and for other purposes (Heinrich); and
- **S. 1705**, to authorize the Every Word We Utter Monument to establish a commemorative work in the District of Columbia and its environs, and for other purposes (Bennet).

Senator DAINES. We have one witness here today, Mr. P. Daniel Smith, Deputy Director, National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior. Great to have you here again, Mr. Smith.

I am going to turn to the Ranking Member now for his opening remarks.

Senator King.

STATEMENT OF HON. ANGUS S. KING, JR., U.S. SENATOR FROM MAINE

Senator KING. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

It is great to be back discussing these important issues with this Subcommittee. As you point out, we did a lot of work last year and were met with a lot of success, and not every Subcommittee of this Congress can make that statement. I really appreciate it because we are working together. We are working on a bipartisan basis to protect the national parks, and that is about as good a cause as I think we can find. We have a lot of common ground, the Chair and I, and we believe that public land should be promoted, protected and funded.

Since this is our first Subcommittee hearing of this year, I think it is appropriate to note, as I mentioned, the success that we had with over 40 national park-related bills in the broad public lands package that was signed into law earlier this year.

Yesterday, just yesterday, the full Committee held a hearing to look at the maintenance backlog of the National Park Service and other federal land management agencies. I hope we will be able to build on that and move the Restore Our Parks Act through the Committee as soon as possible.

This morning's hearing covers many bills that address various national park priorities for several of our colleagues. It includes Senator Heinrich's bill to designate White Sands National Monument as a National Park, and I have a wonderful picture, Senator, of my kids on a snow sled going down the White Sands. The only bad news was they got to the bottom, and we were pulling sand out of their hair and ears for about a week.

Senator HEINRICH. I want to see the picture of you sledding down that.

[Laughter.]

Senator KING. That will have to wait.

I understand that provision is already included in the National Defense Authorization Act. That is efficient work. We get things included even before we meet.

I further understand that the sponsors of other bills have Department of Defense-related issues. We are hoping to get those bills included in the National Defense Authorization Act which we will be taking up next week.

I understand the Administration has expressed some concern about some of the bills, and I look forward to hearing from the Administration on these bills.

My main friend, Dan Smith, is here once again. We are delighted to have you with us, and we are going to work on these issues and try to get the bills in shape so that we can move them through the Subcommittee.

Mr. Chairman, I look forward to this hearing, and thank you to our witnesses.

Senator DAINES. Thank you, Senator King.

I have my two Senators here who are sitting to my right here. Senator King and Senator Heinrich, again, thank you for all the efforts you put forth to get that bipartisan lands package moved through the U.S. Senate. As we said, it took our public lands to bring divided government together and let's see if we can do that yet again here using this Committee as an example to help bring this city together and get some agreement on a few things. Thank you.

We actually have both North Dakota Senators here today. It is remarkable.

Before Senator Cramer opens with his short statement, Senator Hoeven, you have your special Senator here from North Dakota to introduce.

Senator Hoeven.

STATEMENT OF HON. JOHN HOEVEN,
U.S. SENATOR FROM NORTH DAKOTA

Senator HOEVEN. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate it, and I appreciate both you and Senator Heinrich as our colleagues from Midwestern states. It is good to be here with you.

I just wanted to be here to thank Senator Cramer for introducing the U.S.S. Frank E. Evans Act which I am co-sponsoring with him. He introduced it last Congress in the House and was able to pass it through the House through some very good work. I introduced it in the Senate. We did not get it through.

But it is an important bill. It is one that he has worked hard on. It is one that I am committed to as well. I certainly want to make an appeal as well to the Committee to pass it in a timely way so we can get to the Floor and do everything we can to pass it. It is important. It does recognize 74 members of our incredible military who died during the Vietnam War and we believe deserve just recognition on the Vietnam War Wall Memorial. So again, I just want to be here to lend my support to my esteemed colleague and to this legislation.

I thank you, both you and the Ranking Member from Maine, for giving me this time and for this Subcommittee's consideration of this important legislation.

Thanks so much.

Senator DAINES. Thank you, Senator Hoeven.

Senator Cramer.

STATEMENT OF HON. KEVIN CRAMER,
U.S. SENATOR FROM NORTH DAKOTA

Senator CRAMER. Thank you, Chairman Daines and Ranking Member King, members of the Committee, and special thanks to Senator Hoeven for his attention and support.

As you know, I'm here today to speak in favor of the bill, Senate bill 849, the U.S.S. Frank E. Evans Act. It's a bill, as Senator Hoeven said, I did introduce in the House. In fact, when it came to my attention, I didn't even know it would be difficult. And as it turns out, it wasn't. We were able to unanimously pass it with

support from the leadership of both parties into the National Defense Authorization Act as a Floor amendment.

But the 74 sailors that lost their lives in the Frank E. Evans, it refers to sailors who by a technical glitch don't have their names placed on the Vietnam Memorial Wall. Interestingly, this tragedy happened 50 years and 16 days ago, and it just seems like this is the year that maybe we can remember them properly.

It's a bipartisan bill supported by an equal number of Republicans and Democrats, including both the Chairman and the Ranking Member of this Subcommittee and, of course, Senator Hoeven. Last year, I introduced it, as I said, and it unanimously passed in the House and it was stripped in the Conference Committee. But since then I've moved from the House to the Senate, and I'm bringing this bill with me and my enthusiasm for it.

Today's hearing is a significant step, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate this very much, and thank both you and Ranking Member King for your support of the legislation.

The Evans was a destroyer. It served multiple combat support tours during the Vietnam War. After one of those tours, it was sent to participate in a training exercise in the South China Sea before its scheduled return to combat. I think it's important to note that. During the exercise, the Evans collided with an Australian aircraft carrier. This accident split the ship in two, resulting in the death of the 74. Only one of the 74 bodies was recovered. The rest are buried at sea.

As you know, Mr. Chairman, for a veteran's name to be added to the Vietnam Memorial Wall, certain criteria must be met and you'll hear about them today, I'm sure. But one of the qualifications is that those who perish must have been in or directly on their way to a combat zone. Because the Evans was not in or directly on its way to a combat zone, the names of those who died are not included on the Wall even though the ship had previously provided gunfire support off the coast of Vietnam, including during the Tet Offensive. The ship was also set to return to combat after the exercise just as the other U.S. ships did, exactly. They were scheduled to and did return.

I first learned about this injustice during a weekly radio town hall that I host when the son-in-law of veteran Dick Grant, a U.S.S. Frank E. Evans survivor, and resident of Fargo in North Dakota, called the show. When I heard his story, I looked into the issue further and found that adding names to the Wall is not as unprecedented as some would have us believe. In fact, according to the Vietnam Memorial Fund, the Wall has been updated to add roughly 400 names. More to the point, a recent, just a couple weeks ago, Washington Post story cited the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund Study which detailed a series of duplications, misspellings and miscounts along the Vietnam Memorial. Clearly the Wall has seen changes before and it needs changes again.

Throughout the years, many U.S.S. Frank E. Evans survivors like Dick Grant and family members and friends of the deceased have worked to include the lost 74 in changes and improvements to the Wall. These advocates have petitioned the Department of Defense to add the names, but their attempts have been denied. This bill would change that.

Mr. Chairman, it's inexplicable to me how bureaucrats in Washington could determine these sailors' ultimate sacrifice is unworthy of being memorialized simply because they weren't on the right side of an arbitrary line.

Tom Corcoran, Jr., is the brother to Patrick Corcoran, one of the lost 74, and he said it best. "They wouldn't have been there if it wasn't for the war. Yet, our government won't chisel 74 names on that piece of granite. It's an absolute disgrace. It's just wrong."

These men left home and said goodbye to their families at the request of our nation, and now they're buried at sea. But instead of honoring them by including their names on the Wall, we sit here arguing about it 50 years and 16 days later.

Let's be clear, the exclusion of these veterans is a disservice to those who gave their lives for our country. A technicality is not an excuse for inaction. A previously issued memo is not a reason to express disapproval and an objection from Washington's bureaucracy should not stop us.

Throughout the process I've heard every excuse. It's too hard or we have to draw a line somewhere or there isn't space. We're working on sending a man to Mars, but somehow, we can't do this.

They're wrong, Mr. Chairman. It's not too hard. Certainly not as hard as not seeing finality, not seeing your loved one memorialized appropriately. Certainly not as difficult as going to war for our country. If our government is capable of this, they're capable of adding their names.

I'm thoroughly persuaded that they deserve it. I hope those who participate in today's hearing walk away with the same conviction. In fact, the only opponents I've ever heard from, ever heard from, are the people whose job it would be to do this. I've never had an objection from a single constituent or person in the media or throughout this country, except people who live in this town, whose job it would be to find a way to do this. And I think it's time that we, as elected leaders, stand up and do the right thing.

With that, I thank you for the opportunity.

Senator DAINES. Thank you, Senator Cramer.

Are there any other Senators who would like to make opening statements today?

[No response.]

All members' statements will be added to the hearing record.

We will now proceed to the witness testimony. At the end of the testimony, we will begin questions.

Mr. Smith, your full written testimony will be made part of the official hearing record.

Mr. Smith, you may now proceed.

STATEMENT OF P. DANIEL SMITH, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Mr. SMITH. Chairman Daines, Ranking Member King and members of the Subcommittee, thank you for the opportunity to present the Department of the Interior's views on the ten bills on today's agenda.

I'd like to submit our full statements, and I'll summarize for the record.

S. 225 would extend the authority for the American Battlefield Protection Program through Fiscal 2028 and increase the authorization to $20 million annually. It would allow up to ten percent of the funds to be used for battlefield interpretation and restoration which we support, but would recommend amending.

S. 298 would establish the Springfield Race Riot National Historic Monument. The Department recognizes the historical significance of the site of the Springfield Race Riot of 2008; however, we do not support S. 298 at this time. The National Park Service is currently preparing a reconnaissance survey of the site, and when that is completed we would be happy to discuss some alternatives to increase public recognition at the site.

S. 327 would provide for a lifetime national recreation pass for any veteran with a service-connected disability. Currently, disabled veterans are eligible for their free lifetime pass that is available for all disabled Americans. But this legislation would help ensure that there is no confusion about their eligibility. The Department supports the bill.

S. 389 would authorize modifications to the First Division Monument located in President's Park. We do not object to this bill.

S. 641 would revise the boundary of Yucca House National Monument and authorize the National Park Service to acquire by donation an adjacent 160-acre parcel of land. The Department supports this bill with technical amendments.

S. 774 would expand the boundary of Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area to include an additional 191,000 acres in the mountainous areas that surround the valleys Northwest of Los Angeles. The National Park Service's 2008 Special Resource Study found that the addition of the expansion of this recreation area met the criteria for addition to the National Park System. The study anticipated limited federal ownership in the new area, as is the case within the existing unit. Even so, resources at this time are needed to reduce the National Park Service's $11.9 billion deferred maintenance backlog and address other critical National Park Service needs. The Department does not support enacting S. 774 at this time.

S. 849 would provide for an inclusion on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall the names of the crew members of the U.S.S. Frank E. Evans killed on June 3rd, 1969. While we appreciate the effort to recognize the servicemen and women who gave their lives during the Vietnam War, we would defer this bill to the Department of Defense who has determined that the names of those who perished on the U.S.S. Frank E. Evans do not meet the criteria for inclusion. The Defense Department has been responsible for determining all of the inclusion of names on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall since its inception, and we support their decision.

S. 1152 would transfer most of Memorial Avenue along with some adjacent land at Arlington National Cemetery from the Secretary of the Interior to the Secretary of the Army. It would also transfer a parcel within Arlington National Cemetery at Arlington House, the Robert E. Lee Memorial, from the Secretary of the Army to the Secretary of Interior. The Department supports S. 1152 with an amendment.

S. 1582 would re-designate White Sands National Monument as White Sands National Park. This proposed designation fits within our standard naming conventions for parks; however, we question the re-designation without also adjusting its boundary and putting into effect an exchange of lands with White Sands Missile Range. We are also concerned about the bill's special requirements for nominating the site to the World Heritage List as they would establish a unique process for this one potential site. We'd like to work with the Committee to develop amendments to address these issues.

And finally, S. 1705 would authorize the organization named the Every Word We Utter Monument to establish a commemorative work honoring the effort to pass the 19th Amendment. We ask the Committee to defer action on this bill until the organization receives approval from the IRS of its 501(c)(3) status.

