



To: House Committee on Natural Resources Republican Members
From: Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests, and Public Lands Republican Staff;
Terry Camp (Terry.Camp@mail.house.gov) & Aniela Butler
(Aniela@mail.house.gov)
Date: October 14, 2021
Subject: Legislative Hearing on Nine Bills

The Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests, and Public Lands will hold a legislative hearing on nine bills: H.R. 149 (Rep. Norcross), “Peter J. McGuire Labor Day Landmark Act”; H.R. 250 (Rep. Kirkpatrick), “January 8th National Memorial Act”; H.R. 3197 (Rep. Johnson), “Save the Liberty Theatre Act”; H.R. 3531 (Del. Norton), “Women Who Worked on the Home Front World War II Memorial Act”; H.R. 4009 (Del. Norton), “Georgetown Waterfront Enslaved Voyages Memorial Act”; H.R. 4380 (Rep. Escobar), “El Paso Healing Garden National Memorial”; H.R. 4454 (Rep. Green), “Reconciliation in Place Names Act”; H.R. 4648 (Rep. Johnson), “Cane River Creole National Historical Park Boundary Modification Act”; and H.R. 4706 (Rep. Gonzalez), “Blackwell School National Historic Site Act”, on **Thursday, October 14, 2021, at 10:00am EDT** via Cisco WebEx.

Member offices are requested to notify Terry Camp **no later than Tuesday, October 12, at 4:30 pm EDT** if their Member intends to participate in person in the hearing room or remotely from his/her laptop from another location. Submissions for the hearing record must be submitted through the Committee’s electronic repository at HNRCDOCS@mail.house.gov. Please contact David DeMarco (David.DeMarco@mail.house.gov) or Everett Winnick (Everett.Winnick@mail.house.gov) should any technical difficulties arise.

I. KEY MESSAGES

- Most of the bills being considered in this hearing are local in nature and geared at preserving important historical events from our nation’s past to help tell more unique and diverse stories that make up the fabric of America.
- This hearing includes three Republican bills: one that will save the National Park Service (NPS) and taxpayer money and two that will help to better preserve nationally significant sites in Louisiana and Texas.
- Unfortunately, Democrats also included H.R. 4454, a divisive, duplicative, and unnecessary virtue-signaling bill tailored to their woke base. This bill creates an unaccountable new layer of federal bureaucracy to re-write history under the guise of addressing “offensive” place names. The overly broad language in this bill will only create more division and conflict around this issue.



II. WITNESSES

Panel I:

- **Representative Veronica Escobar**, Texas, 16th District
- **Representative Tony Gonzales**, Texas, 23rd District
- **Representative Al Green**, Texas, 9th District
- **Representative Mike Johnson**, Louisiana, 4th District
- **Representative Ann Kirkpatrick**, Arizona, 2nd District
- **Representative Donald Norcross**, New Jersey, 1st District
- **Delegate Eleanor Holmes Norton**, District of Columbia, At-Large

Panel II:

- **Mr. Mike Caldwell**, Acting Associate Director, Park Planning, Facilities, and Lands, National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior

Panel III:

- **Ms. Rebecca Blankenbaker**, Executive Director, Cane River Creole National Heritage Area [*Republican Witness*] (H.R. 4648)
- **Mr. Scott A. Fontenot**, Mayor, Eunice, Louisiana [*Republican Witness*] (H.R. 3197)
- **Mr. Will Shafroth**, President & CEO, National Park Foundation [*Republican Witness*] (H.R. 4706)
- **The Honorable Rob Barber**, Former Member, U.S. House of Representatives (2012-2015), January 8th Attack Survivor (H.R. 250)
- **Ms. Andrena Crockett**, Founder and Program Manager, Georgetown African American Historic Landmark Project and Tour (H.R. 4009)
- **Mr. Rodney Ellis**, Commissioner, Commissioners Court of Harris County, Texas (H.R. 4454)
- **Mr. Albert Hernandez**, Relative of El Paso Attack Victims, El Paso, Texas (H.R. 4380)

III. BACKGROUND

[H.R. 149 \(Norcross\)](#)

Peter J. McGuire (1852-1906) was a figure of major importance in the U.S. labor movement who successfully advocated for an eight-hour workday and is credited as the father of Labor Day.¹ McGuire founded and led the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America and co-founded the American Federation of Labor.² In 1882, he proposed “one day in the year be designated as Labor Day”— a lasting and historical memorial to all workers. States first adopted his proposal to create a Labor Day holiday and in 1894, Congress passed an act adopting the first Monday in September as a national holiday.³ This bill would designate the Peter J. McGuire

¹ Peter J. McGuire Memorial and gravesite (U.S. National Park Service), National Park Service, <https://www.nps.gov/places/peter-j-mcguire-memorial-and-gravesite.htm> (last visited Oct 5, 2021).

