



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
NATURAL RESOURCES
CHAIRMAN BRUCE WESTERMAN

To: House Committee on Natural Resources Republican Members
From: House Committee on Natural Resources Republican Staff
Date: Wednesday, November 20, 2024
Subject: Markup of 23 bills

The Committee on Natural Resources will hold a markup on **Wednesday, November 20, 2024, at 10:30 a.m. in room 1324 Longworth House Office Building.**

The bills to be considered include: H.R. 390 (Rep. Stefanik); H.R. 1395 (Rep. Fitzpatrick); H.R. 1584 (Rep. LaLota); H.R. 2685 (Rep. Owens); H.R. 2687 (Rep. Peltola); H.R. 3047 (Rep. Crane); H.R. 3173 (Rep. Amodei); H.R. 3971 (Rep. Hill); H.R. 4338 (Rep. LaHood); H.R. 4748 (Rep. Peltola); H.R. 5401 (Rep. D’Esposito); H.R. 6127 (Rep. Moore of UT); H.R. 6210 (Rep. Wexton); H.R. 6489 (Rep. Peltola); H.R. 6994 (Rep. Kim of CA); H.R. 7516 (Rep. Johnson of SD); H.R. 7938 (Rep. Bentz); H.R. 8012 (Rep. Waltz); H.R. 8308 (Rep. Harder); H.R. 8665 (Rep. Lucas); H.R. 8931 (Rep. Stefanik); H.R. 8946 (Rep. Matsui); and H.R. 9516 (Rep. Chavez-DeRemer).

Member offices are requested to notify Madeline Kelley (madeline.kelley@mail.house.gov) by 4:30 p.m. on Tuesday, November 19, 2024, to confirm their Member’s attendance at the markup.

I. KEY MESSAGES & TOPLINE ACTIONS

- Bills expected to move by regular order:
 - H.R. 3173 (Rep. Amodei), “*Northern Nevada Economic Development and Conservation Act of 2023*” and
 - H.R. 6994 (Rep. Kim), “*ROUTES Act*”
- Please note that H.R. 3173 and H.R. 6994 will have an amendment in the nature of a substitute (ANS). Members should ensure that amendments are drafted to the ANS.
- Bills expected to move by unanimous consent:
 - H.R. 390 (Rep. Stefanik), “*Maurice D. Hinchey Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area Enhancement Act*”;
 - H.R. 1395 (Rep. Fitzpatrick), “*Delaware River Basin Conservation Reauthorization Act of 2023*”;
 - H.R. 1584 (Rep. LaLota), “*Plum Island National Monument Act*”;

- H.R. 2685 (Rep. Owens), “*Technology Grants to Strengthen Domestic Mining Education Act of 2023*” or the “*Mining Schools Act of 2023*”;
- H.R. 2687 (Rep. Peltola), To amend the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act to exclude certain payments to aged, blind, or disabled Alaska Natives or descendants of Alaska Natives from being used to determine eligibility for certain programs, and for other purposes;
- H.R. 3047 (Rep. Crane), “*Apache County and Navajo County Conveyance Act of 2023*”;
- H.R. 3971 (Rep. Hill), “*Flatside Wilderness Additions Act*”;
- H.R. 4338 (Rep. LaHood), “*Route 66 National Historic Trail Designation Act*”;
- H.R. 4748 (Rep. Peltola), “*Unrecognized Southeast Alaska Native Communities Recognition and Compensation Act*”;
- H.R. 5401 (Rep. D’Esposito), “*9/11 Memorial and Museum Act*”;
- H.R. 6127 (Rep. Moore of UT), “*Modernizing Access to Our Public Waters Act*” or the “*MAPWaters Act*”;
- H.R. 6210 (Rep. Wexton), To designate the General George C. Marshall House, in the Commonwealth of Virginia, as an affiliated area of the National Park System, and for other purposes;
- H.R. 6489 (Rep. Peltola), “*Alaska Native Village Municipal Lands Restoration Act of 2023*”;
- H.R. 7516 (Rep. Johnson of SD), “*Purchased and Referred Care Improvement Act of 2024*”;
- H.R. 7938 (Rep. Bentz), “*Klamath Basin Water Agreement Support Act of 2024*”;
- H.R. 8012 (Rep. Waltz), “*Jackie Robinson Commemorative Site Act*”;
- H.R. 8308 (Rep. Harder), “*Nutria Eradication and Control Reauthorization Act of 2024*”;
- H.R. 8665 (Rep. Lucas), “*Supercritical Geothermal Research and Development Act*”;
- H.R. 8931 (Rep. Stefanik), To redesignate Saratoga National Historical Park as Saratoga National Battlefield Park;
- H.R. 8946 (Rep. Matsui), “*Reversionary Interest Conveyance Act*”; and
- H.R. 9516 (Rep. Chavez-DeRemer), “*Military Families National Parks Access Enhancement Act*”

II. EXPECTED LEGISLATION

H.R. 3173 (Rep. Amodei), “*Northern Nevada Economic Development and Conservation Act of 2023*”

Over 80 percent of Nevada, or approximately 56.3 million acres, consists of federal land.¹ The state's comparative lack of private and local land ownership creates significant challenges for rural Nevada communities. Because federal lands are not taxable, they hinder state and local efforts to provide critical services, such as law enforcement, firefighting, waste disposal, and

¹ Congressional Research Service, “Federal Land Ownership: Overview and Data”, Carol Hardy Vincent and Laura A. Hanson, February 21, 2020, <https://www.crs.gov/Reports/R42346?source=search>.

emergency response. H.R. 3173 is a comprehensive bill affecting federal lands in Washoe, Pershing, Douglas, Elko, Storey, and Lyon Counties in Nevada. The bill removes from the federal estate or permits the potential conveyance of more than 390,000 acres to help economically revitalize northern Nevada, create new job opportunities for its residents, and allow local entities the ability to manage land for conservation and recreation. Potential uses of the conveyed land include expanding state parks, flood management, water infrastructure, open space, residential development, road construction, and the resolution of checkboard lands. The legislation also transfers over 2,600 acres to the Washoe Tribe.

An ANS will be offered at markup making several substantive and technical changes to the bill. First, the ANS removes roughly 150,000 acres of wilderness designations and 50,000 acres of wilderness study area releases. Second, the ANS removes the Ruby Mountains Protection Act, a mineral withdrawal of more than 300,000 acres. Third, the ANS removes provisions related to White Pine County, Nevada, at the request of the County. Fourth, the ANS adds a new title that transfers 4,119 acres of federal land to Elko County and the City of Elko. Finally, the ANS incorporates substantial technical assistance and new maps from the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and U.S. Forest Service (USFS).

