

STATEMENT OF JOY BEASLEY, ACTING ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR, CULTURAL RESOURCES, PARTNERSHIPS AND SCIENCE, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BEFORE THE HOUSE NATURAL RESOURCES SUBCOMMITTEE ON FEDERAL LANDS, CONCERNING H.R. 1037, A BILL TO AUTHORIZE THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES MEMORIAL FOUNDATION TO ESTABLISH A COMMEMORATIVE WORK IN THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA AND ITS ENVIRONS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

April 11, 2018

Chairman McClintock, Ranking Member Hanabusa, and members of the Subcommittee, thank you for the opportunity to present the views of the Department of the Interior on H.R. 1037, a bill to authorize the National Emergency Medical Services Memorial Foundation to establish a commemorative work in the District of Columbia and environs, and for other purposes.

The Department supports H.R. 1037. The memorial authorized by this legislation would commemorate the commitment and service of the Emergency Medical Services profession. H.R. 1037 prohibits Federal funds from being used to establish the memorial.

The Commemorative Works Act (CWA), 40 U.S.C. Chapter 89, precludes establishing a memorial to members of the Emergency Medical Services profession as a group because the memorialization of members of a group may not be authorized until after the 25th anniversary of the death of the last surviving member. Therefore, our support for this proposal is based upon our understanding that this memorial will recognize the “commitment and service” of the Emergency Medical Services profession, not the organization’s members.

A memorial to honor the commitment and service of a profession is not a concept that is explicitly described in the CWA, and it does not fit the typical mold for commemoration under the CWA. However, there is a precedent for this type of memorial: the National Peace Corps Memorial, which Congress authorized in 2014. That memorial was authorized not to commemorate Peace Corps participants explicitly, which would be inconsistent with the CWA, but rather to commemorate the “mission of the Peace Corps and the ideals on which the Peace Corps was founded.”

At the September 14, 2015, meeting of the National Capital Memorial Advisory Commission, the Commission reviewed H.R. 2274, a bill nearly identical to H.R. 1037. It was the consensus of the Commission that the language was clear that the memorial authorized by the bill would not commemorate individuals or a group of individuals, and therefore was not inconsistent with the CWA. We agree with the Commission’s interpretation.

Finally, we note that H.R. 1037 provides that unspent funds raised for the construction of the memorial be provided to the National Park Foundation for deposit in an interest-bearing account as stated in 40 U.S.C. Section 8906(b)(3). This is a provision we strongly support including in all legislation authorizing memorials under the CWA.

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 JOY BEASLEY, ACTING ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR, CULTURAL RESOURCES, PARTNERSHIPS, AND SCIENCE, PARK SERVICE, DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BEFORE THE HOUSE NATURAL RESOURCES SUBCOMMITTEE ON FEDERAL LANDS, CONCERNING H.R. 1791, TO ESTABLISH THE MOUNTAINS TO SOUND GREENWAY NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

APRIL 11, 2018

Chairman McClintock, Ranking Member Hanabusa, and members of the Subcommittee, thank you for the opportunity to present the Department of the Interior's views on H.R. 1791, a bill to establish the Mountains to Sound Greenway National Heritage Area in the State of Washington, and for other purposes.

The Department recognizes that the Mountains to Sound Greenway National Heritage Area has been found to meet the National Park Service's interim criteria for designation as a national heritage area. However, in order to focus resources on reducing the National Park Service's \$11.6 billion deferred maintenance backlog and addressing other critical national park needs, funding for national heritage areas is not a priority in the Administration's FY 2019 budget. Under these circumstances, we believe it would be unwise to designate a new national heritage area at this time.

Most of the language in H.R. 1791 is standard for national heritage area designation legislation that Congress has approved in the last decade. However, the bill differs from such legislation in that it does not include an authorization of appropriations, or cost-share provisions. The absence of any such limitations could be interpreted to mean that the bill authorizes any amount of appropriations.