² *Id.*

³ *Id.*

Memorial and Peter J. McGuire Gravesite in Pennsauken, New Jersey, as the Peter J. McGuire National Commemorative Site. The bill would authorize the Secretary of the Interior to enter into cooperative agreements and provide technical and financial assistance to public and private entities to provide the public with educational and interpretive facilities and programs concerning the Commemorative Site. The Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests, and Public Lands held a hearing in the 116th Congress on a similar bill to designate the site as a National Historic Landmark. *Staff contact: Terry Camp (x67736)*

[H.R. 250 \(Kirkpatrick\)](#)

On January 8, 2011, a gunman opened fire at former Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords’ “Congress on your Corner” event in Tucson, Arizona, wounding thirteen and killing six.⁴ In the months that followed the tragedy, a group of survivors, family members, and community leaders began discussing the need for a permanent memorial to remember and honor those that perished or were injured during the assassination attempt. In 2012, the Tucson’s January 8 Memorial Foundation formed as a non-profit organization to provide strategic planning and financial support to develop the permanent memorial.⁵ This bill establishes the January 8th National Memorial in Tucson as an affiliated area of the National Park System in commemoration of the tragic events of January 8, 2011. Affiliated areas are not owned or managed by NPS, although NPS may provide technical or financial assistance under the terms of a formal agreement. The bill requires the January 8th Memorial Foundation transfer to Pima County, Arizona, amounts equal to final funding pledges, in addition to the amounts that the foundation has raised and transferred to the county, for the construction of the memorial. The memorial will be constructed on property owned by Pima County and the County will be the memorial’s management entity, responsible for the construction and operation of the memorial. The Department of the Interior is required to develop a general management plan for the memorial. *Staff contact: Terry Camp (x67736)*

[H.R. 3197 \(Johnson\)](#)

The Liberty Theatre originally opened in Eunice, Louisiana in 1924 as a silent movie theater and vaudeville house for live performances⁶ and was known as “Southwest Louisiana’s Premier Temple of Amusement.”⁷ In 1986, the City of Eunice purchased and renovated Liberty Theatre and it was listed on the National Register of Historic Places.⁸ Three years later, Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve, an NPS site directly adjacent to the Liberty Theatre, helped to further restore and rehabilitate the theater and surrounding area by constructing an adjoining annex for public health, safety, and accessibility and installing a master HVAC system for the theater, annex, and nearby Prairie Acadian Cultural Center. The master HVAC system is

⁴ 2011 Tucson Mass Shooting Victims, Tucson.com (2021), https://tucson.com/news/local/2011-tucson-mass-shooting-victims/collection_859a2d50-a92c-11e0-b122-001cc4c002e0.html#1 (last visited Oct 5, 2021).

⁵ January 8th Memorial, Southern Arizona Heritage and Visitor Center (2020), <https://visitsouthernarizona.com/exhibition-modern/> (last visited Oct 5, 2021).

⁶ National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form, National Park Service, <https://npgallery.nps.gov/GetAsset/15f0faa8-81fe-41f9-b2a3-0ab1ef83d2cd> (last visited Oct 5, 2021).

⁷ Liberty Center for the Performing Arts, Cinema Treasures, <http://cinematreasures.org/theaters/8867> (last visited Oct 5, 2021).

⁸ *Supra* note 9.

now antiquated beyond repair and must be replaced.⁹ This bill transfers the NPS-owned annex attached to the City-owned theater (approximately 0.22 acres) to the City of Eunice. Transferring the annex will allow Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve to replace the HVAC system in the Prairie Acadian Cultural Center and allow the City to install a new HVAC system in the theater and perform other renovations that are currently hindered due to the NPS's ownership interest. This will also result in cost savings for the NPS and taxpayer. **Staff contact: Terry Camp (x67736).**

H.R. 3531 (Norton)