Hearing information, including testimony, may be viewed [here](#), and the hearing memo may be viewed [here](#).

Staff Contacts: Aniela Butler (Aniela@mail.house.gov) and Taylor Wiseman (Taylor.Wiseman@mail.house.gov).

H.R. 6994 (Rep. Kim of California), “*ROUTES Act*”

Wildfires, hurricanes, and other natural disasters increasingly threaten the federal lands that Americans rely upon for outdoor recreation. For example, in the past five years, wildfires negatively affected 23,750 trail miles, 1,360 climbing sites, and 1,708 miles of whitewater paddling runs.² Most recently, extreme winds caused by Hurricane Helene resulted in catastrophic damage to federal forests in states like North Carolina, with millions of trees leveled across more than 200 miles.³

Floods can wreak similar havoc on federal lands. In 2022, historic flooding in Yellowstone National Park severely damaged roads, destroyed homes, and felled trees, leading National Park Service (NPS) officials to warn that portions of the park could remain closed for a “substantial length of time.”⁴ Perhaps unsurprisingly, a 2023 report revealed that 18.1 percent of U.S. campers changed or canceled plans due to the disruption caused by natural disasters.⁵ The harm of these occurrences reaches far beyond outdoor recreationists, however, since prolonged

² Outdoor Alliance, “Wildfire and Outdoor Recreation in the West,” July 2023, <https://static1.squarespace.com/static/54aabb14e4b01142027654ee/t/649dcd388c9dbf73648c777d/1688063291777/WildfireAndRecreation-WhitePaper-OutdoorAlliance-Digital.pdf>.

³ Ducroquet et al., “Where the trees once stood,” November 9, 2024, <https://www.washingtonpost.com/climate-environment/interactive/2024/hurricane-helene-forest-damage-north-carolina/>.

⁴ Fox News, “Parts of Yellowstone could remain closed for ‘substantial length’ after flooding”, Julia Musto, June 15, 2022, <https://www.foxnews.com/us/yellowstone-closed-substantial-length-flooding>.

⁵ The Dyr, “2023 Camping Report”, <https://reports.thedyrt.com/2023-camping-report/>.

closures and reduced recreation visits put small businesses and the rural communities that rely upon them in serious economic jeopardy.

While nature plays a decisive role, the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process significantly exacerbates these costly and burdensome delays. In 2022, for example, USFS requested emergency authority to abate hazard trees in Region 5 (which covers California) prior to the completion of the NEPA process.⁶ Only by circumventing the usual NEPA protocols was USFS able to address nearly 80 miles of hazard trees and reopen “2.5 recreation sites” in five months that would have otherwise remained closed for over a year.⁷ This week, USFS announced it would again utilize this emergency authority to address “hazards to public health and safety, critical infrastructure, and to mitigate hazards to natural resources like streams flooded with wood debris or sediments” downed vegetation, and other fire hazards.⁸ While these actions were incredibly successful, they have not been expanded nationwide.

H.R. 6994, the “Restoring Our Unopened Trails for Enjoyment and Safety (ROUTES) Act,” would require federal land managers to prioritize reopening trails, campsites, recreation areas, and roads within three years of a closure caused by a natural disaster. If a site is not successfully reopened, USFS must report to Congress quarterly until such site reopens. To accomplish the reopening of recreation sites, the bill provides important streamlining tools, including a new categorical exclusion, that would expedite necessary restoration activities. These restoration activities include repairing damaged sites, removing hazard trees, mitigating soil erosion, and restoring drainage patterns. This bill would also codify existing emergency authorities being used to remove hazard trees in California and the Southeast to implement this successful tool nationwide. By providing new tools on a broad scale, the ROUTES Act will ensure federal land managers prioritize efforts to reopen popular recreation areas safely and on time.

An amendment will be offered at markup reflecting technical assistance from USFS.

Hearing information, including testimony, can be found [here](#), and the hearing memo can be found [here](#).

Staff contacts: Aniela Butler (aniela@mail.house.gov) and Brandon Miller (Brandon.Miller@mail.house.gov).

H.R. 390 (Rep. Stefanik), “*Maurice D. Hinchey Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area Enhancement Act*”

Established in 1996, the Maurice D. Hinchey Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area (Hudson River Valley NHA) was among the earliest NHAs designated by Congress.⁹ Following the Hudson River for 154 miles of its course through New York State, the Hudson River Valley

⁶ USFS, Decision Memorandum for the Chief, July 7, 2022, <file:///C:/Users/abutler1/Downloads/DecisionMemorandum.pdf>.

⁷ USFS, “R5 Post-disturbance Hazardous Tree Mgmt. Emergency Response Status of Implementation,” December 20, 2022, <https://usfs-public.app.box.com/v/PinyonPublic/file/1117031333691>.

⁸ USFS, “USDA Forest Service Uses Post-Hurricane Emergency Authority,” November 13, 2024, <https://www.fs.usda.gov/about-agency/newsroom/releases/usda-forest-service-uses-post-hurricane-emergency-authority>.

⁹ “About the Maurice D. Hinchey Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area,” Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area, <https://www.hudsonrivervalley.com/>.

NHA encompasses ten counties, 250 communities, and approximately 3 million acres of diverse geography, woods, and farmland.¹⁰ This vast region contains 107 distinct heritage sites, reflecting the Hudson River Valley’s natural, historic, and cultural contributions to the nation.¹¹ These include sites related to the American Revolutionary War, the Civil War, and the Underground Railroad.¹² Recognizing this region’s importance, H.R. 390 would expand the boundaries of the Hudson River Valley NHA to include all of Saratoga and Washington Counties. The proposed change would bring the federal boundaries of the NHA in line with the state’s boundaries.¹³ This bipartisan bill is led by Representatives Elise Stefanik (R-NY) Paul Tonko (D-NY).¹⁴

An amendment in the nature of a substitute (ANS) will be offered at markup to authorize a study of the proposed expansion of the NHA.

Hearing information, including testimony, may be viewed [here](#) and the hearing memo may be viewed [here](#).

Staff contacts: Aniela Butler (Aniela@mail.house.gov) and Jason Blore (Jason.Blore@mail.house.gov).

H.R. 1395 (Rep. Fitzpatrick), “*Delaware River Basin Conservation Reauthorization Act of 2023*”

H.R. 1395 reauthorizes the Delaware River Basin Restoration Program through FY 2030 and includes the state of Maryland in the authorizing statute. Since 2018, this program has awarded \$55.1 million in grants to 195 different projects, generating \$79.2 million in matching funds from grant recipients.¹⁵

The Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute (ANS) removes language that provides for a higher federal cost-share for projects in small, rural, or disadvantaged communities. Additionally, it includes language that prohibits the Secretary of the Interior from awarding grants to a Federal-state commission.