Mr. Chairman, that completes my remarks. I look forward to any questions the Committee may have.

[The prepared statements of Mr. Smith follow:]

STATEMENT OF P. DANIEL SMITH, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, EXERCISING THE AUTHORITY OF THE DIRECTOR, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BEFORE THE SENATE ENERGY & NATURAL RESOURCES, SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS, CONCERNING S. 225, A BILL TO PROVIDE FOR PARTNERSHIPS AMONG STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS, REGIONAL ENTITIES, AND THE PRIVATE SECTOR TO PRESERVE, CONSERVE, AND ENHANCE THE VISITOR EXPERIENCE AT NATIONALLY SIGNIFICANT BATTLEFIELDS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION, WAR OF 1812, AND CIVIL WAR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

JUNE 19, 2019

Chairman Daines, Ranking Member King, and members of the Subcommittee, thank you for the opportunity to present the Department of the Interior's views on S. 225, a bill to provide for partnerships among State and local governments, regional entities, and the private sector to preserve, conserve, and enhance the visitor experience at nationally significant battlefields of the American Revolution, War of 1812, and Civil War, and for other purposes.

The Department recognizes the need to proactively preserve and protect nationally significant battlefields of the American Revolution, War of 1812, and Civil War. The National Park Service successfully achieves these goals through the American Battlefield Protection Program, which S. 225 would expand.

S. 225 would authorize appropriations of $20,000,000 to the Secretary for each fiscal year through 2028 to provide funding to State and local governments to acquire interests in eligible sites for their preservation and protection. The legislation would allow the use of up to ten percent of the annual appropriation for projects other than land acquisition. These projects include up to $1,000,000 awarded through a competitive grant process to non-profit organizations for programs and projects that improve battlefield interpretive and educational assets and technologies, and up to $1,000,000 awarded through a competitive grant process to non-profit organizations for the restoration of land preserved through the Battlefield Land Acquisition Program to its historic appearance. The Department supports these additional uses of the acquisition program funds, but recommends amending S. 225 to ensure that any restoration is performed in accordance with the Secretary of the Interior's standards for historic preservation.

The American Battlefield Protection Program (ABPP) was authorized by Congress in 1996 and directed the Secretary to encourage, support, assist, recognize, and work in partnership with citizens, Federal, State, local, and tribal governments, other public entities, educational institutions, and private nonprofit organizations in identifying, researching, evaluating, interpreting, and protecting historic battlefields. The law authorized annual appropriations of $3,000,000 to carry out this purpose as part of the national historic preservation program through a variety of financial assistance mechanisms.

The program was amended in 2002 to direct the Secretary to establish a battlefield land acquisition grant program, and authorized an annual appropriation of $10,000,000 to provide

grants to state and local governments to acquire interests in eligible Civil War battlefields for their preservation and protection. This program is authorized through FY 2021. Additionally, in 2014, Congress expanded eligibility for the established battlefield land acquisition program to qualifying sites identified in the National Park Service's report on the Revolutionary War and War of 1812.

The ABPP annually awards Battlefield Preservation Planning Grants to Federal, state, tribal, and local governments and nonprofit/educational institutions to support planning and preservation projects, including interpretation and education programs, at historic battlefields. Any battlefield on American soil is eligible for this grant source. Approximately 18 to 25 planning grants are awarded each fiscal year. Since 1993, ABPP has awarded more than 625 Battlefield Preservation Grants, totaling close to $22 million, for the preservation and interpretation of more than 300 battlefields in nearly every state and in four U.S. territories.

ABPP also awards money from the Land and Water Conservation Fund for Battlefield Land Acquisition grants to assist state and local governments in preserving threatened battlefields. Qualified grants, which require a dollar-for-dollar non-Federal match, are awarded on a rolling basis and prioritize significant and/or threatened properties. The program works with State Historic Preservation Officers to ensure that appropriate protections are legally executed to ensure the preservation of historic resources in perpetuity. Approximately 25 to 30 grants are awarded each fiscal year. The ABPP has awarded nearly 400 grants to date, totaling over $125 million. Through these successful preservation partnerships, the program has leveraged approximately $159 million in matching funds resulting in the protection of over 31,000 acres at 120 battlefields in 19 states.

We would welcome the opportunity to work with the Committee on amending the bill as described earlier in this statement.

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

STATEMENT OF P. DANIEL SMITH, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, EXERCISING THE AUTHORITY OF THE DIRECTOR, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BEFORE THE HOUSE NATURAL RESOURCES SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS, FORESTS, AND PUBLIC LANDS, CONCERNING S. 298, A BILL TO ESTABLISH THE SPRINGFIELD RACE RIOT NATIONAL HISTORIC MONUMENT IN THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

JUNE 19, 2019

Chairman Daines, Ranking Member King, and members of the Subcommittee, thank you for the opportunity to present the Department of the Interior's views on S. 298, a bill to establish the Springfield Race Riot National Historic Monument in the State of Illinois, and for other purposes.

The Department recognizes the important contribution to America's story that is represented by the resources related to the Springfield Race Riot of 1908; however, we do not support S. 298 at this time.

Establishing a unit of the National Park System could be one way to increase public awareness of the 1908 Springfield Race Riot, but it may not be the most appropriate or feasible way to do so, especially since there are several ongoing local management and interpretation efforts across the city to tell the story. In addition, at a time when the Department needs to devote resources to reducing the National Park Service's $11.9 billion deferred maintenance backlog and addressing other critical national park needs, it would be difficult to prioritize a new park unit without having a better understanding of how it would relate to other National Park Service resources and needs.

S. 298 would authorize the Secretary of the Interior to establish the Springfield Race Riot National Historic Monument after meeting specified requirements. The bill includes authorities for land acquisition and administration that are commonly included in legislation establishing a unit of the National Park System.

The Springfield site contains the foundations of five of the dozens of homes that were destroyed during the 1908 riot that engulfed the city. The riot was a multi-day affair, started by a white mob, directed against African American residents. The riot resulted in the lynching of two black men, assaults on many more, and the destruction of whole neighborhoods. The riot, trials, and aftermath of the events in Springfield drew national attention to racial violence and sparked direct action by many civil rights leaders.

The events in Springfield occurred in Abraham Lincoln's hometown, a few months before the centennial of his birth, and highlighted the lack of progress on race relations in America. In February 1909, leaders sparked by the Springfield riot formed the National Negro Committee, which would later become the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People

(NAACP). The Springfield Race Riot site is important for its association with the creation of the NAACP and contributes to our understanding of racial violence in America.

In 2018, Senator Tammy Duckworth and Representative Rodney Davis sent letters to the National Park Service requesting a reconnaissance survey of the site. A reconnaissance survey provides a preliminary assessment – though not a full analysis – of the national significance, suitability, feasibility, and need for National Park Service management of an area or site proposed for inclusion in the National Park System. A study team traveled to Springfield in April 2019 to examine the site and meet with archeologists, the NAACP, local officials, and other individuals. The National Park Service is currently in the process of reviewing the information collected during the site visit and finalizing the reconnaissance survey. Once the survey is completed, the Department expects to be in a better position to recommend ways to move forward on recognizing the site, which could potentially include authorizing a full special resource study, assisting local entities with marking and interpreting the site, facilitating research, or pursuing a combination of options.

Finally, should the Committee move forward with this designation legislation, we would recommend amending the site name to be "Springfield Race Riot National Memorial", which would be an appropriate title for a site that commemorates a historic event but where there is little in the way of extant resources. The title "national memorial" would also be in keeping with the standard nomenclature for units of the National Park System, which is not the case with "national historic monument," the title used currently in the bill.

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

STATEMENT OF P. DANIEL SMITH, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, EXERCISING THE AUTHORITY OF THE DIRECTOR, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BEFORE THE SENATE ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS, CONCERNING S. 327, 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.

JUNE 19, 2019

Chairman Daines, Ranking Member King, and members of the Subcommittee, thank you for the opportunity to present the views of the Department of the Interior on S. 327, 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 S. 327. We believe that the brave men and women who are disabled as a result of their service to our nation in the armed forces should be assured of their eligibility for free entrance to our national parks and other federal public lands. This legislation would provide that assurance.

S. 327 would amend the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (FLREA) to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to make the lifetime National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Pass available, without cost, to any veteran with a compensable or noncompensable service-connected disability.

Although veterans with service-connected disabilities are not specifically mentioned in FLREA, our nation's veterans who are disabled may already be eligible for a free pass called the Access Pass. This pass provides free admission for permanently disabled U.S. citizens, regardless of past military service, to parks and public lands that charge entrance fees. To be eligible for the free lifetime Access Pass, FLREA requires proof of disability as defined by the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

The Department is sensitive to concerns that there may be some confusion among veterans about whether the Rehabilitation Act's definition of disabled individuals includes veterans with any percentage of service-connected disability. By specifying compensable or noncompensable service-connected disabilities in the law, the intent of S. 327 is to affirm that any service-connected disabled veteran is eligible for the same pass as any other individual with a permanent disability.

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

STATEMENT OF P. DANIEL SMITH, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, EXERCISING THE AUTHORITY OF THE DIRECTOR, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BEFORE THE SENATE ENERGY & NATURAL RESOURCES, SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS, CONCERNING S. 389, A BILL TO AUTHORIZE THE SOCIETY OF THE FIRST INFANTRY DIVISION TO MAKE MODIFICATIONS TO THE FIRST DIVISION MONUMENT LOCATED ON FEDERAL LAND IN PRESIDENTIAL PARK IN THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

JUNE 19, 2019

Chairman Daines, Ranking Member King, and members of the Subcommittee, thank you for the opportunity to present the views of the Department of the Interior on S. 389, a bill to authorize the Society of the First Infantry Division to make modifications to the First Division Monument located on Federal land in Presidential Park in the District of Columbia, and for other purposes.

The Department appreciates the effort to recognize the servicemen and women who gave their lives while serving with the First Infantry Division during Operations Desert Storm, Iraqi Freedom and New Dawn, and Enduring Freedom, and does not object to S. 389. We note that although the modifications authorized by the bill are inconsistent with the Commemorative Works Act (CWA) enacted in 1986, the National Capital Memorial Advisory Commission has found that S. 389 appears to be consistent with the original 1924 purpose of the First Division Monument and with subsequent 1957, 1977 and 1995 Congressional authorizations for additional names.

S. 389 would authorize the Society of the First Infantry Division to modify the existing First Division Monument, located in President's Park, including placing plaques, and stone plinths on which to place the plaques, that list the names of the members of the First Infantry Division who died during Operation Desert Storm, Operation Iraqi Freedom and New Dawn, and Operation Enduring Freedom.

The First Division Monument was conceived by the Society of the First Division, the veteran's organization of the U.S. Army's First Division, to honor the soldiers who fought in World War I. The monument was dedicated on October 4, 1924, by President Calvin Coolidge. Since that time, it has been modified several times. In 1957, the monument was expanded in order to recognize the First Infantry Division soldiers who died in World War II. A Vietnam War addition was dedicated in 1977, and a Desert Storm plaque was included in 1995.

The First Division Monument is located in an area designated by Congress in the 2003 amendments to the CWA 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 First Division Monument's location within the

Reserve means that it is part of this completed work of civic art. As such, an addition to the existing monument would be inconsistent with this prohibition.

Furthermore, section 2(b) of S. 389 includes an explicit exemption from two sections of the CWA, section 8903(b) and section 8903(c). Section 8903(b) provides that memorials to an individual unit of an armed force may not be authorized, and that memorials are limited to those that commemorate a branch of the armed forces. The First Division is an individual unit of the Army. Section 8903(b) also provides that commemorative works to a major military conflict may not be authorized until at least 10 years after the officially designated end of the conflict. This time period has not elapsed for Operation Iraqi Freedom and New Dawn, or for Operation Enduring Freedom. With respect to Section 8903(c), this exemption does not appear to be necessary, as this section applies to non-military groups and individuals.

We also note that the national park unit where the monument is located is named President's Park rather than Presidential Park which is referenced in the bill's long and short titles as well as Sec. 2(a).