Over 18 million American women kept the home front running in support of the World War II effort as codebreakers, pilots, machinists, butchers, engineers, lumberjacks, and farmers, among many other duties. Between 1940 and 1945, the percentage of women in the workforce increased from 27 percent to nearly 37 percent, and by 1945 one in four married women worked outside of the home.¹⁰ The work done by women on the home front opened doors for women in the workplace generally and redefined many occupations previously considered “men’s work.”¹¹ This bill authorizes the Women Who Worked on the Home Front Foundation to establish a commemorative work on federal land to commemorate the commitment and service performed by women who worked on the home front during World War II. The bill requires the Foundation to follow the standard legal framework established by the Commemorative Works Act (P.L. 99-652, CWA) for the placement of commemorative works on federal land in the District of Columbia, prohibits the use of federal funds to establish the commemorative work, and requires the Foundation to follow a process to ensure that the memorial is appropriately designed, sited, constructed and that sufficient funds are provided to NPS to maintain the memorial. **Staff contact: Terry Camp (x67736).**

H.R. 4009 (Norton)

Georgetown in Washington, D.C. was a tobacco port originally founded in 1751 and a possible stop along the trans-Atlantic slave route.¹² African Americans have lived and worked in Georgetown since its founding and made significant contributions to the Georgetown area and the establishment of Washington, D.C. as the nation’s capital. The history of slave ships arriving in Georgetown, however, is unsettled due to a lack of records.¹³ The Georgetown Landmark Project and NPS are currently undertaking studies to determine whether enslaved Africans ever disembarked at the Georgetown port. In 2019, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) designated the Georgetown Waterfront as a “Site of Memory” for historical places associated with slavery.¹⁴ This bill authorizes the Georgetown African

⁹ Statement of Joy Beasley, Associate Director for Cultural Resources, Partnerships and Science, National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior before the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Subcommittee on National Parks, Concerning S. 1620, 1 (2021). <https://www.energy.senate.gov/services/files/E6664807-9CC2-46DF-9F54-F40B81C5D8DB>

¹⁰ Norton introduces Bill to Memorialize Women During World War II, Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton (2019), <https://norton.house.gov/media-center/press-releases/norton-introduces-bill-to-memorialize-women-during-world-war-ii> (last visited Oct 5, 2021).

¹¹ *Id.*

¹² Jeanne Mason Fogle, Washington, D.C. Encyclopedia Britannica (2021), <https://www.britannica.com/place/Washington-DC/Foggy-Bottom#ref389010> (last visited Oct 6, 2021).

¹³ *Id.*

¹⁴ *Id.*

American Historic Landmark Project and Tour to establish a commemorative work on federal land to commemorate the enslaved individuals, whose identities may be known or unknown, who disembarked at Georgetown Waterfront after enduring the Middle Passage. The bill requires the Georgetown African American Historic Landmark Project and Tour to follow the standard legal framework established by the CWA. *Staff contact: Terry Camp (x67736).*

[H.R. 4380 \(Escobar\)](#)

On August 3, 2019, a gunman shot and killed 23 people and injured 22 more at a Walmart in El Paso, Texas.¹⁵ In 2020, the County of El Paso approved the construction of the El Paso Community Healing Garden at Ascarate Park to provide a space to honor victims and survivors and aid in the healing process. The Healing Garden was dedicated on August 3, 2021. This bill would designate the Healing Garden located at 6900 Delta Drive in El Paso, Texas, as the El Paso Community Healing Garden National Memorial. The national memorial designated by this bill will not be a unit of the National Park System and the bill does not authorize any Federal funds to be expended for any purpose related to the memorial. *Staff contact: Terry Camp (x67736).*

[H.R. 4454 \(Green\)](#)

In recent years, significant attention has been paid to geographic place names deemed offensive by certain groups. The U.S. Board on Geographic Names (BGN), which is comprised of representatives of interested Federal agencies, serves as the central authority to which name problems, inquiries, changes, and new proposals are directed. With all name changes there must be a compelling reason and evidence of support for the change.¹⁶ The BGN prefers not to be proactive in the matter of changing existing names but considers proposals submitted by any interested individual or organization.¹⁷

This bill directs the Department of the Interior to establish an Advisory Committee on Reconciliation in Place Names (Advisory Committee) to advise the BGN regarding renaming geographic features with “offensive place names.” The BGN is subsequently required to rename the feature in accordance with the recommendation of the committee unless the board determines there is a compelling reason and substantial public interest in rejecting the recommendation or that approving the recommendation would violate federal law.