Hearing information, including testimony, can be found [here](#), and the hearing memo can be found [here](#).

¹⁰ “Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area: Overview & Boundaries,” Hudson River Valley Greenway, <https://hudsongreenway.ny.gov/hudson-river-valley-national-heritage-area>.

¹¹ “Hudson River Valley: Maurice D. Hinchey Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area,” Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area, 2024, <https://www.hudsonrivervalley.com/documents/nationalheritageareal-pdf>.

¹² *Id.* “Themes of the Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area,” Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area, <https://www.hudsonrivervalley.com/about/themes>.

¹³ Pub. L. No. 104–333, <https://www.congress.gov/104/plaws/publ333/PLAW-104publ333.pdf>. “Stefanik, Tonko Work to include Washington, Saratoga Counties in National Heritage Area,” The Office of Congresswoman Elise Stefanik, January 18, 2023, https://stefanik.house.gov/press-releases?ContentRecord_id=A7ABA6AB-C9FE-4F87-88B6-D6DF0A127206.

¹⁴ H.R. 390, 118th Congress, <https://www.congress.gov/bill/118th-congress/house-bill/390>.

¹⁵ Testimony of Kelly Knutson. House Natural Resources Committee, Subcommittee on Water, Wildlife and Fisheries. “Legislative Hearing on H.R. 1395, H.R. 5487, H.R. 6814 and H.R. 7020.” March 21, 2024. https://naturalresources.house.gov/uploadedfiles/testimony_knutson.pdf

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H.R. 1584 (Rep. LaLota), “*Plum Island National Monument*”

Located 100 miles east of New York City and approximately one mile from the tip of Long Island’s North Fork, the secluded Plum Island boasts a unique and mysterious history. Home to a historic lighthouse and a deactivated military installation at Fort Terry, Plum Island is perhaps better known for being the location of the Plum Island Animal Disease Center (PIADC), a U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) research facility that first opened in 1954.¹⁶ A joint endeavor between USDA and the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), the PIADC spent several decades at the forefront of research into contagious animal diseases such as foot-and-mouth disease and rinderpest.¹⁷ The high levels of security and secrecy on the island made it the subject of speculation and conspiracy theories, at one point being rumored as the origin point of Lyme disease and known as the “Area 51 of the East Coast.”¹⁸ In 2009, DHS selected Manhattan, Kansas, as the site of a new National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility (NBAF) to replace the PIADC.¹⁹ Congress directed Plum Island to be sold in 2008 before reversing course in 2020 when that requirement was repealed.²⁰ H.R. 1584 (as amended) would authorize a study of Plum Island to determine the suitability and feasibility of designating the area as a unit administered by the Department of the Interior (DOI). In conducting this study, DOI will also consider alternatives for non-federal protection of the area, consult with interested stakeholders, and identify any potential costs associated with federal acquisition and maintenance of Plum Island. This bipartisan bill is co-led by Representative Courtney (D-CT-02).

An ANS will be offered at the markup, modifying the legislation to include a study of Plum Island conducted by DOI rather than the designation of a national monument, as stipulated in the introduced version of the bill. Any potential designations following the study will require new, subsequent legislation.

Hearing information, including testimony, can be found [here](#), and the hearing memo can be found [here](#).

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H.R. 2685 (Rep. Owens), “*Mining Schools Act of 2023*”

One of the necessary components of a secure minerals supply chain is a trained domestic workforce. A need for a trained workforce is one of many obstacles to increasing U.S. mineral production, as the mining sector and related fields are experiencing more retirements than

¹⁶ Parks & Trails New York, “Save Plum Island”, July 25, 2019, <https://www.ptny.org/newsandmedia/e-news-1/2019/07/save-plum-island>. DHS, Plum Island Animal Disease Center (PIADC) Fact Sheet, <https://www.dhs.gov/publication/st-piadc-fact-sheet>.

¹⁷ Muller, Madison, “A Mysterious Lab Is Shutting Down. It’s the End of an Era for Biosecurity.”, September 8, 2023, <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/features/2023-09-08/plum-island-why-area-51-of-the-east-coast-is-moving-to-kansas>.

¹⁸ *Id.*

¹⁹ USDA, “National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility”, <https://www.usda.gov/nbaf>.

²⁰ Long Island Press, “Congress Blocks Sale of Plum Island in Covid-19 Relief Bill”, <https://www.longislandpress.com/2020/12/22/u-s-congress-blocks-sale-of-plum-island-in-budget-bill/>.

graduating students.²¹ In addition to rising retirements, higher education programs that offer curricula in mining, mineral engineering, geology, and similar courses of study are declining.²² Unless this trend is reversed, finding qualified individuals to explore for and produce mineral commodities in the United States will become increasingly difficult. This lack of personnel could majorly impact both the private sector and government agencies, such as the U.S. Geological Survey.

H.R. 2685, the “*Mining Schools Act of 2023*”, is an important step in rebalancing America’s mining workforce by building education programs and supporting student recruitment. This bill establishes a competitive grant program at the Department of Energy (DOE) to provide additional funding to accredited mining schools or schools in states where mining and mining support activities contribute at least two billion dollars to the state’s gross domestic product (GDP). These annual grants may be used to recruit students to the school and support various programs in relevant fields, such as mineral extraction, mine reclamation, refining and processing technologies, geological engineering, and supply chain analysis. H.R. 2685 is co-led by Rep. Costa (D-CA) and has a Senate companion led by Sen. Barrasso (R-WY) and Sen. Manchin (D-WV).

An amendment in the nature of a substitute (ANS) will be offered by Representative Stauber to make the bill compliant with House Floor protocols.

Hearing information, including testimony, may be viewed [here](#), and the hearing memo may be viewed [here](#).

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H.R. 3047 (Rep. Crane), “*Apache County and Navajo County Conveyance Act of 2023*”

Pinedale and Alpine are two small, rural communities in eastern Arizona surrounded by the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests. Pinedale, located in Navajo County, contains fewer than 500 residents, while Alpine, located in Apache County, has a population of just 141 people.²³ Both communities have struggled for over a decade to find space to expand their respective cemeteries, given the federal forest land that encircles them. Both cemeteries are located on USFS land and operate under special use permits. Without an expansion, the cemeteries will quickly run out of burial plots, and local families will be forced to travel long distances to bury their loved ones. H.R. 3047 would convey small parcels of land within the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests to Apache and Navajo Counties to expand existing cemeteries. In Alpine, the

²¹ U.S. Department of Commerce. A Federal Strategy to Ensure Secure and Reliable Supplies of Critical Minerals. https://www.commerce.gov/sites/default/files/2020-01/Critical_Minerals_Strategy_Final.pdf

²² National Research Council, “Emerging Workforce Trends in the U.S. Energy and Mining Industries: A Call to Action, National Academies,” pages 83-85, 2013, <https://www.nap.edu/catalog/18250/emerging-workforce-trends-in-the-us-energy-and-miningindustries>.

