

Committee on Natural Resources

Rob Bishop Chairman
Mark-Up Memorandum

April 24, 2017

To: All Natural Resources Committee Members

From: Majority Committee Staff – Terry Camp
Subcommittee on Federal Lands (x 6-7736)

Mark-Up: **H.R. 1073 (Rep. Don Beyer)**, To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to establish a structure for visitor services on the Arlington Ridge tract, in the area of the U.S. Marine Corps War Memorial, and for other purposes.
April 26 & 27, 2017; 1324 Longworth HOB.

Bill Summary

H.R. 1073, introduced by Congressman Don Beyer (D-VA-08), is a bipartisan bill that authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to establish a structure for visitor services, including permanent restroom facilities, near the U.S. Marine Corps War Memorial in Arlington, Virginia.

Cosponsor

Rep. Paul Cook (R-CA-8)

Background

The U.S. Marine Corps War Memorial (Memorial) located in Arlington, Virginia, honors “United States Marine Corps who have given their lives to their country since November 10, 1775.”¹ Based on the iconic image by Joe Rosenthal, the Memorial depicts five U.S Marines and a U.S. Navy corpsman raising the American flag on Iwo Jima during World War II.² The Memorial attracts over one million visitors annually and hosts several popular events including Summer Sunset Parades and the Marine Corps Marathon.³ Despite this popularity, the Memorial lacks basic visitor services such as permanent restroom facilities. Due to the high visitation numbers at the Memorial, the National Park Service (NPS) identified a clear need to replace the existing temporary portable bathroom facilities in favor of a more respectful and permanent solution.

H.R. 1073 authorizes the construction of a visitor services center that includes permanent restroom facilities and a small area for interpretative signage and materials near the Memorial. When Congress authorized the United States Air Force Memorial in 2001, the legislation

¹ National Park Service, “History of the Marine Corps War Memorial,” <https://www.nps.gov/GWMP/learn/historyculture/usmcwarmemorial.htm>

² National Park Service, “US Marine Corps War Memorial,” https://www.nps.gov/GWMP/playourvisit/usmc_memorial.htm

³ Ibid.

prohibited the creation of additional structures on the 25.32 acre parcel of land known as the Arlington Ridge tract that surrounds the Memorial.⁴ Congress did not intend for the prohibition to restrict a facility for public restrooms but rather wanted to keep the area surrounding the Memorial open and potentially available for future use by Arlington National Cemetery. Given the prohibition on construction, this legislation is necessary for NPS to move forward with the creation of a new visitor services facility. NPS intends to construct a non-staffed facility, designed to ensure a minimal impact on the open space around the Memorial, funded by a recent \$5.37 million donation to the Memorial from billionaire philanthropist David Rubenstein.

Representative Beyer introduced an identical bill, H.R. 4789, in the 114th Congress. On May 24, 2016, the Subcommittee on Federal Lands held a hearing on the bill, and on June 15, 2016, the Committee on Natural Resources voted to report the bill to the full House. The bill later passed in the House by voice vote on September 6, 2016.

Major Provisions

- Authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to establish a structure for visitor services, including permanent restroom facilities, near the U.S. Marine Corps War Memorial in Arlington, Virginia.

Cost

In the 114th Congress, the Congressional Budget Office estimated that implementing H.R. 4789, a bill identical to H.R. 1073, would cost about \$1 million over the 2017-2021 period, and all spending would be subject to the availability of appropriated funds.⁵

Administration Position

In testimony before the Subcommittee on Federal lands on May 24, 2016, the National Park Service expressed support for H.R. 4789, a bill identical to H.R. 1073.⁶

Anticipated Amendments

None.

Effect on Current Law

H.R. 1073 does not affect current law.

⁴ Pub. L. 107-107. 115 Stat. 1332. 28 Dec. 2001.

⁵ <https://www.cbo.gov/publication/51758>.

⁶ Testimony of Mr. Bill Shaddox on H.R. 4789, Subcommittee on Federal Lands Legislative Hearing on May 24, 2016, http://naturalresources.house.gov/uploadedfiles/testimony_shaddox.pdf