Finally, the Department notes that at the May 15, 2018, meeting of the National Capital Memorial Advisory Commission, the Commission reviewed H.R. 5424, a bill substantively identical to S. 389. It was the consensus of the Commission that while it ordinarily holds strictly to the CWA when evaluating proposed memorial legislation and would not support granting exemptions, particularly regarding commemorative works located within the Reserve, in this case it agreed that the legislation appears to be consistent with the original purpose of the First Division Monument and with subsequent Congressional authorizations for additional names. The Commission also recognized that the Society of the First Division has made every effort to respect the integrity of the Monument. Its conclusion was that it would be arbitrary to no longer permit the addition of names at this point. The Commission submitted a letter to the Committee dated August 2, 2018, providing their assessment.

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

STATEMENT OF P. DANIEL SMITH, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, EXERCISING THE AUTHORITY OF DIRECTOR, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BEFORE THE SENATE ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS, REGARDING S. 641, A BILL TO UPDATE THE MAP OF, AND MODIFY THE MAXIMUM ACREAGE AVAILABLE FOR INCLUSION IN, YUCCA HOUSE NATIONAL MONUMENT.

JUNE 19, 2019

Chairman Daines, Ranking Member King, and members of the Subcommittee, thank you for the opportunity to provide the Department of the Interior's views on S. 641, a bill to update the map of, and modify the maximum acreage available for inclusion in Yucca House National Monument.

The Department supports S. 641 with amendments described later in this statement.

S. 641 would include within the boundary of Yucca House National Monument a 160-acre parcel of land adjacent to the monument and authorize the National Park Service to acquire the parcel by donation. Yucca House, located in Montezuma County in southwestern Colorado, acted as an important community center for the Ancestral Puebloan people from AD 1150-1300. Due to its significance as an excellent example of a valley pueblo, Woodrow Wilson designated Yucca House a national monument by Presidential Proclamation on December 19, 1919. The monument is a largely unexcavated site that currently consists of approximately 34 acres. It is surrounded by private land and has limited access.

Currently, a county road that crosses private land is the only way for the public to access the monument. Visitor traffic and parking along this route interfere with the landowner's ranching operation, and the lack of signage to enter the park through this route causes confusion. The additional land that could be acquired under S. 641 would enable the National Park Service to provide an alternative route for public access. The Montezuma County Board of Commissioners passed a resolution in September, 2017, supporting the addition to facilitate access.

The expanded acreage would also provide access to several key archeological sites based on findings prepared by the Colorado Archeological Society. The National Park Service plans to continue archeological surveys of the area. It would allow the National Park Service to develop opportunities for the public to explore the social dynamics, ceremony spaces, and migrations of the Ancestral Pueblo community as well as the unique and unspoiled landscapes the site offers.

The Department recommends that S. 641 be amended to reference an updated map of the proposed boundary revision and to provide for the acquisition of the property prior to adding it to the boundary of the park. We would be pleased to provide recommended amendments for those purposes.

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

STATEMENT OF P. DANIEL SMITH, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, EXERCISING THE AUTHORITY OF THE DIRECTOR, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BEFORE THE SENATE ENERGY & NATURAL RESOURCES, SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS, CONCERNING S. 774, A BILL TO ADJUST THE BOUNDARY OF THE SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS NATIONAL RECREATION AREA TO INCLUDE THE RIM OF THE VALLEY CORRIDOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

JUNE 19, 2019

Chairman Daines, Ranking Member King, and members of the Subcommittee, thank you for the opportunity to present the Department of the Interior's views on S. 774, a bill to adjust the boundary of the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area (NRA) to include the Rim of the Valley Corridor, and for other purposes.

The Department recognizes that a special resource study has found that the expansion of the Santa Monica Mountains NRA proposed by S. 774 meets the National Park Service's criteria for addition to the National Park System. However, because resources are needed to reduce the National Park Service's $11.9 billion deferred maintenance backlog and addressing other critical national park needs, the Department does not support enacting this proposed expansion at this time.

S. 774 would expand the boundary of the Santa Monica Mountains NRA by approximately 191,000 acres of land within the area known as the Rim of the Valley Corridor, the mountainous areas that surround the San Fernando, Simi, and Conejo Valleys northwest of Los Angeles, partly contiguous with the Santa Monica Mountains NRA. The proposed Rim of the Valley Unit would be administered as part of the Santa Monica Mountains NRA and an updated management plan for the park would be required within three years of enactment. Provisions are included in the bill to ensure that the inclusion of the Rim of the Valley lands in the Santa Monica Mountains NRA would not interfere with specified existing uses.

The Santa Monica Mountains NRA was established by Congress in 1978 to help preserve and protect the natural resources of the Santa Monica Mountains and the adjacent coastline and provide outdoor recreational opportunities within the vicinity of densely populated Los Angeles and Ventura Counties. Within a boundary encompassing approximately 154,000 acres, the National Park Service (NPS) owns a relatively small proportion of the land—approximately 23,600 acres, or 15 percent. Altogether, 58 percent of the land within the boundary is in public ownership, including the NPS lands. The NPS coordinates actions with State and other public agencies that manage park lands through a cooperative management agreement, which allows all partners to realize cost savings and efficiencies. The NPS also partners with nongovernmental organizations to further the purposes of the NRA.

P.L. 110-229, enacted in 2008, directed the Secretary of the Interior to evaluate the suitability and feasibility of designating all or a portion of the Rim of the Valley Corridor as a unit of Santa

Monica Mountains NRA. The study area consisted of approximately 650,000 acres of land within the mountains encircling the San Fernando, La Crescenta, Santa Clarita, Simi, and Conejo Valleys. The study's preferred alternative, among four alternatives evaluated, recommended an expansion of approximately 173,000 acres of lands judged to have the highest concentration of resource values and recreational opportunities. The preferred alternative also recognized a limited role for NPS land ownership, as is the case within the existing national recreation area, and a continuation of the existing collaborative partnership-based management model. The study team conducted extensive public outreach throughout the study process and throughout the region, receiving approximately 7,200 comment letters during the study period; more than 90 percent of comment letters preferred a much larger alternative than the recommendation transmitted to Congress. The study was transmitted to Congress on February 16, 2016.

S. 774 differs in several ways from the study's preferred alternative transmitted to Congress. S. 774 would include a greater number of acres of land within the boundary, approximately 191,000, than the approximately 173,000 acres the preferred alternative proposed. Additionally, the bill would remove all properties contained in the 2016 recommendation that are identified by the State of California as containing oil and gas operations, as well as the Santa Susana Field Laboratory. These changes would eliminate any unintentional regulatory burden to gas and oil development and prevent the transfer of Federal lands at the Santa Susana Field Laboratory, and their associated facilities, including clean-up costs, to the NPS. Finally, S. 774 would add lands to the east of the City of Santa Clarita and in the western Santa Susana mountains for the purpose of regional trail connections.

If the committee decides to act on this legislation, the Department would like to provide an updated legislative map to reference in the bill, and a corresponding amendment. This map would show the Rim of the Valley Unit as an addition to the NRA, not as a substitution of the original NRA boundary.

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

STATEMENT OF P. DANIEL SMITH, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, EXERCISING THE AUTHORITY OF THE DIRECTOR, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BEFORE THE SENATE ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS, CONCERNING S. 849, A BILL TO PROVIDE FOR THE INCLUSION ON THE VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL WALL OF THE NAMES OF THE LOST CREW MEMBERS OF THE U.S.S. FRANK E. EVANS KILLED ON JUNE 3, 1969.

June 19, 2019

Chairman Daines, Ranking Member King, and members of the Subcommittee, thank you for the opportunity to present the views of the Department of the Interior on S. 849, a bill to provide for the inclusion on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall of the names of the lost crew members of the U.S.S. Frank E. Evans killed on June 3, 1969.

The Department regards with the highest reverence the sacrifice of the men and women who serve our country to protect our freedoms. While we appreciate the effort to recognize the service men and women who gave their lives during the Vietnam War, we defer to the Department of Defense (DOD), who has determined that the names of the U.S.S. Frank E. Evans do not meet the criteria for inclusion on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall. DOD has been responsible for determining the inclusion of names on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall from the Memorial's inception, and the Department supports and abides by DOD's decision.

S. 849 would require the Secretary of Defense to authorize the inclusion of the names of the U.S.S. Frank E. Evans lost crew members on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall. The Secretary of Defense would consult with the Secretary of the Interior, the American Battlefield Monuments Commission, and other appropriate authorities to address any space limitations that could affect the placement of additional names on the Memorial. The bill would also exempt the resulting actions from the Commemorative Works Act (CWA).

The Vietnam Veterans Memorial was dedicated on November 13, 1982, to honor the men and women who served in the Vietnam War. It chronologically lists the names of more than 58,000 Americans who gave their lives in service to their country. The Memorial includes the Vietnam Veterans Memorial "Wall", the "Three Servicemen Statue", and the "Vietnam Women's Memorial." There is also an "In Memory" plaque that recognizes the men and women who served in the Vietnam War and later died as a result of their service. The Memorial honors all who served in that conflict, but only the names of those confirmed by DOD as killed within the combat zone meet the criteria to be engraved on the Wall.

The story of the U.S.S. Frank E. Evans accident is a particularly tragic one in which 74 crew members lost their lives. On June 3, 1969, while in the South China Sea, engaged in Operation Sea Spirit with 40 ships of the Southeast Asia Treaty Organization, the American destroyer collided with, and was cut in two by, the H.M.A.S. Melbourne, an Australian aircraft carrier. The bow sunk in less than three minutes, carrying the 74 crew members to their deaths. At the time this disaster occurred, the Evans was located outside of the DOD's designated Vietnam War

combat zone. Therefore, when the Vietnam Veterans Memorial was dedicated in 1982, in keeping with DOD policy, the names of the Evans' lost crew were not included.

A letter dated December 19, 2016, from former Deputy Secretary of Defense Robert O. Work to former Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell, clarified DOD's position on the inclusion of the lost U.S.S. Evans crew members on the Wall. A key paragraph in this letter reads:

> "Notwithstanding the place of the EVANS incident as one of the most tragic of the Vietnam War period, her Fallen sailors do not meet the criteria for inscription of their names on The Wall; the EVANS was not operating in the defined combat zone of Vietnam at the time of the mishap. In conformance with these longstanding criteria for inclusion on The Wall, the Department has declined to grant the exception."

The NPS has periodically added names to the Memorial that DOD has determined to be eligible for inclusion on the Wall. These additions have been accommodated in the small areas of existing blank wall space. Currently, the amount of remaining blank space is extremely limited. A large-scale addition of names to the Memorial, such as those of the 74 crew members of the U.S.S. Evans, and the additional names that could come as a result of DOD expanding the area previously determined to be the combat zone, cannot be accommodated in the remaining space. If passed, S.849 would necessitate substantial modification, and possibly a wholesale replacement, of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall as it exists today.

The risk to the character and the integrity of the Memorial is heightened by the fact that Section 2(c) of S. 849 would entirely exempt the proposed addition of the 74 names from the CWA. Since 1986, the CWA has provided clear and helpful direction for the process for the siting and design of commemorative works, in Washington, DC. The exemption means that a substantial alteration to the Memorial could be made without the benefit of this process, which would not only be a threat to this Memorial but also would set a bad precedent for proposed changes to other important memorials and monuments on the National Mall.

The Department is sympathetic to the desire to memorialize the sailors who died in service to our country in the U.S.S. Evans accident. We are open to working with our partners and the Committee to explore other ways to properly recognize and commemorate the 74 U.S.S. Evans crew members who made the ultimate sacrifice, and we look forward to identifying a mutually supported approach to accomplishing that.

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

STATEMENT OF P. DANIEL SMITH, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, EXERCISING THE AUTHORITY OF THE DIRECTOR, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BEFORE THE SENATE ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS, CONCERNING S. 1152, A BILL TO PROVIDE FOR THE TRANSFER OF ADMINISTRATIVE JURISDICTION OVER CERTAIN PARCELS OF FEDERAL LAND IN ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

June 19, 2019

Chairman Daines, Ranking Member King, and members of the Subcommittee, thank you for the opportunity to present the views of the Department of the Interior on S. 1152, a bill to provide for the transfer of administrative jurisdiction over certain parcels of federal land in Arlington, Virginia, and for other purposes.

The Department supports S. 1152 with an amendment described later in this statement. The land transfer proposed in this bill, which involve Arlington National Cemetery and Memorial Avenue, were agreed to by the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of the Army.