²³ Southwestern USA Hiking, “What is Pinedale, AZ famous for?”, Donna Yewchin, August 16, 2020, <https://www.southwesternusahiking.com/post/what-s-pinedale-az-famous-for>. World Population Review, “Alpine Arizona Population 2024”, <https://worldpopulationreview.com/us-cities/alpine-az-population>.

bill would convey the existing 2.56-acre Alpine Cemetery and an additional 8.06 acres of land adjacent to the cemetery to Apache County. Likewise, the legislation would convey five acres of USFS land to Navajo County, including the 2.5-acre Pinedale Cemetery. The additional land from both conveyances would be used to expand the cemeteries in the Alpine and Pinedale communities.

An amendment will be offered at markup reflecting minor technical assistance from USFS.

Hearing information, including testimony, may be viewed [here](#), and the hearing memo may be viewed [here](#).

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H.R. 3971 (Rep. Hill), “*Flatside Wilderness Additions Act*”

The Ouachita National Forest (ONF) is the oldest and largest national forest in the southern United States, spreading across nearly 1.8 million acres in Arkansas and Oklahoma.²⁴ USFS manages the ONF for various uses, including timber harvesting, wildlife habitat conservation, outdoor recreation, and resource protection.²⁵ Congress designated six wilderness areas within the ONF, which account for a little more than 65,000 acres, or 3.6 percent of the ONF’s total area.²⁶ This includes the 9,507-acre Flatside Wilderness area near the ONF’s eastern boundary.²⁷ H.R. 3971 would add four parcels totaling roughly 2,215 acres of ONF lands to the Flatside Wilderness. USFS recommended the inclusion of these parcels in 2021 after completing a Congressionally directed study.²⁸ Congress previously expanded Flatside Wilderness in the 115th Congress by 640 acres.²⁹ H.R. 3971’s additions include Forked Mountain, whose distinctive topography culminates in a 1,350-foot summit that offers panoramas of nearby waterfalls and streams.³⁰ Arkansas Governor Sarah Sanders, Arkansas Parks and Tourism, and the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission support the bill.³¹

Hearing information, including testimony, may be viewed [here](#), and the hearing memo may be viewed [here](#).

²⁴ “USDA Forest Service - Ouachita National Forest,” U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, <https://www.fs.usda.gov/ouachita>.

²⁵ “Ouachita National Forest - About the Area,” U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, <https://www.fs.usda.gov/main/ouachita/about-forest/about-area>. Debbie Ugbade, “Ouachita National Forest,” Encyclopedia of Arkansas, November 29, 2023, <https://encyclopediaofarkansas.net/entries/ouachita-national-forest-3148/>.

²⁶ “Wilderness Areas: Ouachita National Forest,” U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, September 2008, https://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/stelprdb5085891.pdf.

²⁷ Hunter Field, “U.S. Rep. French Hill proposes further expansion of Central Arkansas wilderness area,” Arkansas Advocate, June 13, 2023, <https://arkansasadvocate.com/briefs/u-s-rep-french-hill-proposes-further-expansion-of-central-arkansas-wilderness-area/>. “Ouachita National Forest - Flatside Wilderness,” U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, <https://www.fs.usda.gov/recarea/ouachita/recarea/?recid=10774>.

²⁸ On file with the Committee.

²⁹ H. Rept. 115-989 – Flatside Wilderness Enhancement Act.

³⁰ “Forked Mountain,” Explore the Ozarks, <https://www.exploretheozarksonline.com/activities/parksnature/nationalforests/ouachita/jessieville/flatside/forkedmountain.html>. Rex Nelson, “Rugged terrain,” The Arkansas Democrat-Gazette, January 29, 2023, <https://www.arkansasonline.com/news/2023/jan/29/rugged-terrain/>.

³¹ *Id.*

Staff contacts: Aniela Butler (Aniela@mail.house.gov) and Taylor Wiseman (Taylor.Wiseman@mail.house.gov).

H.R. 4338 (Rep. LaHood), “Route 66 National Historic Trail Designation Act”

Route 66, America’s best-known road, was commissioned in 1926 as part of the first federal highway system.³² Stretching from Chicago, Illinois, to Santa Monica, California, this 2,400-mile route played an essential role in American history. It helped refugees flee the Dust Bowl and served as a strategic military route during World War II.³³ Although the federal government decommissioned Route 66 in 1985, it remains a favorite American vacation pathway, connecting more than 250 sites and structures listed on the National Register of Historic Places.³⁴ Following years of sustained interest in the decommissioned highway, Congress authorized the Route 66 Study Act in 1990, which directed the National Park Service (NPS) to conduct a special resource study to present management and protection options for the iconic road.³⁵ Congress established the Route 66 Corridor Preservation Program in 1999, facilitating collaboration between private, nonprofit, and government partners to identify and prioritize Route 66 preservation needs.³⁶ The Preservation Program was reauthorized in 2009 for ten years and expired in 2019.³⁷

H.R. 4338, the bipartisan “Route 66 National Historic Trail Designation Act,” follows the expiration of the Route 66 Corridor Preservation Program by designating Route 66 as a National Historic Trail. Supporters of this designation believe that adding Route 66 as a National Historic Trail will better preserve historic resources, encourage public access, and facilitate local partnerships and restoration. H.R. 4338’s advocates view this legislation as timely, given that Route 66 will celebrate its centennial in 2026.³⁸ The bill contains provisions to ensure the trail will not create buffer zones, impede energy development or transmission, or result in eminent domain or land condemnation.

Hearing information, including testimony, on the version of this bill introduced in the 117th Congress may be viewed [here](#), and the hearing memo may be viewed [here](#).

Staff contacts: Aniela Butler (Aniela@mail.house.gov) and Jason Blore (Jason.Blore@mail.house.gov).

³² “Route 66: 1926-1945,” National Park Service, <https://www.nps.gov/articles/route-66-1926-1945.htm>.

³³ *Id.*

³⁴ “Demise and Resurgence of Interest in Route 66,” National Park Service, <https://www.nps.gov/articles/demise-and-resurgence-of-interest-in-route-66.htm>. “Travel Route 66,” National Park Service, November 7, 2022, <https://www.nps.gov/subjects/travelroute66/index.htm>.

