

STATEMENT OF SUE MASICA, ACTING DEPUTY DIRECTOR, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BEFORE THE HOUSE NATURAL RESOURCES SUBCOMMITTEE ON FEDERAL LANDS, CONCERNING H.R. 801, TO AMEND THE NATIONAL TRAILS SYSTEM ACT TO DESIGNATE THE ROUTE 66 NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

November 15, 2017

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. 801, to amend the National Trails System Act to designate the Route 66 National Historic Trail, and for other purposes.

The Department of the Interior supports this legislation and would recommend a technical amendment described later in this statement.

H.R. 801 would establish the Route 66 National Historic Trail, to be administered by the National Park Service. The trail would extend along the approximately 2,400-mile length of Route 66 from Chicago, Illinois to Santa Monica, California. The bill authorizes land acquisition from willing sellers but includes language that limits acquisition to no more than an average of one-quarter of a mile on either side of the trail, consistent with land acquisition provisions in the National Trails System Act.

The National Park Service currently manages the Route 66 Corridor Preservation Program, established by Congress in 1999 to recognize the contributions of Route 66 to American history. However, that program is scheduled to sunset in Fiscal Year 2019. The proposed national historic trail would support the continued preservation and commemoration goals of the existing program, but in a manner that is consistent with the goals and criteria of the National Trails System Act.

Route 66 was designated in 1926 as part of the first U.S. Federal Highway System and came to exemplify the role of the automobile in the technological, transportation, and commercial development of the United States in the 20th century. Route 66 has become a powerful symbol of America's social, political, and economic mobility and freedom. Every year, thousands of visitors, many from other countries, come to experience the mid-20th century American automobile-centered culture represented by Route 66. These visitors are vital to the economies of the numerous rural communities through which the route passes.

Public Law 101-400, enacted in 1990, authorized the National Park Service to study options for preserving and commemorating the nationally significant Route 66. As part of this broad review of options, the National Park Service also conducted a feasibility study that determined that Route 66 met the criteria for designation as a National Historic Trail. Congress, however, declined to designate Route 66 as National Historic Trail opting, instead, to create the Route 66 Corridor Preservation Program.

Through the Route 66 program, authorized in 1999 by Public Law 106-45, the National Park Service supports the preservation efforts of the Route 66 corridor by providing technical assistance, participating in cost-sharing programs, and making grants in the eight states through which the corridor runs. The National Park Service also acts as a clearinghouse of communications among the various entities interested in the preservation of the Route 66 corridor, and assists these same entities in developing local preservation plans to guide efforts to protect the most important or representative resources of the corridor.

The National Park Service's FY18 budget request includes \$270,000 for the Route 66 Corridor Preservation Program. This funding has been relatively stable over the life of the program, and the National Park Service anticipates providing similar funding if the program were to be reconstituted. In addition, designation would not change existing or ongoing maintenance practices of state and local Departments of Transportation.

We would recommend that the bill include a thorough description and map of U.S. Highway 66. We would be happy to work with the bill sponsor and the Committee to develop an appropriate description and map for reference in the bill if requested.

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 SUE MASICA, ACTING DEPUTY DIRECTOR, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BEFORE THE HOUSE NATURAL RESOURCES SUBCOMMITTEE ON FEDERAL LANDS, CONCERNING H.R. 2888, TO ESTABLISH THE STE.GENEVIEVE NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE IN THE STATE OF MISSOURI, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

NOVEMBER 15, 2017

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. 2888, a bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to establish the Ste. Genevieve National Historic Site in the State of Missouri, and for other purposes.

The Department supports H.R. 2888 and would recommend a technical amendment described later in this statement.

This legislation would authorize the establishment of the Ste. Genevieve National Historical Park as a unit of the National Park System to preserve, protect, and interpret the themes of French settlement, vernacular architecture, and community form and farming on the frontier associated with Ste. Genevieve, a city along the Mississippi River with a nationally significant history. Establishment of the park would be conditioned on the Secretary of the Interior acquiring sufficient land to constitute a manageable park unit and entering into an agreement providing that land owned by the state, the city of Ste. Genevieve or other entities within the Ste. Genevieve Historic District would be managed consistent with the purposes of the act. The national historical park would consist of a select portion of the larger historic district.

H.R. 2888 authorizes the Secretary to provide interpretive tours and education programs within the historic district. It also allows the Secretary to provide technical assistance and to enter into cooperative agreements to preserve significant sites related to the purposes of the park.

The Ste. Genevieve Historic District National Historic Landmark (NHL), established on October 9, 1960, is one of the oldest NHL districts in the country. This designation initially recognized the unique concentration of French vertical log architecture. Subsequent research identified the national significance of contemporaneous examples of British-American and German-American architecture that contribute to the compelling historical associations with French exploration and settlement of the United States' interior in the late 18th and early 19th centuries and with the American territory that was settled following the Louisiana Purchase.

Ste. Genevieve offers an unparalleled opportunity to provide public understanding and appreciation of the themes of French settlement, vernacular architecture, and farming on the frontier. Ste. Genevieve is unique in terms of the character, quality, quantity, and rarity of its resources. There is no comparably protected or managed area interpreting these themes.

The proposed national historical park consists of about 13 acres of a mix of publicly and privately owned historic properties encompassed within the Ste. Genevieve Historic District NHL.