S. 1152 would transfer from the Secretary of the Interior to the Secretary of the Army administrative jurisdiction over approximately 16.09 acres of land adjacent to and encompassing Memorial Avenue from the western side of the Route 110 overpass, to and including the hemicycle at the entrance to Arlington National Cemetery. The bill would also transfer from the Secretary of the Army to the Secretary of the Interior administrative jurisdiction over approximately 1.04 acres of land within Arlington National Cemetery near Arlington House, the Robert E. Lee Memorial. That would add nearby wooded land and one historic building to the National Park Service buildings already under Department of the Interior jurisdiction. The exact acreage and land description of each transfer would be determined by a survey found to be satisfactory by both Secretaries. Recreational access and use of the bicycle trail in the parcels proposed for transfer would continue as currently authorized after the exchange.

The Department recognizes that the Department of the Army is well positioned to satisfy both the day-to-day and long-term maintenance needs of Memorial Avenue. In 2018, the deferred maintenance figure for Memorial Avenue was calculated at $6.3 million.

Memorial Avenue and the hemicycle are components of the nationally significant, historic landscape that connects the Lincoln Memorial with Arlington National Cemetery. This grand design was envisioned by the 1901 Senate Park Commission - now commonly known as the McMillan Commission – as a way to promote closure and national healing in the aftermath of the Civil War. The Commission's plan called for a bridge and avenue that would visually connect the then proposed Lincoln Memorial with Arlington House located in the hills of Arlington National Cemetery. This connection would represent the symbolic and physical reunification of the North and the South.

Nearly three decades passed before the bridge and avenue were built, but their design bears the imprint of the McMillan Commission plan. The Memorial Avenue corridor - designed by the renowned architectural firm, McKim, Mead and White, was completed in 1932. It became, and continues to be, a monumental entryway to the Federal city and a formal, processional route to Arlington National Cemetery.

Memorial Avenue was constructed to perform an additional role as the "Avenue of Heroes." Seven memorials have been placed along its length since 1960: the 101st Airborne Division Memorial, the Rear Admiral Richard E. Byrd, Jr. Memorial, the 4th Infantry Division Memorial, the Armored Forces Memorial, the Spanish-American War Veterans Memorial, the Seabees Memorial, and the Women in Military Service for America Memorial, which is located at the hemicycle. There are currently several niches open along the avenue to hold future memorials. The avenue is partly enclosed by a hedge of American holly and flanked by rows of white oak trees. These now-historic plantings date back to the original design and construction of the avenue. Memorial Bridge, Memorial Circle, Memorial Avenue, and the hemicycle are listed together on the National Register of Historic Places.

Today, Arlington Memorial Bridge, Memorial Avenue, the statuary, and the cemetery entrance look much as they were originally designed, and their historic integrity is high. The iconic viewshed between the Lincoln Memorial and Arlington House has remained intact and unobstructed for more than a century, even as this now heavily used transportation corridor has been developed. The National Park Service relied on the established planning and design review process through the Commission of Fine Arts and the National Capital Planning Commission to accommodate the late 20th Century insertions of Highway 110 and the Metro's Blue/Orange line, that now seamlessly pass unseen under the avenue. Any proposed changes or additions to the corridor would continue to require review by these commissions.

As currently written, S. 1152 would transfer Memorial Avenue from the hemicycle to the western side of the Route 110 overpass. In this regard, we note that the map referenced in Sec.1(a)(2) is not the map that we believe the sponsor intended to reference. A subsequent version of this map dated February 11, 2019, shows the correct boundary lines and acreage amounts of the National Park Service land that is meant to be transferred to the Department of the Army under this bill. We would be happy to provide the Committee with the newer map.

We also note that the National Park Service currently maintains a relationship with the Women in Military Service for America Memorial Foundation as well as agreements with local governments that occupy or utilize the NPS lands proposed for transfer through easements or rights-of-way. The Department of the Army may need to assume aspects of these relationships once the land is under their jurisdiction. We are happy to work with the Army to address these issues through the transfer process.

Finally, the Arlington House, Robert E. Lee Memorial typically receives about 600,000 annual visitors, with 2016 being a banner year seeing over 1 million visitors to the site. The Memorial is also being rehabilitated thanks to a generous $12.5 million donation and is expected to reopen to the public in the spring of 2020. The only visitor access to the Memorial is through Arlington National Cemetery. We would like to work with the Army to ensure that National Park Service staff and our contractors working on the site have unrestricted access to efficiently perform their stewardship duties and that future visitors will continue to have reliable access to the Memorial.

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

STATEMENT OF P. DANIEL SMITH, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, EXERCISING THE AUTHORITY OF DIRECTOR, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BEFORE THE SENATE ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS, REGARDING S. 1582, A BILL TO ESTABLISH THE WHITE SANDS NATIONAL PARK IN THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO AS A UNIT OF THE NATIONAL PARK SYSTEM, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

JUNE 19, 2019

Chairman Daines, Ranking Member King, and members of the Subcommittee, thank you for the opportunity to provide the Department of the Interior's views on S. 1582, a bill to establish White Sands National Park in the State of New Mexico as a unit of the National Park System, and for other purposes.

The Department would like to work with the Committee on amendments to S. 1582.

S. 1582 would redesignate White Sands National Monument as White Sands National Park. In addition, the bill includes two provisions affecting the authority of the Secretary of the Interior to nominate the park to the World Heritage List: it would require the concurrence of each county in which the park is located before the Secretary submits a nomination for the Park to be included on the World Heritage List, and it would require that the Secretary notify the Secretary of the Army of any intent to nominate the park. The bill also includes language to protect existing rights, including water rights, existing permits or contracts, existing agreements, including those with the Department of Defense, and the jurisdiction of the Department of Defense regarding restricted airspace above the park. This bill also does not change the airshed classification of the park under the Clean Air Act.

White Sands National Monument was established on January 18, 1933, by presidential proclamation of Herbert Hoover under the Antiquites Act to preserve "the white sands and additional features of scenic, scientific, and educational interest". The monument is located in Otero and Doña Ana counties southwest of Alamogordo, New Mexico, at the northern end of the Chihuahuan Desert in the Tularosa Basin.

The redesignation of White Sands National Monument to White Sands National Park is consistent with the nomenclature patterns of National Park System areas. Units designated as national parks generally contain a variety of resources and encompass a large land or water area to help provide adequate protection of the resources. At over 143,000 acres, White Sands encompasses a large land area, and it protects a variety of distinctive resources, including a major portion of the world's largest gypsum dunefield. Among the most prominent features of the monument are the brilliant white dunes that rise up to 60 feet in some places and move as much as 30 feet per year. White Sands is home to more than 10,000 years of human history from which remain thousands of archeological sites, including gypsum hearthmounds found nowhere else on earth. The young gypsum dunefield, less than 10,000 years old, provides the ideal

conditions to study rapid adaption as observed in many white colored lizards, insects and rodents. In addition, White Sands is known as a mega-track site for its significant paleontological resources and the largest concentration of Ice Age megafauna fossilized footprints, including human footprints, in the Americas, and possibly the world.

In 2018, more than 600,000 people visited White Sands National Monument to enjoy a variety of recreational experiences and spent $32.2 million. This spending supported 443 jobs with a cumulative benefit to the local economy of more than $37.1 million.

The Department questions redesignating White Sands National Monument without also adjusting the boundary of the unit and putting into effect an exchange of lands between the monument and the White Sands Missile Range that has been under discussion for many years. We are also concerned about the bill's special requirements for nominating the site to the World Heritage List, as they would establish a unique process for this one potential site that would set a precedent for other potential sites. We would be pleased to work with the Committee to develop amendments that would address these issues.

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

STATEMENT OF P. DANIEL SMITH, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, EXERCISING THE AUTHORITY OF THE DIRECTOR, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BEFORE THE HOUSE NATURAL RESOURCES SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS, FORESTS, AND PUBLIC LANDS, CONCERNING S. 1705, A BILL TO AUTHORIZE THE EVERY WORD WE UTTER MONUMENT TO ESTABLISH A COMMEMORATIVE WORK IN THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA AND ITS ENVIRONS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

June 19, 2019

Chairman Daines, Ranking Member King, and members of the Subcommittee, thank you for the opportunity to appear before you to present the views of the Department of the Interior on S. 1705, a bill to authorize the Every Word We Utter Monument to establish a commemorative work in the District of Columbia and its environs, and for other purposes.

Although the Department recognizes the value of having a monument to the women's suffrage movement in the Nation's capital, especially as we approach the 100th anniversary of the passage of the 19th Amendment, we ask that the committee defer action on the bill until the organization that would be authorized to establish the memorial attains 501(c)(3) status under the Internal Revenue Code.

S. 1705 would authorize the organization named Every Word We Utter Monument to sponsor the establishment of a commemorative work that would honor the magnitude of the suffragists' 70-year effort to pass the 19th Amendment. The legislation suggests that the monument would depict specific design elements to include a sculptural portrait to honor suffragist leaders Susan B. Anthony, Elizabeth Cady Stanton with her daughter Harriot Stanton Blatch, Sojourner Truth, Alice Paul, and Ida B. Wells. The bill also identifies a preferred location of the monument as Area II – a geographic designation in the Commemorative Works Act (CWA), 40 U.S.C. Chapter 89 - near the Belmont-Paul Women's Equality National Monument and the Supreme Court. S. 1705 prohibits Federal funds from being used to establish the monument.

Although the monument description and location preference language are only included in the Findings section of the bill, they run counter to the spirit of the CWA. Congress crafted the CWA to provide for a review framework and for an approval process to determine design and location of commemorative works. The CWA process is critical to maintaining integrity in placement and design of our Nation's monuments and memorials in the Nation's capital.

Also, the CWA includes in the definition of a "sponsor" of proposed commemorative work "an individual, group or organization that is described in section 501(c)(3)…". While the Every Word We Utter Monument organization is in the process of attaining this official status, it does not yet hold this designation. We believe it would be wise for the committee to wait until the Every Word We Utter Monument organization can meet the definition of sponsor under the CWA before acting on this legislation.

The National Park Service is proud to be the steward of monuments, memorials and sites throughout the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area that educate the public about women's history and commemorating the lives and accomplishments of women. The Clara Barton National Historic Site, located in Glen Echo, Maryland, interprets the life of Clara Barton, an American pioneer teacher, nurse, and humanitarian who was the founder of the American Red Cross. The Mary McLeod Bethune Council House and statue, both located in Washington, D.C., commemorate Ms. Bethune's dedication to education, the value of universal love, and the wise and consistent use of political power in striving for racial and gender equality. Other National Park Service sites in the National Capital Region commemorate important female leaders like Eleanor Roosevelt, Lady Bird Johnson, the dedicated women of the Armed Services, and the suffragists who led and won the fight for the 19th Amendment at the Belmont-Paul Women's Equality National Monument. A memorial to the 19th Amendment, if authorized in accordance with the CWA, would be a fitting addition to the places in the Nation's capital where women's achievements and contributions are honored.

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

Senator DAINES. Thanks for your testimony, Mr. Smith, and thanks for being here again today.

In my opening statement I mentioned Senate bill 849, legislation that would allow those who perished in the tragic accident on the U.S.S. Frank E. Evans, including Williams Fields, to be honored on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall. According to your written testimony, the National Park Service (NPS) would defer to the Department of Defense (DoD) on this matter, allowing DoD to ultimately decide if the names of these 74 sailors belong on the Wall. Is that correct?

Mr. SMITH. That's correct, Mr. Chairman.

Senator DAINES. It is also my understanding the NPS worked with DoD on adding names and making corrections to existing names to the Wall in the past. Do I have that right?

Mr. SMITH. Yes, you do, Mr. Chairman.

Senator DAINES. And finally, should this legislation be enacted into law, what, if any, physical changes to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall does NPS expect would be required other than additional engravings?

Mr. SMITH. Senator, as you know in my prior testimony, I've dealt with the Vietnam Veterans Memorial since we put the spade in the ground to build it and was there the day President Reagan dedicated it, and I am a Vietnam Veteran. I arrived in country about a week after this accident on the Evans in 1969.

The Wall is in chronological order of how our 58,000 Vietnam Veterans are listed on it. There will be complications to chronologically put the crew of the Evans into it, in block in the timeframe that they perished in '69, will be a major change because it will have to change that chronological order.

I don't know all the details and, of course, we coordinate those with the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund, but this would require changing the various slates of granite that are there. And so, to add this many names has not been done before.

The way the monument was done, we've been able to add once MIAs are identified or whatever, there's been space for those. This inclusion will be a situation that technically will be hard to accomplish the way the Wall currently is constructed.