³⁵ “Demise and Resurgence of Interest in Route 66,” National Park Service, <https://www.nps.gov/articles/demise-and-resurgence-of-interest-in-route-66.htm>.

³⁶ “NPS: Route 66 Corridor Preservation Program,” National Park Service, December 11, 2023, <https://www.nps.gov/orgs/1453/rosi.htm>.

³⁷ Route 66 Corridor, Historic Preservation Act of 1999 (P.L. 106-45), <https://www.congress.gov/106/plaws/publ45/PLAW-106publ45.pdf>.

³⁸ “Route 66 National Historic Trail Legislation Reintroduced in the House,” National Trust for Historic Preservation, June 28, 2023, <https://savingplaces.org/places/historic-route-66/updates/route-66-national-historic-trail-legislation-reintroduced-in-the-house>.

H.R. 5401 (Rep. D’Esposito), “9/11 Memorial and Museum Act”

The National September 11 Memorial & Museum is located in lower Manhattan at the former World Trade Center site in New York City. Also known as the 9/11 Memorial & Museum, this unique facility serves as the principal tribute of remembrance and honor to the nearly 3,000 people killed in the terrorist attacks at the World Trade Center site on September 11, 2001, and February 26, 1993. Since its dedication on September 11, 2011, the Memorial has attracted more than 72 million visitors, while the nearby Museum has drawn over 22 million visitors since opening to the public in 2014.³⁹ The World Trade Center Foundation, Inc., a private, not-for-profit organization, operates the 9/11 Memorial & Museum. In fulfilling its important mission, the 9/11 Memorial & Museum has shouldered substantial costs in protecting the site from increased security risks. For example, on-site security, which must always be sustained at high levels, costs approximately \$1 million monthly.⁴⁰ To help address potential security risks and national security incidents, H.R. 5401 provides a one-time grant from DHS of \$5-10 million to assist the 9/11 Memorial & Museum.⁴¹ The authorized funding would, specifically, help the 9/11 Memorial & Museum continue operations, increase security measures, and provide free admission for military veterans, first responders, and victims’ families.⁴² This legislation has 41 bipartisan cosponsors.⁴³

An ANS will be offered at markup, clarifying that the funding offset will come from the Office of Security and Executive Management at the Department of Homeland Security.

Hearing information, including testimony, may be viewed [here](#) and the hearing memo may be viewed [here](#).

Staff contacts: Aniela Butler (Aniela@mail.house.gov) and Colen Morrow (Colen.Morrow@mail.house.gov).

H.R. 6127 (Rep. Moore of Utah), “Modernizing Access to Our Public Waters Act”

The bill directs the Bureau of Reclamation, National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Forest Service (referred to as the federal land and water management agencies) to jointly develop and adopt interagency standards to ensure compatibility and interoperability among federal databases for the collection and dissemination of outdoor recreation data related to federal waterways.

The bill stipulates that maps must be digitized and published with geographic information system (GIS) mapping data that includes:

³⁹ “Financial & Legal Information,” National September 11 Memorial & Museum, 2023, <https://www.911memorial.org/financial-legal-information>.

⁴⁰ Josh Christenson, “Rep. Anthony D’Esposito floats up to \$10M grant for 9/11 Memorial,” The New York Post, September 11, 2023, <https://nypost.com/2023/09/11/ny-rep-desposito-floats-up-to-10-million-grant-for-9-11-memorial/>.

⁴¹ H.R. 5401, 118th Congress, <https://www.congress.gov/bill/118th-congress/house-bill/5401?s=2&r=1>.

⁴² Josh Christenson, “Rep. Anthony D’Esposito floats up to \$10M grant for 9/11 Memorial,” The New York Post, September 11, 2023, <https://nypost.com/2023/09/11/ny-rep-desposito-floats-up-to-10-million-grant-for-9-11-memorial/>.

⁴³ H.R. 5401, 118th Congress, <https://www.congress.gov/bill/118th-congress/house-bill/5401?s=2&r=1>.

- Federal restrictions such as watercraft inspection or decontamination requirements, seasonal entries, types of watercraft permitted, anchoring or no wake zones;
- Federal access and navigation information such as the location of boat ramps, portages, and fishing access sites under the authority of the Federal land or water management agency, when these facilities are open or closed and bathymetric information and depth charts; and
- Federal fishing restrictions.

The ANS makes technical changes to the bill and removes the authorization of appropriations section, making it compliant with House floor protocols.

Hearing information, including testimony, may be viewed [here](#), and the hearing memo may be viewed [here](#).

Staff contact: Annick Miller (Annick.Miller@mail.house.gov) and Doug Levine (doug.levine@mail.house.gov).

H.R. 7516 (Rep. Johnson of SD), “*Purchased and Referred Care Improvement Act of 2024*”

When the Indian Health Service (IHS) is unable to provide a needed healthcare service for American Indians and Alaska Natives (AI/AN), it can provide care through the Purchased/Referred Care (PRC) program.⁴⁴ Similar to the Veterans Administration's Choice Program, the PRC program is designed to ensure AI/ANs can obtain care when it is not available at IHS facilities. If IHS care is not available, AI/ANs are referred to private health providers, and IHS will then reimburse those private health providers.

Unfortunately, the PRC program has serious deficiencies. A 2020 Department of Health and Human Services Inspector General Report found that out of a 100-paid claim sample, 18 PRC claims were paid following Federal requirements, and 82 PRC claims were paid but did not meet one or more of the nine eligibility criteria.⁴⁵ The IHS often denies PRC claims due to technicalities attributed to the program’s complex and confusing referral process.⁴⁶ This results in uncompensated care costs for private providers, who seek payment from other sources, usually the patient. Without payment from a patient or other provider, these PRC bills are sent to collection agencies, and individual tribal members find themselves on the receiving end of credit collection calls and other negative effects.

H.R. 7516 would amend the IHCIA to ensure that IHS, not AI/ANs, are liable for payments related to PRC services and directs the IHS to notify PRC service providers that patients are not to be liable for charges related to authorized PRC services. The bill also allows IHS to establish and implement procedures to allow patients who paid out-of-pocket for IHS-authorized PRC

⁴⁴ Indian Health Service. For Patients. Purchased/Referred Care (PRC). <https://www.ihs.gov/forpatients/prc/>

⁴⁵ U.S. Dept. of Health & Human Services, Office of Inspector General, “Most Indian Health Service Purchased/Referred Care Program Claims Were Not Reviewed, Approved, and Paid in Accordance With Federal Requirements.” April 2020. Report. No. A-03-16-03002. <https://oig.hhs.gov/oas/reports/region3/31603002.pdf> at *Report in Brief*.