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

STATEMENT OF JOY BEASLEY, ACTING ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR, CULTURAL RESOURCES, PARTNERSHIPS, AND SCIENCE, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BEFORE THE HOUSE NATURAL RESOURCES SUBCOMMITTEE ON FEDERAL LANDS, CONCERNING H.R. 2991, A BILL TO ESTABLISH THE SUSQUEHANNA NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA IN THE STATE OF PENNSYLVANIA, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

APRIL 11, 2018

Chairman McClintock, Ranking Member Hanabusa, and members of the Subcommittee, thank you for the opportunity to present the Department of the Interior's views on H.R. 2991, a bill to establish the Susquehanna National Heritage Area in the State of Pennsylvania, and for other purposes.

The Department recognizes that the proposed Susquehanna National Heritage Area has been found to meet the National Park Service's interim criteria for designation as a national heritage area. However, in order to focus resources on reducing the National Park Service's \$11.6 billion deferred maintenance backlog and addressing other critical national park needs, funding for national heritage areas is not a priority in the Administration's FY 2019 budget. Under these circumstances, we believe it would be unwise to designate a new national heritage area at this time.

Most of the language in H.R. 2991 is standard for national heritage area designation legislation that Congress has enacted in the last decade. However, the bill's management plan requirements are missing some standard provisions.

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 JOY BEASLEY, ACTING ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR, CULTURAL RESOURCES, PARTNERSHIPS AND SCIENCE, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BEFORE THE HOUSE NATURAL RESOURCES SUBCOMMITTEE ON FEDERAL LANDS, CONCERNING H.R. 3045, A BILL TO AMEND THE NATIONAL TRAILS SYSTEM ACT TO EXTEND THE LEWIS AND CLARK NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

April 11, 2018

Chairman McClintock, Ranking Member Hanabusa, and members of the Subcommittee, thank you for the opportunity to present the Department of the Interior's views on H.R. 3045, to amend the National Trails System Act to extend the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail, and for other purposes.

The Department recognizes that the extension of the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail proposed by H.R. 3045 meets the criteria for inclusion in the National Trails System. However, due to the National Park Service's \$11.6 billion deferred maintenance backlog other critical national park needs, the Department does not support enacting an extension of the trail at this time.

The current Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail is approximately 3,700 miles long, extending from Wood River, Illinois, at the confluence of the Missouri and Mississippi Rivers, to the mouth of the Columbia River near present day Astoria, Oregon, following the historic routes of the expedition and passing through eleven states. The trail was established by Congress in 1978 as part of the National Trails System and is managed by the National Park Service. H.R. 3045 would further extend the trail by 1,200 miles, from the Ohio River in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, to join the currently established Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail in Illinois.

Public Law 110-229 directed the Secretary of the Interior to evaluate sites and segments in the eastern United States associated with the preparation and return phases of the Lewis and Clark Corps of Discovery Expedition to determine whether those sites and segments should be added to the existing Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail. The study was transmitted to Congress on February 27, 2018.

The study area included portions of the Mississippi River and the Ohio River, as well as multiple sites and overland routes passing through fourteen states and the District of Columbia. Twenty-five individual trail segments were evaluated, and of these, three were deemed nationally significant with respect to the Lewis and Clark expedition. Together, these three segments follow the routes of the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania to Wood River, Illinois and were critical precursors to the main expedition. The study also found that these three trail segments would meet the criteria for suitability and feasibility if their partnership potential is realized.

The Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail Extension Study estimated that the annual cost of operation for the extension would be \$300,000 to \$500,000 per year. This estimate included funding for additional NPS staffing of two FTE to administer the trail and create and monitor partnerships, expanded responsibilities for tribal and state consultation, environmental compliance, and interpretation and education opportunities. Any additional facilities and properties would increase park operational and maintenance costs. Additional funds for maintenance, repairs and capital improvements would be awarded through the National Park Service's competitive process, subject to servicewide priorities and the availability of appropriations.

The bill sponsor requested that the National Park Service prepare a legislative map to be referenced in the bill. We recently prepared the map and submitted it to the sponsor and this Committee.

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