Senator DAINES. Thanks for your service to our country and your heritage too, as a Vietnam Veteran. We appreciate it, Mr. Smith.

Ranking Member King.

Senator KING. Yesterday we had some testimony about the Wounded Veterans Recreation Act and the concept of wounded veterans getting free passes to the park which everyone supports, including myself.

The question that arose is if there are wounded veterans in the car and there are six other people, do they all get free entrance to the park as well, at a time when we are struggling to try to cover the operational and maintenance costs of the park? Do you know what the rule is on that?

Mr. SMITH. Senator King, I have to tell you I should know that answer and I haven't been a superintendent who had those visitors. I'm not sure it's for the whole car. I think it's for the veteran and maybe one person who is with him. I'll have to provide that for the record, and I apologize that I don't have that answer.

Senator KING. I would appreciate that. I think it is a relevant question.

To be a little more specific, regarding the U.S.S. Frank E. Evans: The ship isn't qualified because it was not in the zone at the time of the sinking? Is that the issue? It was not in the right zone. It was on a training cruise. But hadn't it already been in combat?

Mr. SMITH. Senator, I believe you're correct. And I would not want to speak for the Department of Defense, but there are many issues on—there are many other incidents of people transporting to or from Vietnam that involve hundreds of names that, somehow, through that unbelievably difficult task that Defense has in their awards and casualties branch to make these decisions. Nobody wants to dishonor anybody's service in that war or any other war.

But there were criteria set up from the beginning of this and this one is caught, as the Senator said, Senator Cramer said, it is caught in a very strange, unique situation of being out of the combat zone at that time. And so, it's a criteria that Defense has set. I would not speak to the details of it, that would be their responsibility.

But I do know that ever since the memorial was dedicated in 1982, DoD has coordinated with the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund on every name that's been added to that Wall and this is following that same procedure.

So it's a tough decision, but it's one that DoD——

Senator KING. We really should hear from, on this issue, perhaps the Memorial Fund and Department of Defense?

Mr. SMITH. I think so, and especially from the Memorial Fund as they seem to be very concerned about what this would mean for changing the Wall as far as having to add an additional 74 names and then move all those plates down the Wall.

Senator KING. Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Senator DAINES. Senator Heinrich.

Senator HEINRICH. Deputy Director, most people all over the world are familiar with the White Sands themselves, the Gypsum Dunes, but can you talk a little bit about some of the other values at this National Park Service unit including, maybe, the paleontological resources that have made quite a bit of news in the last year?

Mr. SMITH. Senator, yes, it's actually a very unique site.

The size of it, first of all, 143,000 acres, covers 275 square miles. Because of this unbelievable mineral deposit there, a 10,000-year history is very evident there, not only of flora and fauna but of even human activity. And they're very interestingly preserved in the way that mineral exists there.

It's also interesting because of how various creatures have adapted to that environment. So it's a very unique area. And sometimes we hesitate when Congress wants to change a monument to a national park, but this one does meet all of our criteria in scientific, cultural and natural resources and size that does qualify it for National Park status. And of your 15 units in New Mexico, you only have one other one. So this actually is a very sensible approach to the unit.

Senator HEINRICH. In the time since Senator King was able to visit this unit, they have discovered human footprints placed inside

the footprints of a giant ground sloth that they were stalking at the time from thousands of years ago. So it really is a pretty unique area, and we are actively working to make sure that the land swap that the Deputy Director referenced is included in the Defense Authorization bill.

So thank you.

Mr. SMITH. Senator King, I have an answer for your question.

The Veteran's pass would allow up to four adults with an Access Pass or a whole car.

Senator KING. So it would allow a whole car.

Mr. SMITH. It does allow.

Senator KING. Thank you, I appreciate that.

Mr. SMITH. And that's why I have as good a staff as you all have.

[Laughter.]

Senator DAINES. Thank you.

I just want to note, last week we had Vice President Pence in Yellowstone National Park. He was in Montana on Wednesday and then they went down to Yellowstone National Park on Thursday. He made a strong statement about the importance of getting our deferred maintenance bill moved through Congress and the full support of the Administration which is great news.

It was wonderful to see the Vice President and Mrs. Pence there at Old Faithful and touring the park on Thursday, enjoying our wonderful national parks. And anyway, it is just always a good sign when you have the White House out in one of your national parks. So I know they had a great time.

Senator HEINRICH. Chairman? I hope they saw the Montana portion of the park.

Senator DAINES. They did and I do have to recognize, in fact, Wyoming does have the majority in their state, but we have a lot of the gateway communities. So that is how we balance it out. But you are exactly right.

Mr. SMITH. Mr. Chairman, if I could?

I need to mention that also the Secretary of the Interior here has been with all three of you in your states, in your parks in the very recent past. So he's been traveling on these same issues also.

Senator DAINES. Yes, it would be noted that Secretary Bernhardt and the Vice President were in Yellowstone National Park together, and Cam Sholly, our new superintendent there, did a great job as host, and Old Faithful went off right on schedule. That is why it is called "Old Faithful."

Senator KING. I also want to acknowledge Secretary Bernhardt came to Maine and visited some of our areas. We hope to get him back for Katahdin Woods and Waters, and Acadia, but we appreciate his willingness to come to Maine and listen to some of the issues that we have.

I also thought you might enjoy, being from Maine, during yesterday's hearings we had a list of all of the top ten visited parks in the country. Acadia was about seventh, but then it had the acreage of each park. And I did a little calculation. Acadia had the most visitors per acre by a factor of many times. Seventy-four people per acre as opposed to Yellowstone which was like two people per acre. I think the next one was Great Smokies which was around 20. But the point I was making was Acadia is a very heavily visited na-

tional park, particularly given its size. And I know you know it very well.

Mr. SMITH. I think we need to visit again very soon, Senator.

Senator KING. Anytime, you never have to ask me twice to go to Acadia.

Thank you.

Senator DAINES. I think it also highlights the part, the important point and the need to continue to invest in our national parks and deal with this maintenance backlog. We love our national parks and the visitation numbers continue to set records virtually every year, and why we need to move this legislation through during this Congress.

If there are no more questions for today, members may also submit follow-up, written questions for the record. The hearing record will be open for two weeks.

I want to thank Mr. Smith for his time and for his testimony today.

This hearing is adjourned.

[Whereupon, at 10:30 a.m. the hearing was adjourned.]

APPENDIX MATERIAL SUBMITTED

U.S. Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
Subcommittee on National Parks
June 19, 2019 Hearing: *Pending Legislation*
Questions for the Record Submitted to Mr. P. Daniel Smith

Questions from Senator Steve Daines

Question 1: Regarding S. 849, the Department's testimony defers to the Department of Defense, who has "determined that the names of the U.S.S. Frank E. Evans do not meet the criteria for inclusion on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall." Please provide a list, in cooperation with the Department of Defense if necessary, of all names that have requested placement on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall since its construction and were subsequently denied placement. In addition, please provide the reason each of these names were denied recognition on the wall.

Response: The Department of Defense (DOD) is the recipient of requests for additional names to be placed on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall (Wall). DOD makes the decisions on those requests on the basis of longstanding eligibility criteria related to loss of life within a defined combat zone. The NPS will seek to obtain information from DOD on records of requests for names to be placed on the Wall that have been denied.

We understand that in addition to the 74 sailors who died on the Evans, the DOD has identified more than 500 service members killed in incidents who would require similar consideration for inclusion on the Wall. In addition, it is our understanding that there could be thousands of requests for names to be placed on the Wall due to the many service members who died after their service in the Vietnam War, but possibly as a direct result of their service. These may include persons with such conditions as post-traumatic stress disorder, exposure to Agent Orange and similar chemicals, diabetes, cancer, and a variety of other diseases.

Question 2: Both NPS Management Policies and NPS Director's Order 18 detail the Department's policies related to wildfire management. As you are aware, S. 774, the Rim of the Valley legislation, is located in a very dense urban environment that is quite susceptible to catastrophic wildfire. Understanding that the Department chose not to support S. 774 at this time because of issues related to the deferred maintenance backlog, I would like to learn a little bit more about how, generally speaking, the Department currently addresses wildfire in densely populated areas? While we certainly want to provide more opportunities for outdoor recreation, how can the Department ensure that in doing so, we do not inadvertently increase opportunities for spreading wildfire?

Response: NPS wildland fire management programs rely on other Federal, state, and local cooperators when responding to wildfires, regardless of whether the wildfires are in densely populated areas or not. The NPS and other bureaus work with the states and local communities on mitigation and prevention activities such as the development of Community Wildfire Protection Plans, preseason planning meetings, mutual aid agreements, targeted hazardous fuels reduction projects, and educational programs. Some neighboring communities provide initial attack and fuels treatment services in certain park units, thus significantly increasing firefighting capacity.

U.S. Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
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The NPS recognizes the risk of human-caused fires associated with recreational activities, and as those activities increase, so does the wildfire risk. While we do our best to minimize those risks through wildfire prevention activities such as public outreach, signage, front and backcountry patrols, education programs, and area closures and fire restrictions during periods of high fire danger, it is not feasible to prevent all human-caused fires.

March 18, 2019

Dear Chairwoman Murkowski and Ranking Member Manchin:

We write to express our support for further consideration of S. 327, Wounded Veterans Recreation Act, by the Energy and Natural Resources Committee. S. 327 allows free access to disabled veterans to our national parks and other federal lands.

In addition to physical injuries, veterans often deal with mental health issues resulting from military service. Our public lands can provide a place of respite for our military transitioning back to civilian life from participating in outdoor recreation activities to contributing in volunteer opportunities. By providing free access to our national parks and other federal lands to our nation's disabled veterans, the federal government is giving back in a small way to these individuals and their families who have made huge sacrifices for our country.

The America the Beautiful - National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Pass is currently made available at no charge to, and for the lifetime of, any U.S. citizen or person domiciled in the United States who has been medically determined to be permanently disabled. S. 327 amends the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act to require the pass also be made available at no charge to, and for the lifetime of, any veteran with a service-connected disability. While the National Park Service broadly interprets those that have been medically determined to be permanently disabled, the additional authority to provide the pass to any veteran with a service-connected disability provides certainty for our injured veterans. The coalition supports expansion of the pass at no charge for our disabled veterans beyond the statutory definition of being permanently disabled.

We further encourage the Committee to work with the Appropriations Committee to enhance operation and construction accounts to provide the necessary accommodations for visitors with disabilities to our federal lands.

We sincerely hope the Committee moves this legislation forward to ensure more of our veterans have free access year round to our national parks and other federal lands.

Thank you for considering our views.

Sincerely,

1882 Project Foundation
Appalachian Trail Conservancy
Big Bend Conservancy
Chinese American Citizens Alliance DC
Coalition to Protect America's National Parks
Evangelical Environmental Network
Friends of Acadia
Mount Rushmore Society
National Park Hospitality Association
National Parks Conservation Association
National Tour Association
Scenic America
Sierra Club Military Outdoors
Southeast Tourism Society
St. Croix River Association
United States Tour Operators Association

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May 17th, 2018

The Honorable Martin T. Heinrich,
United States Senate
303 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510-3104

Re: S. 2797, White Sands National Park Establishment Act

Dear Senator Heinrich:

The Board of County Commissioners of Otero County is opposed to S. 2797, the White Sands National Park Establishment Act. We believe this bill is unnecessary and that significant questions about it have not been satisfactorily answered. We are also concerned with the process surrounding the introduction of the bill.

Boundary Adjustment

We do support one element of the bill: the land-swap between the Department of the Interior and the Department of the Army. At present, there are in-holdings inside the monument that belong to the White Sands Missile Range. The bill eliminates those enclaves. The exterior boundaries are also adjusted to improve the management of the monument.[1] We support these changes. They will benefit the monument, the Army, and the public.

Monument vs. Park

We do not support changing White Sands National Monument into a national park. The chief argument in favor of the change is that it will increase the number of visitors. Yet the White Sands are already the most visited of the twelve National Park Service sites in New Mexico, more visitors than Carlsbad Caverns National Park attracts. The data on the National Park Service's website show that in 2017 there were 612,468

[1] Jacqueline Devine, "County contemplates White Sands proposal: Monument could transition to national park," *Alamogordo Daily News*, Jan. 12, 2018, at A4.

visitors to White Sands National Monument and 520,026 to Carlsbad Caverns National Park.[2] Petroglyph National Monument, surrounded by the city of Albuquerque, had only 141,803.