⁴⁶ See, “Can PRC pay for your referral medical care? Find out in 3 stages.” Indian Health Service. https://www.ihs.gov/sites/prc/themes/responsive2017/display_objects/documents/PRC-ProcessHandout.pdf.

services to be reimbursed by IHS by 30 days after a patient submits the necessary documentation.

Hearing information, including testimony, may be viewed [here](#), and the hearing memo may be viewed [here](#).

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H.R. 7938 (Rep. Bentz), “*Klamath Basin Water Agreement Support Act of 2024*”

H.R. 7938 would implement the Klamath Power and Facilities Agreement (KPFA) provisions by authorizing DOI to operate and improve certain infrastructure, including Keno Dam, in the Klamath River Basin. The legislation also clarifies that the Klamath Project is not financially responsible for any of the costs associated with the Keno Dam. The bill authorizes DOI to protect ESA-listed species through fish screens and other restoration efforts, which protect Tribal resources held in trust and avoid additional regulatory burden on stakeholders. Finally, the legislation supports Klamath Basin agricultural producers by authorizing activities and programs, including using renewable energy, conservation, and efficiency measures, that reduce power rates for hydroelectric power customers to avoid paying rates two to three times higher than similarly situated irrigators in the Northwest.

The (ANS) addresses concerns raised by DOI and tribal partners.

Hearing information, including testimony, may be viewed [here](#), and the hearing memo may be viewed [here](#).

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H.R. 8012 (Rep. Waltz), “*Jackie Robinson Commemorative Site Act*”

On March 17, 1946, Jackie Robinson played in the first racially integrated spring training baseball game at what is today known as the Jackie Robinson Ballpark in Daytona Beach.⁴⁷ Roughly a year later, Robinson would build on this success and break Major League Baseball’s (MLB) color barrier, becoming the first African American to play in an MLB game in the modern era.⁴⁸ H.R. 8012 would designate the Jackie Robinson Ballpark in Daytona Beach, Florida, as the “Jackie Robinson Ballpark National Commemorative Site.” As a National Commemorative Site, the ballpark would not be a unit of the National Park System. The bill includes provisions to prevent any interference with the rights of private property owners, local zoning ordinances, or land use plans. By designating the ballpark as a National Commemorative Site, H.R. 8012 recognizes the facility’s historic role in advancing civil rights without adding to the federal estate or using taxpayer dollars. The legislation has 50 bipartisan cosponsors.

⁴⁷ *Id.*

⁴⁸ Farrell Evans, “6 Decades Before Jackie Robinson, This Man Broke Baseball’s Color Barrier”, History.com, <https://www.history.com/news/moses-fleetwood-walker-first-black-mlb-player>.

An ANS will be offered at the markup, changing the short title of the legislation.

Hearing information, including testimony, may be viewed [here](#), and the hearing memo may be viewed [here](#).

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H.R. 8665 (Rep. Lucas), “*Supercritical Geothermal Research and Development Act*”

Supercritical geothermal is an experimental technology that requires deep drilling to access dry rocks at temperatures around 400°C or greater.⁴⁹ If commercialized, supercritical geothermal systems have the potential to produce energy at significantly higher capacities than conventional systems.⁵⁰ The Department of Energy (DOE) estimates that next-generation geothermal technologies, including supercritical geothermal, could provide 90 GW or more of clean firm power to the U.S. grid by 2050.⁵¹

H.R. 8665 establishes a supercritical geothermal research program at DOE and provides grant opportunities for supercritical geothermal technologies. The bill also requires DOE and the Department of the Interior (DOI) to enter into a memorandum of understanding (MOU) on geothermal data collection and analysis. It directs the U.S. Geological Survey to update its national geothermal resource assessment within 180 days of enactment. Lastly, H.R. 8665 orders DOI, in consultation with DOE, to commission the drilling of exploration boreholes deeper than 8 kilometers to provide control points for supercritical heat mapping and geothermal development.

H.R. 8665 authorizes \$5 million for each of the fiscal years 2026 through 2030.

An amendment in the nature of a substitute (ANS) will be offered to address technical issues based on written comments and technical assistance from the USGS.

Hearing information, including testimony, may be viewed [here](#), and the hearing memo may be viewed [here](#).

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H.R. 8931 (Rep. Stefanik), To redesignate Saratoga National Historic Park as Saratoga National Battlefield Park.

On September 19, 1777, an army of Continental troops led by General Horatio Gates stood its ground against the British Empire in present-day Saratoga County, New York.⁵² Thus began the Battles of Saratoga, in which American colonists would rout a British invasion force marching

⁴⁹ <https://science.house.gov/cache/files/e/e/eebed5c7-3784-4b3b-b0c5-04c5456dfa77/8600498DE7130020CA43490E64B3ACBA.h.r.-8665-one-page-summary.pdf>

⁵⁰ *Id.*

⁵¹ https://liftonn.energy.gov/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/LIFTOFF_DOE_NextGen_Geothermal_v14.pdf

⁵² *Saratoga*. American Battlefield Trust. (n.d.). <https://www.battlefields.org/learn/revolutionary-war/battles/saratoga>.

southward from Canada, capture an unprecedented six thousand English soldiers and Hessian mercenaries, and create a turning point in the Revolutionary War.⁵³ Today, a 3,400-acre expanse of rolling hills and forested ravines bordering the northern Hudson River conserves the location of the pivotal Battles of Saratoga as the Saratoga National Historic Park (Saratoga NHP), a unit of the National Park System.⁵⁴ While the Saratoga NHP was initially named “Saratoga Battlefield Park” as a New York State Historical Site, the “Battlefield” nomenclature was dropped in 1938 when the area became part of the National Park System.⁵⁵ With the upcoming 250th anniversaries of both the United States and the Battles of Saratoga, residents of Saratoga County and the State of New York have pushed to rename the Saratoga NHP to clarify its place in the heroic struggle for American Independence.⁵⁶ Representative Elise Stefanik’s (R-NY-21) legislation would redesignate the site as the Saratoga National Battlefield Park to identify its importance as a historical battlefield to visitors and more effectively emphasize the sacrifices of the soldiers who fought there.

Hearing information, including testimony, may be viewed [here](#), and the hearing memo may be viewed [here](#).