The Ste. Genevieve special resource study, completed in May 2016, estimated the annual cost of operation of the site to be \$800,000 to \$1.2 million per year. This estimate included funding for NPS staffing of 6-12 FTE, for interpretive and educational programs, and for outreach. 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 service-wide priorities and the availability of appropriations.

There is strong support for the establishment of the historical park. The National Park Service received many letters supporting the establishment of Ste. Genevieve as a unit of the national park system.

Finally, as this legislation has evolved over the last two years, a consensus has emerged that the Ste. Genevieve unit should be designated as a national historical park rather than a national historic site. If this is the intent, we recommend that the introductory title be amended to refer to the establishment of the "Ste. Genevieve National Historical Park", rather than the "Ste. Genevieve National Historic Site".

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 SUE MASICA, ACTING DEPUTY DIRECTOR, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BEFORE THE HOUSE NATURAL RESOURCES SUBCOMMITTEE ON FEDERAL LANDS, CONCERNING H.R. 4266, TO CLARIFY THE BOUNDARY OF ACADIA NATIONAL PARK, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

November 15, 2017

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. 4266, to clarify the boundary of Acadia National Park, and for other purposes.

The Department supports this legislation. H.R. 4266 contains changes to H.R. 763, the original bill introduced on this subject, that address the Department's concerns about the original version's provisions on park boundary authority and traditional harvesting authority in Acadia National Park. We appreciate the willingness of the bill sponsor, Representative Poliquin, and the other members of the Maine delegation, to work with us to resolve these concerns.

Section 2 of H.R. 4266 would confirm in statute that the boundary of Acadia National Park now also includes the approximately 1,441-acre Schoodic Woods property that was donated to the National Park Service (NPS) in 2015.

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

We understand the concerns that have been raised about the use of this authority given that Congress passed legislation in 1986 establishing a "permanent boundary" for the park (Section 102 of P.L. 99-420). Section 2 would allay those concerns and we support this section.

Section 3 provides that, although generic minor boundary adjustment authority could not be used at Acadia, the National Park Service would have a park-specific authority to make technical boundary revisions and other limited boundary revisions involving up to 10 acres of land. The legislation additionally provides that all such revisions taken together may not increase the size of the park by more than a total of 100 acres over the size of the park on the date of enactment of this bill.

This provision will allow the NPS to address encroachments due to mistaken surveys, rationalize boundary lines, and otherwise resolve real-world land ownership dilemmas that have an impact on neighboring landowners. We understand the desire of the Maine delegation and the communities around Acadia to limit changes to the park boundaries established in 1986 and we appreciate the sponsor's pragmatic approach to this issue.

Section 4 would authorize the Secretary, subject to the availability of prior appropriations, to contribute \$350,000 to a regional consortium of local governments on or near Mount Desert Island that is established to improve the management of the disposal and recycling of solid waste. The 1986 law required the Secretary to contribute the lesser of \$350,000 or 50% of the cost of the construction of a waste transfer facility that would benefit the park as well as the local towns. This funding was never appropriated and construction of a facility is no longer needed, but there is local interest in converting the \$350,000 authorization for construction into a federal payment for municipal waste disposal. We support section 4.

Section 5 would permanently authorize the Acadia National Park Advisory Commission. The Department recognizes the important work of the Acadia National Park Advisory Commission (Commission). The Commission advises the Secretary of the Interior on matters relating to the management and development of the park. The Commission is composed of 16 members, ten of whom are appointed based on recommendations from the park's host communities including the four towns of Mount Desert Island, three Hancock County mainland towns, and three island towns.

Section 6 would prohibit the use of the 1929 authority, and authority under section 3 of the Act of February 26, 1919, to acquire land by donation outside of the "permanent boundary" established in 1986. The intent of this section is to ensure that the boundaries of the park cannot be enlarged beyond the lines drawn in 1986 through a donation of land, except for limited boundary revisions that are authorized through Section 3 of this Act. We support section 6.

Section 7 provides that specified lands that were part of Acadia and that were conveyed by the NPS to the town of Tremont, on Mt. Desert Island, for school purposes shall no longer be required to be used exclusively and perpetually for school purposes if the land is being used for public purposes, subject to the condition that use of the land shall not degrade or adversely impact the resources or values of Acadia National Park and that the lands shall remain in public ownership for recreational, educational, or similar public purposes.

Public Law 81-629 permitted the NPS to convey a parcel identified as NPS Tract 06-126 to the town to locate a new school. The town is now consolidating schools with a neighboring town and thus will no longer use this property exclusively for school purposes, but would like to retain ownership and continue to use the developed property for community purposes. This legislation would allow it to do so and we support this section

Section 8 provides that the Secretary shall allow the traditional harvesting of marine species in Acadia and outside of the park where the NPS has a property interest. The provision would allow for the harvesting of marine worms, shellfish, and other marine species (as defined by Maine Revised Statutes as in effect on the date of enactment of this act). The Department supports this provision to allow traditional harvesting of clams and worms in the intertidal areas of the park to continue.

Finally, Section 9 would require the Secretary to convey to the Town of Bar Harbor a 0.29-acre parcel of land for the construction of a solid waste transfer facility. The Department supports this section and the overall intent of the legislation.

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