Being a national park is no guarantee of popularity. Gates of the Arctic National Park had 11,177 visitors in 2017. The Statue of Liberty National Monument had 4,441,988. We question how or why the change in status would increase numbers when the monument is already popular.

The Headwaters Study Is Flawed

Your office has cited a study produced by the Headwaters Economics, Inc., that forecasts a sizeable increase in visitors to the White Sands if it becomes a national park. We are skeptical of the study.

Headwaters, a 501(c)(3) organization, is based in Bozeman, Montana, and bills itself as an "independent, nonpartisan" organization. Besides its distance from and unfamiliarity with Otero County and its people, funding for Headwaters comes almost exclusively from federal agencies and environmental organizations whose goals are anything but nonpartisan. In fact, the first sources of funding listed on the Headwaters website are the Bureau of Land Management and the U.S. Forest Service. There is something amiss when federal tax dollars are routed through a charity to produce a report that is used to lobby that same federal government.

The study produced by Headwaters is like all economic development studies: instead of working from first principles and following the evidence to a conclusion, the study works backwards from the foreordained result the funders wanted to see and searches for the theories, research, and evidence to support the desired proposition. Of course the study finds that changing White Sands into a national park will be an economic boon. These studies always say things like that. If they didn't, groups such as Headwaters would not get future commissions to do studies.

Correlation is Not Necessarily Causation

Headwaters's methodology was to look at the National Park Service's visitor counts at eight national monuments that became national parks and compare the number of visitors before and after the change in status. Because it finds that the visitation numbers were higher five years after the change in status at some of the parks, the same thing would happen with White Sands. But if one looks at the details, the report does not hold together.

The report looks at visitation numbers spread out over several decades. Arches National Park and Capitol Reef National Park were created in 1971. Death Valley National Park, Joshua Tree National Park, and Saguaro National Park were created in 1994. Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park was created in 1999. Great Sand Dunes National Park was created in 2000. Pinnacles National Park was created in 2013. So the park looks at visitation trends over a series of five-year periods spread out over nearly fifty years. The world of 1971 was very different from those of 1994 or 2013. It is not clear that the time sequences chosen are comparable.

[2] The statistics on visits to National Park Service sites come from https://irma.nps.gov/Stats/ .

Headwaters relies on the logical fallacy *post hoc ergo propter hoc*. As is taught in introductory statistics classes, correlation is not necessarily causation. The study assumes that a change to national park status is the sole variable in the equation. But there are a wide range of factors that could influence visitation numbers. For example, in the five years after Arches and Capitol Reef were made national parks, the Arab oil embargo caused the price of oil to quadruple, the stock market crashed, the Bretton Woods system collapsed, and the economy began the runaway inflation that would not be tamed until the early 1980's.

The study makes no effort to adjust for any variables besides park status. There are many factors that would affect visitation to a national park such as the cost of gasoline and travel, changes in consumers' disposable income, the amount of media coverage of individual parks, the quantity and quality of promotional efforts by state and local visitors' bureaus, the availability of guidebooks and maps for individual parks, changes in travelers' tastes and preferences, the availability of camping and recreational facilities at individual parks, improved highway access to individual parks, the availability of commercial air service near parks, and community resources such as hotels and restaurants near parks. We know that Headwaters is familiar with economic statistics. Its executive director, Ray Rasker, testified about such numbers to Congress about another of his organization's studies.[3]

Headwaters also assumes the national monument and the newly-created national park are the same thing before and after the change in status. That isn't necessarily true. Joshua Tree increased in area by about 50% when it became a national park. When Arches National Monument became a national park, the acreage was shrunk by Congress. Visitation numbers could be affected simply by the change in area of the site.

Even with its sole variable of monument status versus park status, the report fails to perform even the simplest of statistical tests on its data to show whether there is any statistical significance to the correlations it claims are present. The tools to perform statistical analysis are readily available. A spreadsheet in Microsoft Excel can be made to produce chi squares and correlation coefficients. It could be that the correlation the report touts is very weak and hardly more than what could be attributed to chance. We don't know as Headwaters fails to do the math.

Looking at the charts presented shows there is room for doubt. The report fails to give the actual visitor numbers for most years but instead presents a series of line charts. The report shows the peak year for visitors to the Black Canyon of the Gunnison was twenty-five years before it became a national park, that visitation since it became a national park in 1999 has never come close to the peak, that visitation initially decreased after the change in status, and that now, nearly twenty years later, visitation is slightly above the 1999 level.

At Joshua Tree, there was a decline in visitors soon after it became a national park and visitation remained steady for almost twenty years when it increased dramatically. According to the National Park Service website, visitation doubled from 2013 to 2017. But that has nothing to do with the change in status, Joshua Tree becoming a national park in 1994. Saguaro has had a negative trend in its visitation

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3 House Committee on Natural Resources, Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests & Public Lands, *H.R. 302, H.R. 758, H.R. 817, H.R. 845, H.R. 846, and H.R. 2147*, 112th Cong. (Washington: Government Printing Office, 2012), at 25.

since it became a national park in 1994. Only twenty years after the change in status did visitation reach the 1994 level.

The chart for White Sands shows the peak year for visitation was long ago. The National Park Service's data shows the peak was in 1986, when 666,879 visited. The lowest visitation since then was in 2007 when 437,042 visited. In 2017, there were 612,468 visitors, still well below thirty years ago.

Essentially the Headwaters report just assumes visitation will increase at White Sands. There is no evaluation of any factor that would lead to that assumption, e.g. consumer preferences, economics, the desirability of Alamogordo. It is simply *ipse dixit*, Bob's your uncle. Even if we assume it is correct, past performance is no guarantee of future results. The report runs with its flawed numbers and then uses them to project an illusory economic prosperity that has been picked up on by the press.[4] A similar study done by Headwaters in 2011 claiming local economies grew when a national monument was established near them was greeted with skepticism from congressmen when Mr. Rasker appeared before them.[5] The mayor of Escalante, Utah, who testified at the same hearing stated there had been no growth in his city after the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument was established.[6] Headwaters was commissioned in 2015 to study a proposed National Park Service site and found what it wanted to find, claiming a huge number of people would supposedly trek to the North Woods of Maine for the new park; Mainers were skeptical.[7]

There are serious questions about the methodology and biases of the Headwaters report and we think it is has little value in evaluating future visitation to White Sands.

Changed Status, Changed Rules?

We are concerned that changing White Sands from a national park to a national monument will affect operations there. For example, White Sands has been a popular filming location for Hollywood for decades.[8] Among the films that have shot there are the Stewart Granger version of *King Solomon's Mines* (1950), David Bowie's *The Man Who Fell to Earth* (1975), and *Transformers* (2006). Shooting here brings not only jobs and tax revenue from the filmmakers but it is free publicity for the beauty of White Sands. Hollywood is fickle and is easily swayed by financial concerns—witness the huge amount of filming in Georgia in recent years because of that state's incentives. We are concerned that the change in status will affect filmmaking here either from higher fees or increased regulation.

[4] E.g., "White Sands bill introduced: Sen. Heinrich: Park designation would boost local economy," *Alamogordo Daily News*, May 9, 2018, at A3, "NM's White Sands worthy of national park status" (Editorial), *Albuquerque Journal*, May 11, 2018, at A1, "Boosters press for recreation agency: Economics conference organizers see potential for more business, tourism," *Carlsbad Current-Argus*, May 11, 2018, at A3, "Outdoor economics conference highlights trends," *Las Cruces Sun-News*, May 13, 2018, at Z4.

[5] House Natural Resources Committee, *H.R. 302*, at 36-41.

[6] Id. at 33-35.

[7] Patrick Strauch, "Quimby's promises don't sound right: Roxanne Quimby's plan to donate 150,000 acres seem at odds with known data and the advice of Gov. Percival Baxter," *Portland Press-Herald*, June 21, 2015, at D4.

[8] National Park Service, "History of Commercial Filming at White Sands," Feb. 21, 2017, available at https://www.nps.gov/whsa/learn/historyculture/upload/History_of_Commercial_Filming_at_White_Sands_02_21_17_-1-5MB_PDF.pdf

Park Improvements

The Secretary of the Interior, Ryan Zinke, has repeatedly spoken about the $12 billion in needed work for National Park Service sites.[9] The Congressional committees with oversight of the National Park Service have held hearings this year on the work that needs to be done: the House Natural Resources Committee met on March 7 and the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee met on April 17.[10] We wonder about the backlog at White Sands. If the increased visitation predicted by Headwaters comes to pass, won't the additional wear-and-tear from those additional visitors aggravate the existing maintenance problems?

Unlike so many other National Park Services sites, White Sands does not have camping available for anyone other than backpackers. We believe that providing camp sites should be a priority for the National Park Service. Adding a campground would be an improvement that would draw additional visitors to White Sands.

We also believe that opening up road access to the north is needed. The former State Route 52 ran from U.S. 70 at Tularosa to Engle, near Truth or Consequences.[11] This was closed during World War II because of the Army and what became the White Sands Missile Range. Reopening this road would improve access not just to the White Sands National Monument but improve tourism throughout the region by making it easier to get to the Elephant Butte Reservoir.

Consultation With the Affected Counties

We are also troubled by the way the affected counties were consulted on this process. Tom Stewart, a Lincoln County Commissioner, was quoted in the press in December saying that you wouldn't introduce this bill "unless both counties, Dona Ana and Otero, agree."[12] Yet the Boards of County Commissioners of both counties are opposed to national park status and have been ignored. The Dona Ana Commissioners last year rescinded their predecessors' support for the national park.[13] Our concerns

[9] E.g., National Park Service, "National Park Service Announces Plan to Address Infrastructure Needs & Improve Visitor Experience" (Press Release), Apr. 12, 2018, available at https://www.nps.gov/orgs/1207/04-12-2018-entrance-fees.htm .

[10] House Committee on Natural Resources, "Oversight Hearing, Exploring Innovative Solutions to Reduce the Department of the Interior's Maintenance Backlog," available at https://www.energy.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/2018/4/full-committee-hearing-to-examine-deferred-maintenance-and-operational-needs-of-the-national-park-service, Senate Committee on Energy & Natural Resources, "Full Committee Hearing to Examine Deferred Maintenance and Operational Needs of the National Park Service," available at https://www.energy.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/2018/4/full-committee-hearing-to-examine-deferred-maintenance-and-operational-needs-of-the-national-park-service .

[11] Laurel T. Wallace, *Historic Highways in the NMDOT System* (Santa Fe: New Mexico Department of Transportation, 2004), 145, Herbert Ernst Ungnade, *Guide to the New Mexico Mountains* (Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 1972), 147.

[12] Diana L. Stallings, "White Sands' future could be as national park," *Ruidoso News*, Dec. 29, 2017, at A6.

[13] Diana Alba Soular, "County commission enters new era: First meeting of 2017 brings in changes," *Las Cruces Sun-News*, Jan. 11, 2017, at A2.

have been expressed at public meetings and reported on in the press.[14] We passed the enclosed resolution opposing the change to a national park.

But despite the opposition from the counties involved, your office decided to ignore county government and do an end-run by securing resolutions of support from the Cities of Las Cruces and Alamogordo.[15] Susan Payne, a city commissioner for Alamogordo, stated "I do not think we need to be writing a letter of support for this item. I think this went before the [Otero] County [Commission] and I know the county objects to it and this is really a county issue. I think the best thing we can do is nothing at all. I don't support this, my constituents don't support this and I'm not comfortable with this."[16]

You then announced the bill's introduction in Las Cruces, not here.[17] When you came to Alamogordo to speak about the bill—which the press reported as a "meet[ing] with community leaders"—the Otero County Commissioners were not invited to the event. A member of the Alamogordo City Commission, a Mescalero Tribal Councilman, the mayor of Mesilla, and three candidates in the 2018 elections for the Otero County Commission were invited. But the democratically elected representatives of Otero County were not.

This is not a new phenomenon. Last year, Representative Rob Bishop, Chairman of the House Natural Resources Committee, testified that local voices on the Bears Ears National Monument were being ignored.[18]

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[14] E.g., Jacqueline Devine, "County talks monument plans: Commissioners discuss national park designation for state's White Sands," *Alamogordo Daily News*, Dec. 21, 2016, at A2; Jacqueline Devine, "County considers park designation: Some commissioners, residents express concern over WSNM as a national park," *Alamogordo Daily News*, Mar. 13, 2018, at A2.