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H.R. 9516 (Rep. Chavez-DeRemer), “*Military Families National Parks Access Enhancement Act*”

In 2021, Congress permanently codified free, lifetime passes to our national parks and public lands for Gold Star Families in the Alexander Lofgren Veterans in Parks (VIP) Act.⁵⁷ Pass eligibility for Gold Star Families under the VIP Act is determined by section 3.2 of Department of Defense Instruction 1348.36, which sets the criteria for issuing Gold Star Lapel Buttons.⁵⁸ This instruction covers eligible next of kin of service members who lost their lives in a qualifying situation, such as a war, an international terrorist attack, or a military operation outside of the U.S.⁵⁹ Unfortunately, this instruction excludes families of active-duty military members who lost their lives in other circumstances, such as hazardous combat training accidents inside the U.S. H.R. 9516 would expand access to free, lifetime America the Beautiful Passes to Gold Star Next of Kin family members to fix this omission. This legislation is a meaningful way to support families who lost loved ones selflessly serving our nation. Expanding eligibility to such families will also ensure their permanent access to the nation's iconic national parks and public lands that their loved ones died protecting.

⁵³ *Id.*

⁵⁴ U.S. Department of the Interior. (n.d.). *Saratoga – National Historic Park New York*. National Parks Service. <https://www.nps.gov/sara/index.htm#>.

⁵⁵ NEWS10 ABC, *Saratoga Co. looks to change historical park name*, Deuso, C., June 19, 2024, <https://www.news10.com/news/saratoga-county/saratoga-co-looks-to-change-historical-park-name/>.

⁵⁶ *Id.*

⁵⁷ Alexander Lofgren Veterans in Parks (VIP) Act; P.L. 117-81.

⁵⁸ DOD Instruction 1348.36, <https://www.esd.whs.mil/Portals/54/Documents/DD/issuances/dodi/134836p.pdf?ver=mN9Jeg1LSLWwc52VRIjhdQ%3D%3D>.

⁵⁹ *Id.*

An ANS will be offered at the markup, expanding pass eligibility to families of veterans who pass away due to a service-related illness.

Hearing information, including testimony, may be viewed [here](#) and the hearing memo may be viewed [here](#).

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[H.R. 2687](#) (Rep. Peltola), To amend the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act to exclude certain payments to aged, blind, or disabled Alaska Natives or descendants of Alaska Natives from being used to determine eligibility for certain programs, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2687 would exclude amounts distributed or benefits provided to Alaska Natives who are blind, disabled, are elders (aged 65+), or their descendants from Alaska Native Corporation (ANC) settlement trusts when determining eligibility for means-tested federal benefits. Federal means-tested benefits include Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), and federal housing benefits.

In 1988, Congress amended the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA)⁶⁰ to provide for the exclusion of the first \$2,000 that any Alaska Native individual receives from an ANC in determining eligibility of the recipient for the Supplemental Assistance Program (SNAP), financial assistance under the Social Security Act, or other means-based benefits received through other federal programs or federally-assisted programs.⁶¹ The 1988 amendments also authorized ANCs to establish settlement trusts to distribute benefits to Alaska Native beneficiaries and take advantage of new tax benefits. However, Congress did not exclude settlement trust benefits when determining recipient eligibility for government assistance programs, as with the first \$2,000 of other benefits Alaska Natives can receive from ANCs.

According to several ANCs, this discrepancy between settlement trust income and other income from ANCs can place many Alaska Natives who are aged, blind, or disabled in the position of choosing between accepting the settlement trust income or qualifying for government assistance programs. H.R. 2687 would address that discrepancy and exclude amounts or benefits distributed to aged, blind, or disabled Alaska Natives from settlement trusts when determining eligibility for means-tested federal benefits. The bill defines “aged, blind, or disabled individual” according to the current definitions in section 1614(a) of the Social Security Act.

Hearing information, including testimony, may be viewed [here](#), and the hearing memo may be viewed [here](#).

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⁶⁰ 43 U.S.C. 1601, et seq.

⁶¹ 43 U.S.C. 1626(c).

H.R. 4748 (Rep. Peltola), “Unrecognized Southeast Alaska Native Communities Recognition and Compensation Act”

After the passage of ANCSA, regional and village corporations selected land in and around native villages in Alaska in proportion to their enrolled populations. During the 1970 census, village populations largely determined acreage amounts for land entitlements to village corporations.⁶² Under ANCSA, each regional, village, and urban corporation received a set number of acres of land to be transferred to them. However, for each village or urban corporation's acres, the village or urban corporation obtained fee title to the surface estate, and the local regional corporation received fee title to the subsurface estate.

The communities of Haines, Ketchikan, Petersburg, Tenakee, and Wrangell were not included in the listing of Southeast Alaska Native villages presumed able to form a village or urban corporation in Section 16 of ANCSA.⁶³ Tenakee, Haines, and Ketchikan appealed their lack of inclusion, but because Congress did not include a right of appeal for Southeast villages, their appeals were rejected outright.

H.R. 4748 would amend ANCSA to enable Haines, Ketchikan, Petersburg, Tenakee, and Wrangell to organize into Alaska Native urban corporations and each select one township, or 23,040 acres (115,200 acres in total), in Southeast Alaska within the Tongass National Forest. The legislation also contains provisions stating the bill would not affect any land entitlements for previously established ANCs, does not affect rights-of-way held by the state of Alaska within the selected parcels, and provides the U.S. Forest Service access to National Forest System roads until a mutual use agreement is reached.

Hearing information, including testimony, may be viewed [here](#) and the hearing memo may be viewed [here](#).

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H.R. 6210 (Rep. Wexton), To designate the General George C. Marshall House, in the Commonwealth of Virginia, as an affiliated area of the National Park System, and for other purposes.

Born in 1880, George C. Marshall rose from humble origins to become a leading military figure of World War II and the architect of the famous Marshall Plan that followed.⁶⁴ During crucial periods of his career, General Marshall called the Dodona Manor and its eight-acre grounds in Leesburg, Virginia, home.⁶⁵ While a resident of Dodona Manor from 1941 to 1959, Marshall held prestigious titles, including Chief of Staff of the Army, Special Envoy to China, Secretary of State, Secretary of Defense, President of the American Red Cross, and was a recipient of the

⁶² 43 U.S.C. § 1613.

⁶³ P.L. 92-203 § 16.

⁶⁴ Historical Office of the Secretary of Defense, “George C. Marshall”, <https://history.defense.gov/Multimedia/Biographies/Article-View/Article/571266/george-c-marshall/#:~:text=The%20son%20of%20a%20coal.United%20States%20Army%20in%201902>. George C. Marshall International Center, “George C. Marshall’s Dodona Manor”, <https://www.georgecmarshall.org/dodona-manor>.