In addition to creating a duplicative layer of federal bureaucracy, this virtue-signaling bill contains an extremely broad scope of place names that the Advisory Committee will recommend to the BGN for change. In the bill, the term “offensive place name” is defined as a geographic place name or Federal land unit that recognizes an individual who held racially repugnant views; committed atrocities against Native Americans; supported or effectuated discriminatory policies; carried out other injustices against racial minorities; contains a racial or sexual slur; perpetuates racial, ethnic, or gender-based stereotypes; or is derogatory or otherwise offensive. The entire

¹⁵ Craig Huber, El Paso marks 2 years since deadly mass shooting: 'Our hearts remain broken' Spectrum News 1 (2021), <https://spectrumlocalnews.com/tx/south-texas-el-paso/news/2021/08/03/el-paso-marks-2-years-since-deadly-mass-shooting---our-hearts-remain-broken-> (last visited Oct 6, 2021).

¹⁶ *Id.*

¹⁷ *Id.*

17-member Advisory Committee will be selected by the Secretary of the Interior. This bill does little to nothing to remedy the limited number of sites with actual offensive place names and instead weaponizes the federal bureaucracy to have virtually unrestrained power to rename sites. **Staff contact: Terry Camp (x67736).**

[H.R. 4648 \(Johnson\)](#)

Established in 1994, the Cane River Creole National Historical Park “recognize[s] the importance of the Cane River Creole culture as a nationally significant element of the cultural heritage of the United States.”¹⁸ The Cane River National Historical Park and Cane River National Heritage Area preserve and commemorate sites associated with Creole culture in the Cane River region from 1714 to present. Today, Cane River Creole National Historical Park protects two of the most intact Creole cotton plantations in the United States—Oakland Plantation and portions of Magnolia Plantation. Upon the establishment of Cane River Creole National Historical Park, the Magnolia Plantation was divided with roughly 18 acres acquired by NPS and another portion acquired by private owners. This bill expands the legislative boundary of the Magnolia Plantation Unit by approximately 46.1 acres, allowing NPS to acquire and preserve the privately-owned portion of the historic plantation core. The property, a National Historic Landmark, is currently owned by the descendants of the original plantation owners and includes the Main House, seven outbuildings, and several cultural landscape features and archeological sites.¹⁹ At present, the NPS maintains approximately 20 historic structures.²⁰ A roughly 21-acre portion will be donated, a four-acre portion will be purchased with a life estate, and another portion will remain in private ownership with the option for a future NPS purchase. **Staff contact: Terry Camp (x67736).**

[H.R. 4706 \(Gonzalez\)](#)

The Blackwell School in Marfa, Texas, served as the sole public education institution for the city's Mexican and Mexican American children from 1909-1965.²¹ Segregated education began in Marfa in 1892 following the completion of a new school for the city's white students.²² Unlike African Americans, there was no state law that mandated segregation between whites and Hispanic people.²³ However, Texas school districts perpetuated the practice of de facto segregation through the mid-twentieth century.²⁴ Known originally as the Ward or Mexican School, Blackwell School was later named for its longtime principal Jesse Blackwell who arrived in 1922.²⁵ During Blackwell's 25-year tenure, the school grew from one building and 120 students to a multi-building campus and more than 600 students during the 1940s.²⁶ Blackwell

¹⁸ Pub. L. 103-499 (1994)

¹⁹ Cane River National Heritage Area A National Register of Historic Places Travel Itinerary: Magnolia Plantation, National Park Service, <https://www.nps.gov/nr/travel/caneriver/mag.htm> (last visited Oct 6, 2021).

²⁰ Magnolia Plantation History, National Park Service (2021), <https://www.nps.gov/cari/learn/historyculture/magnolia-plantation-history.htm> (last visited Oct 6, 2021).

²¹ Blackwell School, National Park Service, <https://www.nps.gov/places/blackwell-school.htm> (last visited Oct 6, 2021).

²² *Id.*

²³ *Id.*

²⁴ *Id.*

²⁵ *Id.*

²⁶ Preserving the complicated history at a segregated Texas School, National Parks Conservation Association, <https://www.npca.org/advocacy/96-preserving-the-complicated-history-at-a-segregated-texas-school> (last visited Oct 6, 2021).