[15] Diana Alba Soular, "Las Cruces wants new national park: City in favor of asking federal officials to upgrade White Sands' designation," *Alamogordo Daily News*, Apr. 17, 2018, at A3; Tara Melton, "City backs upgrading White Sands: Bill would promote it to a national park," *Alamogordo Daily News*, Apr. 26, 2018, at A3.

[16] Melton, "City backs."

[17] "National park status sought to draw tourist dollars," *Las Cruces Sun-News*, May 5, 2018, at A5.

[18] House Committee on Natural Resources, Subcommittee on Federal Lands, *Examining the Consequences of Executive Branch Overreach of the Antiquities Act: Oversight Hearing*, 115th Cong. (Washington: U.S. Government Publishing Office, 2017), at 7-9.

Conclusion

The Board of County Commissioners of Otero County oppose changing White Sands National Monument into a national park because we believe it is unneeded. When it is not necessary to change, it is necessary not to change. We are not convinced by the research behind the bill. We believe there are issues that have not been addressed such as facilities at White Sands. And we are disappointed by the consultation process.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF OTERO COUNTY, NEW MEXICO

Lori Bies, Chairwoman

Susan Flores, Vice-Chairwoman

Janet T. White, Member

cc: Thomas S. Udall, United States Senator
Stevan E. Pearce, United States Representative
Dara Parker, District Representative for Senator Heinrich
Rene Romo, District Representative for Senator Udall
John S. McCain, III, Chairman, Senate Armed Services Committee
John F. Reed, Ranking Minority Member, Senate Armed Service Committee
Lisa A. Murkowski, Chairman, Senate Energy & Natural Resources Committee
Maria E. Cantwell, Ranking Minority Member, Senate Energy & Natural Resources Committee
Steven D. Daines, Chairman, Subcommittee on National Parks, Senate Energy & Natural Resources Committee
Angus S. King, Jr., Ranking Minority Member, Subcommittee on National Parks, Senate Energy & Natural Resources Committee
Mitch McConnell, Senate Majority Leader
Charles E. Schumer, Senate Minority Leader
Robert W. Bishop, Chairman, House Natural Resources Committee
Raúl Grijalva, Ranking Minority Member, House Natural Resources Committee
Thomas M. McClintock, II, Chairman, Subcommittee on Federal Lands, House Natural Resources Committee
Colleen Hanabusa, Ranking Minority Member, Subcommittee on Federal Lands, House Natural Resources Committee
Ryan K. Zinke, Secretary of the Interior
David L. Bernhardt, Deputy Secretary of the Interior
Jason Larrabee, Acting Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Fish & Wildlife and Parks
Paul Daniel Smith, Acting Director, National Park Service
Sue Masica, Intermountain West Regional Director, National Park Service
Marie Frias Sauter, Superintendent, White Sands National Monument
Eric L. Sanchez, Commanding General, White Sands Missile Range
Houston R. Cantwell, Commander, 49th Wing, U.S. Air Force
Susana Martinez, Governor of New Mexico
John A. Sanchez, Lieutenant Governor of New Mexico
Aubrey B. Dunn, Jr., New Mexico State Land Commissioner
William F. Burt, New Mexico State Senator
Ron Griggs, New Mexico State Senator
Cliff R. Pirtle, New Mexico State Senator
Zachary J. Cook, New Mexico State Representative
Yvette Herrell, New Mexico State Representative
Rick Little, New Mexico State Representative
James G. Townsend, New Mexico State Representative
Billy G. Garrett, Dona Ana County Commissioner, District One
Ramon S. Gonzalez, Dona Ana County Commissioner, District Two
Benjamin L. Rawson, Dona Ana County Commissioner, District Three
Isabella Solis, Dona Ana County Commissioner, District Four
Kim Hakes, Dona Ana County Commissioner, District Five
Fernando R. Macias, Dona Ana County Manager

Richard A. Boss, Mayor of Alamogordo
Jason Baldwin, Alamogordo City Commissioner, District One
Nadia Sikes, Alamogordo City Commissioner, District Two
Susan L. Payne, Alamogordo City Commissioner, District Three
Josh Rardin, Alamogordo City Commissioner, District Four
Alfonso Hernandez, Alamogordo City Commissioner, District Five
Dusty Wright, Alamogordo City Commissioner, District Six
Margaret Paluch, Alamogordo City Manager
Ken Miyagishima, Mayor of Las Cruces
Kasandra Gandara, Las Cruces City Commissioner, District One
Greg Smith, Las Cruces City Commissioner, District Two
Gabriel Vasquez, Las Cruces City Commissioner, District Three
Jack Eakman, Las Cruces City Commissioner, District Four
Gill Sorg, Las Cruces City Commissioner, District Five
Yvonne Flores, Las Cruces City Commissioner, District Six
Stuart C. Ed, Las Cruces City Manager
Bill Mershon, Chairman, Otero County Soil & Water Conservation District
Jerry Schickedanz, Chairman, Dona Ana County Soil & Water Conservation District
G.B. Oliver, Alamogordo Chamber of Commerce
Gregory J. Bose, Otero County Commission Candidate
Couy D. Griffin, Otero County Commission Candidate
Carrie I. Ludington, Otero County Commission Candidate
Christopher S. Jones, Otero County Commission Candidate
Gerald R. Matherly, Otero County Commission Candidate

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF COLORADO

June 16, 2019

Congressman Neguse, Senator Bennet, and Senator Gardner,

On behalf of the League of Women Voters of Colorado, I would like to commend you for introducing both House Resolution 473 and Senate Bill 1705 authorizing the "*Every Word We Utter"* Monument to be established as a commemorative work in the District of Columbia.

The Board of Directors of the League of Women Voters of Colorado unanimously voted to endorse and financially support the efforts of sculptor, Jane DeDecker, and the members of the Loveland community, including the League of Women Voters of Larimer County, in making this project become a reality. We are encouraging all Leagues throughout Colorado to join the effort and are actively promoting it with other organizations throughout the state and Leagues throughout the county.

Now is the time for more "real" women to be acknowledged and recognized for their contributions in making democracy work in our country. This sculpture, in celebration of the passage of the 19th Amendment, will be a wonderful tribute to the women who fought to make this happen.

Please let us know how the League of Women Voters of Colorado can help in supporting the "*Every Work We Utter"* project as this legislation moves through the authorization process.

Thank you for your service to the State of Colorado.

Ruth Stemler, President

Ruth Stemler

League of Women Voter of Colorado

1410 Grant St B204, Denver, CO 80203
303-863-0437 • info@lwvcolorado.org • www.lwvcolorado.org

League of Women Voters of Larimer County

Congressman Neguse, Senator Bennet, and Senator Gardner,

On behalf of the League of Women Voters of Larimer County, I would like to commend each of you for introducing House Resolution 473 and Senate Bill 1705 authorizing the *Every Word We Utter* Monument to be established as a commemorative work in the District of Columbia.

Members of our League who reside in Loveland and Fort Collins have been very interested in Jane DeDecker's project and are monitoring its progress. Three members of our Administrative team visited DeDecker's studio in February to meet with the sculptor and Jody Shadduck-McNally, the project manager. We were impressed with DeDecker's work and resume, as well as her depth of knowledge of the women's suffrage movement and her passion for creating an impressive and suitable artistic memorial to be placed in our nation's capital. These two women have done a remarkable job in laying the groundwork for this memorial.

Because DeDecker resides and works in Larimer County, our League plans to move forward with appropriate measures to support this legislation and the project. Members have contacted the League of Women Voters of Colorado, who have also voiced support. It is our hope that the twenty Leagues throughout Colorado will join our efforts. We are also in contact with the League of Women Voters of the U.S. regarding the legislation.

Please let us know how we can help in supporting the *Every Word We Utter* project as this legislation moves through the authorization process.

Thanks also to each of you for your public service on behalf of the state of Colorado and our nation.

Anne C Thompson

Anne C Thompson, Spokesperson
League of Women Voters of Larimer County



6-13-19

To Senator Cory Gardner ,

The NOCO NOW (National Organization for Women) are requesting congressional support of SR 1705 that was sponsored on June 4, 2019 by Colorado Senators Cory Gardner and Michael Bennet to introduce legislation to establish placement of **Every Word We Utter** monument in The District of Columbia. A hearing has been scheduled for June 19 at 10:30. A house bill **HR 473** sponsored by Rep. Neguse, Joe [D-CO-2] was introduced 01/10/2019 with the hearing on May 22,2019. The Bill is to establish the **"Every Word We Utter"** monument to in the District of Columbia.as a tribute to the seven-decade effort to pass the 19th Amendment. The sculpture placement will be in time for the **100 Th Anniversary** of the ratification giving the women the right to vote for the celebration on August 18, 2020. This is a sculptural portrait honoring Susan B. Anthony, Elizabeth Cady Stanton with her daughter Harriet Stanton Blatch, Soujurner Truth, Alice Paul, and Ida B. Wells. Under the Commemorative Works Act, the sculpture can be donated to the National Park Service with Congressional Authorization. This bill would authorize the private donation and would not cost anything to the Federal government.

Jane DeDecker is the sculptor, a Loveland, Colorado resident, who was deeply inspired by the words of Elizabeth Cady Stanton, "Every word we utter, every act we perform wafts into innumerable circles beyond…" and the courageous persistence of the women who fought for and created constitutional change securing the right to vote for all women. A representation of the Declaration of Sentiments, from the 1848 Seneca Falls Convention, is included in the design along with a depiction of the 19th Amendment Ratification Flag that Alice Paul, National Chairman of the Woman's Party, unfurled from the balcony of Suffrage headquarters in Washington, DC when Tennessee, the 36th State, ratified the 19th Amendment on August 18, 1920.

This monument will speak to the long, continuing struggle for women's rights and equality while highlighting the inclusive, multi-woman effort for the Centennial Celebration of the passage of the 19th Amendment.

We are asking for congressional support and join Senators Cory Gardner and Michael Bennet votes on **SR 1705**. For more information please contact: Patricia : Patricia_Ordaz@bennet.senate.gov and Jared Jared_Soncrant@gardner.senate.gov Katie Wallace (katie.wallace@mail.house.gov) in Rep. Neguse's office.

The NOCO NOW chapter has endorsed this project.

Thank you.
NOCO NOW Board Members
Annmarie Izuel Evans / Jennifer Guthals
Rosemary Rader/ Claudia Parker
PO Box 1621
Ft Collins, CO 80522

Statement for the Hearing Record: Senator Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH)
Senate Energy and Natural Resources Subcommittee on National Parks
Hearing on National Parks Legislation
116th Congress
June 19, 2019

Chairman Daines, Ranking Member King and Members of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Subcommittee on National Parks:

Thank you for holding this hearing today to review legislation critical to the preservation of our public lands and the historic and cultural resources of the Nation. I am pleased that the Subcommittee has decided to focus on one of my bipartisan bills during today's hearing: the Wounded Veterans Recreation Act (S.327). In addition to my statement, I would also ask that the Subcommittee include in the hearing record letters I have received in support of S.327.

The Wounded Veterans Recreation Act, which I introduced with Senator Collins, would provide veterans living with service-connected disabilities free, lifetime access to enjoy our national parks and other federal lands, thereby giving military men and women the opportunity to enjoy the American land they fought and sacrificed to protect.

As this Subcommittee knows so well, national parks and public lands protect the best of our natural and cultural heritage. These protected areas attract millions of visitors annually, help protect our nation's wildlife and majestic forests, and contribute to our economic and social wellbeing. Although their primary purpose is conservation, federal lands also deliver invaluable mental, physical and societal health benefits to Americans. For our veterans, access to national parks and federal recreation sites is also vital to rehabilitation.

For many veterans, the transition back to civilian life is often difficult. In addition to coping with physical injuries, veterans often must deal with mental health issues, including depression, trauma, anxiety and post-traumatic stress disorder. Public lands provide much-needed respite for military families and allow for non-traditional methods of recovery, such as nature-based recreation, to help veterans cope with transitioning to civilian life. In fact, a 2013 study from the University of Michigan found that veterans participating in extended outdoor recreation activities showed signs of improved mental health, with those experiencing the most severe on-going health issues benefiting the most [1]. A 2018 study from the University of California, Berkeley further showed that outdoor-recreation therapy is effective at reducing stress among veterans [2]. Given the numerous benefits, it is essential that military men and women who have fought and sacrificed to protect America be allowed to more easily access our nation's parks and recreational lands.