⁶⁵ *Id.*

Nobel Peace Prize.⁶⁶ In 1996, NPS designated the home as a National Historic Landmark. Then, a 10-year, \$7-million restoration of the home allowed the Manor to become a public museum on Veterans Day 2005.⁶⁷ More recently, a push to designate the Manor as an affiliated area of the National Park System gained traction when NPS concluded that the Manor met all three requirements for designation.⁶⁸ H.R. 6210 would designate the George C. Marshall House as an affiliated area of the National Park System. This would allow the site to receive technical assistance and limited financial aid from NPS. Notably, the home would not be managed or administered by NPS and would not be added to the federal estate.⁶⁹

Hearing information, including testimony, may be viewed [here](#) and the hearing memo may be viewed [here](#).

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H.R. 6489 (Rep. Peltola), “Alaska Native Village Municipal Lands Restoration Act of 2023”

Section 14(c)(3) of ANCSA requires that an Alaska Native Village Corporation receiving land under ANCSA conveys some lands to an existing municipality for use by the municipality. If no municipality exists, these lands are conveyed to the State to be held in trust for a future municipality.⁷⁰ However, most Alaska Native villages have not established municipalities, and these lands remain undeveloped.

Since 1971, 101 Alaska Native Village Corporations have seen their lands held in trust by the State for a future municipality. Still, only eight have seen a municipality created, with the last created in 1995. The estimated 11,500 acres held in trust by the State remain nearly impossible to develop since the lands must be reserved for future municipalities. If the municipality requirement were lifted, Alaska Native villages could consider developing the lands for housing, community, expansion, and other economic development plans. Some Alaska Native Village Corporations did not reconvey land under 14(c) due to concerns with the 14(c)(3) provision and land being held in trust for perpetuity, resulting in murky land titles.

H.R. 6489 would amend ANCSA to return the land conveyed to the village corporation that conveyed it to the State while eliminating the requirement for an Alaska Native village corporation to convey land under the ANCSA 14(c)(3) provision.

Hearing information, including testimony, may be viewed [here](#), and the hearing memo may be viewed [here](#).

⁶⁶ Visit Loudon, “George C. Marshall’s Dodona Manor”, <https://www.visitloudoun.org/listing/george-c-marshalls-dodona-manor/13/>.

⁶⁷ *Id.*

⁶⁸ National Park Service, “General George C. Marshall House: Reconnaissance Survey”, April 2022, <https://bloximages.chicago2.vip.townnews.com/loudounnow.com/content/tncms/assets/v3/editorial/5/76/57690580-daef-11ed-9aa3-eba5493c9199/643996ffa5253.pdf.pdf>.

⁶⁹ LoudounNow, “Marshall’s Leesburg Home Moves Toward Park Service Affiliation”, https://www.loudounnow.com/news/leesburg/marshall-s-leesburg-home-moves-toward-park-service-affiliation/article_5d379f02-daf5-11ed-86f7-57f5656d18a2.html.

⁷⁰ 43 U.S.C. 1613.

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H.R. 8308 (Rep. Harder), “Nutria Eradication and Control Reauthorization Act of 2024”

H.R. 8308 reauthorizes the Nutria Eradication and Control Act of 2003 through FY 2030 at the existing authorization of appropriation levels. Nutria are native to South America but were introduced to North America in 1899 for fur production.⁷¹ Nutria eat, dig, and trample healthy wetland habitat causing significant amounts of erosion and habitat damage to native ecosystems. The Chesapeake Bay Nutria Eradication Project (CBNEP) has been successful, as nutria was declared eradicated in Maryland as of 2022.⁷² Efforts have also been successful in California, where 4,338 nutria have been taken since 2017,⁷³ and to a more considerable extent in Louisiana, where 5,549,662 nutria have been taken.

Hearing information, including testimony, may be viewed [here](#), and the hearing memo may be viewed [here](#).

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H.R. 8946 (Rep. Matsui), “Reversionary Interest Conveyance Act”

During the 19th century, Congress granted many railroad rights of way across public lands through the Pacific Railroad Acts.⁷⁴ The Supreme Court interpreted these Acts to grant land ownership to railroad companies; however, if a railroad was not built or land was no longer used for railroad purposes, the land would revert back to the United States.⁷⁵ Despite consistent court rulings that railroad companies could not convey lands within these rights-of-way to third parties, many companies still conveyed encumbered lands to unsuspecting landowners. In Sacramento, private owners of an 8.43-acre property within the Sacramento Center for Innovation Specific Plan recently uncovered a reversionary interest on their land, originally conveyed by the Southern Pacific Transportation Company.⁷⁶ The BLM does not want to manage the land in question but cannot extinguish the reversionary interest unilaterally.⁷⁷ H.R. 8946 would resolve the reversionary conflict on this parcel by requiring the BLM to convey the relevant reversionary interests to the applicable landowners for fair market value. This would give clear title to the current landowners and allow the area to develop further without complications from the federal government.

⁷¹ Bill Report, To Amend the Nutria Eradication and Control Act of 2003 to Include California in the Program, and for Other Purposes. February 25, 2020.

⁷² USWFS, Decades-long Partnership Eradicates Destructive Nutria Rodents from Maryland. September 16, 2022. <https://www.fws.gov/press-release/2022-09/decades-long-partnership-eradicates-destructive-nutria-rodents-maryland>.

⁷³ California Department of Fish and Wildlife, Discovery of Invasive Nutria in California, May 16, 2024. <https://wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Invasives/Species/Nutria/Infestation>

⁷⁴ “Title Issues Raised by Railroad Right-of-Way in Sacramento, California”, https://republicans-naturalresources.house.gov/UploadedFiles/Summary_Package_for_Matsui_1-c1.PDF.

⁷⁵ *Id.*

⁷⁶ *Id.*

⁷⁷ Bureau of Land Management, Letter to Representative Matsui, August 1, 2022, https://naturalresources.house.gov/uploadedfiles/blm_correspondence_to_rep._matsui_re_land_conveyance.pdf.

Hearing information, including testimony, may be viewed [here](#), and the hearing memo may be viewed [here](#).

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III. CBO SCORES

[S. 912 \(H.R. 2685\)](#)

None available for the other bills.

IV. EFFECT ON CURRENT LAW (RAMSEYER)

[H.R. 390](#)

[H.R. 6489](#)

[H.R. 1395](#)

[H.R. 7516](#)

[H.R. 2687](#)

[H.R. 7938](#)

[H.R. 3173](#)

[H.R. 8308](#)

[H.R. 3971](#)

[H.R. 8665](#)

[H.R. 4338](#)

[H.R. 9516](#)

[H.R. 4748](#)