School closed in 1965 following the integration of the Marfa Independent School District and most buildings associated with the school were razed.²⁷ This bill would establish the Blackwell School National Historic Site in Texas as a unit of the National Park System. The Secretary of the Interior may only acquire land or interest in land within the boundary of the historic site by donation, purchase with donated funds, or exchange. The bill also prohibits any private property or nonfederal public property from being included within the boundaries of the historic site or managed as part of such site without the written consent of the owner. *Staff contact: Terry Camp (x67736).*

IV. MAJOR PROVISIONS & ANALYSIS

H.R. 149 (Norcross)

Section 3. Designation of Peter J. McGuire Memorial National Commemorative Site

- Establishes the Peter J. McGuire Memorial and Peter J. McGuire Gravesite as the Peter J. McGuire Memorial National Commemorative Site.
- Clarifies that the Commemorative Site shall not be considered a unit of the National Park System.
- Authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to enter into cooperative agreements and provide technical and financial assistance to public or private entities to provide educational and interpretive facilities and programs for the public regarding the Commemorative Site.
- Protects private property rights by clarifying that designation of the Commemorative Site shall not prohibit any actions which may otherwise be taken by property owners, including owners of the Commemorative Site.

H.R. 250 (Kirkpatrick)

Section 3. January 8th National Memorial

- Establishes the January 8th National Memorial as an affiliated area of the National Park System.
- Requires Tucson's January 8th Memorial Foundation to transfer to Pima County, Arizona amounts equal to final funding pledges, in addition to amounts that the Foundation has raised and transferred to Pima County for construction of the Memorial.
- Requires that the Memorial be constructed on property owned by Pima County and states that Pima County shall be responsible for managing the Memorial construction contract using funds provided by the Foundation.
- Provides that the Foundation will be dissolved after final funding pledge amounts have been paid to Pima County and construction of the Memorial is complete.
- Requires that Pima County be the management entity for the Memorial and that the County is responsible for the construction, operation, maintenance, and management of the Memorial.
- Authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to enter into cooperative agreements and provide technical and financial assistance to Pima County for marking of the Memorial.
- Clarifies that nothing in the Act authorizes the Secretary to acquire property or use Federal funds for the construction, operation, maintenance, or management of the Memorial.

²⁷ *Supra* note 28.

- Requires the Secretary, in consultation with Pima County, to develop a general management plan for the Memorial, and requires the general management plan to be completed no later than three years after the Memorial is established by the Secretary.

H.R. 3197 (Johnson)

Section 3. Land Conveyance

- Requires the Secretary of the Interior to convey to the City of Eunice, Louisiana, approximately 0.22 acres of federal land directly adjacent to the Liberty Theatre as depicted on the legislative map.

Section 4. Boundary Adjustments

- Requires the Secretary to adjust the boundary of Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve to exclude the conveyed land and Lots 7 and 8 of the Original Townsite of Eunice as depicted on the legislative map.

H.R. 3531 (Norton)

Section 2. Authorization to Establish Commemorative Work

- Authorizes the Women Who Worked on the Home Front Foundation to establish a commemorative work on Federal land in the District of Columbia and its environs in compliance with the CWA to commemorate the commitment and service representative by women who worked on the home front during World War II.
- Prohibits the use of Federal funds for any expense related to the establishment of the commemorative work.
- Clarifies that the Foundation is solely responsible for acceptance of contributions for, and payment of the expenses of, the establishment of the commemorative work.
- Requires the Foundation to transmit any excess funds received for the establishment of the commemorative work to the Secretary for deposit in a special account with the National Park Foundation.

H.R. 4009 (Norton)

Section 2. Authorization to Establish Commemorative Work

- Authorizes the Georgetown African American Historic Landmark Project and Tour to establish a commemorative work on Federal land in the District of Columbia and its environs in compliance with the CWA to commemorate the enslaved individuals, whose identities may be known or unknown, who disembarked at Georgetown Waterfront after enduring the Middle Passage.
- Prohibits the use of Federal funds for any expense related to the establishment of the commemorative work.
- Clarifies that the Georgetown African American Historic Landmark Project and Tour is solely responsible for acceptance of contributions for, and payment of the expenses of, the establishment of the commemorative work.
- Requires the Georgetown African American Historic Landmark Project and Tour to transmit any excess funds received for the establishment of the commemorative work to the Secretary for deposit in a special account with the National Park Foundation.

H.R. 4380 (Escobar)

Section 1. Designation of El Paso Community Healing Garden National Memorial

- Designates the Healing Garden located at 6900 Delta Drive in El Paso, Texas, as the El Paso Community Healing Garden National Memorial.
- Clarifies that the national memorial is not a unit of the National Park System and that designation of the national memorial does not require or authorize any Federal funds to be expended for any purpose related to the national memorial.