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1 Duvall, Jason and Rachel Kaplan. (2013). *Exploring the Benefits of Outdoor Experiences on Veterans: Report prepared for the Sierra Club Military Families and Veterans Initiative*. Retrieved from: http://www.sierraclub.org/military/downloads/Michigan-Final-Research-Report.pdf

2 Anderson, C. L., Monroy, M., & Keltner, D. (2018). Awe in nature heals: Evidence from military veterans, at-risk youth, and college students. *Emotion, 18*(8), 1195-1202.

Under current law, a lifetime America the Beautiful–the National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Pass (Lands Pass) is available to any U.S. citizen "who has been medically determined to be permanently disabled" (16 U.SC. 6804). The definition includes "a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities of such individual."(42 U.S.C. 12102). Major life activities include: caring for oneself, performing manual tasks, seeing, hearing, speaking and breathing. This definition sets a relatively high bar for qualification.

The National Park Service currently interprets that authority to include certain disabled veterans. However, there are significant differences between the statutory definitions for 'permanently disabled' among civilians and veterans with service-connected injuries under Title 38. Lack of statutory guidance has required the agency to make broad judgements about eligibility for veterans.

As a result, it is unclear to what degree disabled veterans can access the program. For example, many veterans are initially diagnosed with a service-connected injury but given a disability rating of zero. The diagnosis serves as recognition by the Department of Veterans Affairs that the veteran was injured while serving in the military though the severity does not yet merit disability payments. Many veterans receive this initial diagnosis and are later awarded a higher rating as the injury worsens over time.

My legislation clarifies existing statutory language and codifies the current practice of the National Parks Service to ensure that all wounded veterans are eligible for free, lifetime access to America's outdoor recreational treasures. Specifically, the Wounded Veterans Recreation Act would amend the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act to make the Lands Pass available, without cost, to a veteran with a service-connected disability. This legislation has received broad support from veteran and conservation groups, including the Vet Voice Foundation, the Sierra Club Military Outdoors, the Wilderness Society and the National Parks Conservation Association.

I was pleased to support the John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act that was signed into law on March 12, 2019, and congratulate the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources on advancing a bipartisan package of public lands bills that will advance our nation's conservation efforts. As this Subcommittee reviews initiatives that will build upon this work, I urge its consideration of the Wounded Veterans Recreation Act. We owe it to our returning servicemen and women to do all we can to help them recover from the pain and suffering experienced in war. This legislation will honor the service of our veterans who have all earned the right to free, lifetime access to our national treasures.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of my bill. I look forward to working with the Committee to advance this piece of legislation.

March 13, 2019

The Honorable Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senator
506 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator,

The Vet Voice Foundation is a non-profit organization with a national network of over 500,000 Veterans, active-military and their families, dedicated to engaging in issues of civic importance, particularly in conservation. We are writing to express our support for your bill, the Wounded Veterans Recreation Act, which would provide veterans with less than 100% service connected disability, with a free pass to our national parks. Passing this bill will mean access for all veterans to over 2000 national parks, as well as covering their entrance fees.

Veterans have an important relationship with public lands. As a matter of heritage, we see these parks and public lands as a part of the homeland we defended while in uniform. And in that sense, a part of the stewardship is of invaluable cultural, biological, and scientific resources. We need them to ensure continued recreational access and enjoyment; to benefit our economy; and to ensure that future generations can enjoy these lands as we do today.

Perhaps more importantly for us, this is about protecting the Veterans and active duty military who find that public lands offer places to recuperate from the stresses of overseas service (such as PTSD), and to reconnect with family and friends, adequately reintegrating into civilian life after completing overseas missions. Our Veterans, need the Wounded Veterans Recreation Act.

We are committed to doing what we can to preserve and protect, by wholly endorsing the Wounded Veterans Recreation Act. Please know that the Vet Voice Foundation will continue to offer our

unflagging support for your efforts, and continue to make our voices heard for passage of this Act. Thank you so much for focusing your attention on creating greater veteran access to our public lands.

Sincerely,

Paul D. Eaton
Major General, US Army (Retired)
Managing Director, The Vet Voice Foundation

cc:

The Honorable Sally Jewell, Secretary, Department of Interior
The Honorable Christy Goldfuss,Managing Director, Council on Environmental Quality

Resolution No. 303

SUPPORT EFFORTS TO INCLUDE 74 SAILORS KILLED ON USS FRANK E. EVANS ON THE VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL "WALL"

WHEREAS, Public Law 96-297, (94 Stat, 827) authorized the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund to construct a memorial to honor and recognize armed forces service in the Vietnam War; and

WHEREAS, the memorial fund relied upon the Department of Defense to compile the list of names and the criteria for those persons to be memorialized; and

WHEREAS, as of February 1981, the Department of Defense established four distinct criteria for names to be included on the memorial; and

WHEREAS, the Frank E. Evans having just completed a long tour of shore bombardment off the coast of Vietnam was ordered to operate with a multinational SEATO (South East Treaty Organization) task force of 40 ships in the South China Sea. Exercise "Sea Spirit" was one of the largest exercises in the history of the SEATO and in a "Show of Force" demonstration to the North Vietnam and the Communist World. The nature of Sea Spirit was to protect and escort the convoy under various types of opposition. HMAS Melbourne an Australian air craft carrier led the task force. The exercise was cancelled when Melbourne & Evans came into collision. The 73 sailors from the Evans were listed as missing with one body recovered. The actual position of the collision was Latitude 08 degrees-59.2 N & Longitude 110 degrees-47.7 E this position corresponds to less than 200 miles South East of Vietnam mainland. The task force was on a base course 220 degrees; and

WHEREAS, Secretary of Defense shall (as defined in Section 101 (2), of Title 38 United States Code), veterans who died as a direct or indirect result of military operations in Southeast Asia and whose names are eligible for inclusion on the memorial. Congressman Adam B. Schiff presented evidence and petitions in an audience with The Secretary of The Navy Mabus. The evidence submitted of the tragic accident that destroyed the Frank E. Evans and killed 74 of her Sailors on June 3, 1969. The evidence included actual position, course and reason for being there, Secretary Mabus whole heartedly agreed. He is currently petitioning the Secretary of Defense, whose office serves as the final decision authority to review the case and consider the points we have raised; and

WHEREAS, the criteria for the Vietnam Service Medal and the criteria for the inclusion of the names on "The Wall" is the same. The Frank E. Evans was awarded the Vietnam Service Medal for the collision date along with the ships that came to her rescue. The ships that came to the Evans aid were USS Everett F. Larson DD830, USS Kearsarge CVS 33, USS Walke DD723, USS James E. Kyes DD787 plus tug Tawasa ATF 92. The tug was sent to pull the remaining after half of the ship to Subic Bay. The ships, the men on the ships and sailors killed on the Evans because where they were and why, earned the Vietnam Service Medal; now, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we fully support a favorable decision to the Department of Defense to include the 74 names on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. Passage of this resolution in no way commits any liability or costs to the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Submitted by Department of Arizona
To Committee on GENERAL RESOLUTIONS

APPROVED by the 115th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States.

The Wilderness Society

June 18, 2019

The Honorable Steve Daines
Chairman
Subcommittee on National Parks
Energy and Natural Resources Committee
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Angus King
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on National Parks
Energy and Natural Resources Committee
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Daines and Ranking Member King and Members of the Subcommittee:

On behalf of our more than one million members and supporters, The Wilderness Society (TWS) writes to express views on the bills being heard before the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources Subcommittee on National Parks on June 19, 2019. We respectfully request that this letter be included in the hearing record.

S. 298, The Springfield Race Riot National Historic Monument Act
TWS supports the intent of S. 298, the Springfield Race Riot National Historic Monument Act, sponsored by Senator Tammy Duckworth. It is important that our national parks and monuments tell the stories of all Americans and represent the full history of our country. The Springfield Race Riot resulted in the tragic murder of six African Americans, but the aftermath also spawned the creation of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). We support Senator Duckworth's efforts to recognize this history.

S. 327, Wounded Veterans Recreation Act
TWS supports S. 327, the Wounded Veterans Recreation Act, sponsored by Senator Jeanne Shaheen. This legislation would amend the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act to provide free lifetime National Recreational Passes to veterans with service-connected disabilities. S. 327 is an important way to facilitate veterans' access to the valuable and restorative experiences that our public lands offer. We urge the subcommittee to advance this legislation.

S. 641, The Yucca House National Monument Boundary Revision Act
TWS supports S. 641, the Yucca House National Monument Boundary Revision Act, by Senator Corey Gardner. Our National Monuments are among our country's greatest treasures. This bill is in line with the overwhelming majority of Americans who would like to see our national monuments protected or expanded and TWS supports these efforts.

S. 774, the Rim of the Valley Corridor Preservation Act
TWS supports S. 774, the Rim of the Valley Corridor Preservation Act, by Senator Dianne Feinstein. S. 774 would expand the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area by approximately 191,000 acres to include the area known as the Rim of the Valley Corridor. This boundary expansion would include critical wildlife corridors between the Santa Monica Mountain range in the West and the San Gabriel Mountains to the East. S. 774 is also important for its potential to enhance recreational opportunity for the communities of the greater Los Angeles region. We urge the Subcommittee to advance S. 774.

S. 1582, A bill to establish the White Sands National Park in the State of New Mexico as a unit of the National Park System, and for other purposes
TWS supports S. 1582, a bill to designate White Sands National Monument as a National Park, sponsored by Senator Martin Heinrich. White Sands National Monument is the largest and most visited National Park Service site in New Mexico, with approximately 500,000 visitors each year and more than $31 million in spending for the local economy in 2017. Not only is White Sands an important area for outdoor recreation and economy, it is also a vital cultural resource. The monument contains a diverse set of archaeological and scientific resources, including thousands of hearth sites preserved in the dunes where early inhabitants built campfires, the world's largest collection of fossilized tracks in gypsum, from saber-toothed cats and woolly mammoths to prehistoric camels, recently discovered Ice Age fossilized footprints and sloth tracks. White Sands is a stunning landscape that has important natural and cultural resources for local communities and visitors that deserves to be protected for future generations. TWS supports protecting White Sands as a National Park.

Thank you for considering our views.

Sincerely,



Drew McConville
Senior Managing Director for Government Relations
The Wilderness Society

Dear Chairman Murkowski,

We write to you today in support of HR 473/S.1705, "A bill to authorize the Every Word We Utter Monument to establish a commemorative work in the District of Columbia and its environs, and for other purposes." From 2019-2020, the U.S. will celebrate the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment and women's constitutional right to vote, and we urge you to commemorate this historic centennial and honor the brave suffragists who never gave up the fight for equality through the building of the first outdoor suffrage statue in our nation's capital.

The Women's Suffrage Centennial Commission (WSCC) was created by Congress in 2017 to "ensure a suitable observance of the centennial of the passage and ratification of the 19th Amendment to the Constitution of the United States providing for women's suffrage." Led by Chairwoman Kay Coles James, Vice Chairwoman Senator Barbara Mikulski, and a bipartisan group of women leaders, the WSCC believes that in establishing the *Every Word We Utter Monument* in Washington, D.C., our country will have taken a vital step towards commemorating the history of the 19th Amendment, celebrating the story of the suffragists who demanded equality, and educating future generations of learners and changemakers about the power of civic engagement.

Suffragists began their organized fight for women's enfranchisement in 1848 when they demanded the right to vote during the first women's rights convention in Seneca Falls, New York. For the next 72 years, women leaders lobbied, marched, picketed, and protested for the right to the ballot. Fully ratified into the U.S. Constitution in 1920, the 19th Amendment granted access to the ballot for 27 million American women and marked the single largest expansion of voting rights in United States history. Today, more than 68 million women vote in elections because of the women and men who waged and won the fight for the vote.

The *Every Word We Utter Monument*, which features suffrage leaders Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Harriet Stanton Blatch, Susan B. Anthony, Sojourner Truth, Alice Paul, and Ida B. Wells, tells the story of American democracy, of an unprecedented movement for change, and of the diversity of thought and action so often forgotten in the history of the fight for the vote. We urge you to support HR 473/S.1705 and believe that with this vital public art, we have the opportunity to share the story of the 19th Amendment and ensure that the legacy of the suffragists is remembered and celebrated for the next 100 years.

Sincerely,

Kay Coles James
Chairwoman, WSCC

Senator Barbara Mikulski
Vice Chairwoman, WSCC