H.R. 4454 (Green)

Section 3. Definitions

- Defines the term “offensive place name” as: a domestic geographic place name or Federal land unit that recognizes an individual who held racially repugnant views; committed atrocities against Native Americans; or supported or effectuated discriminatory policies; or carried out other injustices against racial minorities; contains a racial or sexual slur; perpetuates racial, ethnic, or gender-based stereotypes; or is derogatory or otherwise offensive.

Section 4. Advisory Committee

- Requires the Secretary of the Interior to establish the Advisory Committee on Reconciliation in Place Names to advise the Board on Geographic Names with regard to renaming geographic features with offensive place names.
- Requires the Secretary to appoint 17 members to the Advisory Committee including: four members of an Indian Tribe; one member of a Tribal organization; one member of a Native Hawaiian organization; four members with a background in civil rights or race relations; four members with expertise in anthropology, cultural studies, ethnic studies, indigenous studies, geography, or history; and three members from the general public.
- Requires the Secretary to consult with Indian Tribes regarding appointments to the Advisory Committee.
- Requires the Committee to establish a process to review proposals to rename geographic features and Federal land units with offensive place names; solicit renaming proposals from Indian Tribes, State and local governments, and members of the public; provide an opportunity for public comment on name change proposals; make recommendations to the BGN on offensive places names, including proposed new names; and make recommendations to Congress to rename Federal land units with offensive place names, including proposed new names.
- Prohibits members of the Advisory Committee from receiving compensation other than eligible travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence.
- Requires the Secretary to provide the Advisory Committee with any staff members and technical assistance that the Secretary determines appropriate for the Committee to carry out its duties.
- Encourages the Committee to complete its duties within five years of being established.
- Sets a sunset for the Committee of one year after the date on which the BGN has approved or rejected each Advisory Committee recommendation.

Section 5. Board Review

- Requires the BGN to rename a geographic feature with an offensive name in accordance with a recommendation of the Advisory Committee unless the BGN determines that there is a compelling reason and substantial public interest in rejecting the recommendation or approving the recommendation would violate federal law.

- Requires the BGN to accept or reject a recommendation within three years of receiving the recommendation and requires the BGN to rename the geographic feature if the BGN accepts the recommendation of the Advisory Committee.
- Waives current BGN policy that prevents the BGN from considering a name change due to pending legislation when a recommendation is made by the Advisory Committee.

H.R. 4648 (Johnson)

Section 2. Cane River Creole National Historical Park Boundary Modification

- Amends the current boundary of Cane River Creole National Historical Park by adding approximately 46.1 acres.

H.R. 4706 (Gonzalez)

Section 4. Establishment of the Blackwell School National Historic Site

- Establishes the Blackwell School National Historic Site in Texas as a unit of the National Park System to preserve, protect, and interpret for the benefit of present and future generations the Blackwell School, its role as both an academic and cultural cornerstone in the community in Marfa, Texas, and its function within a segregated system of education in Texas and the United States from 1885-1965.
- Prohibits the Historic Site from being established until the Secretary of the Interior has entered into an agreement with the Marfa Unified School District providing that the Blackwell School shall be donated to, or placed by agreement into co-management with, the United States, and acquired sufficient land or interests in land within the boundaries of the Historic Site to constitute a manageable unit.
- Authorizes the Secretary to acquire land for inclusion in the Historic Site by donation, purchase with donated funds, or exchange.
- Requires the Secretary to prepare a general management plan for the historic site.
- Authorizes the Secretary to enter into cooperative agreements with the Blackwell School Alliance (and other local, regional, State, academic, and nonprofit partners) for interpretive and education program, technical assistance, and rehabilitation related to the Historic Site.
- Prohibits any private property or nonfederal public property from being included within the boundaries of the historic site or managed as part of such site without the written consent of the owner.

V. COST

None of the bills on this hearing have received a Congressional Budget Office (CBO) cost analysis. CBO scored a previous version of H.R. 3531 as having a negligible effect on direct spending and no effect on revenues.²⁸

VI. ADMINISTRATION POSITION

²⁸ Congressional Budget Office, <https://www.cbo.gov/system/files/2020-06/hr5068.pdf>.

The Administration's position on each of these bills is unknown at this time. However, NPS testified before the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources on October 6, 2021, in support of Senate companion bills S. 1620 (H.R. 3197) and S. 2438 (H.R. 4648), while recommending that S. 2490 (H.R. 4706) be amended to authorize a special resource study. NPS testimony on these companion bills can be read [here](#).

VII. EFFECT ON CURRENT LAW (RAMSEYER)

[H.R. 4648 \(Johnson\)](#)