

ROBERT E. LATTA
5TH DISTRICT, OHIO

DEPUTY WHIP

COMMITTEE ON
ENERGY AND COMMERCE

SUBCOMMITTEE ON
COMMUNICATIONS AND TECHNOLOGY
REPUBLICAN LEADER

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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3505

July 20, 2022

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The Honorable Peter May
Chairman
National Capital Memorial Advisory Commission
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Chairman May:

As a co-chair of the Congressional French Caucus, I am writing today to request the Commission's due consideration of legislation that I have introduced with my colleagues to honor French diplomat Jean Monnet. Our caucus, founded in 2003, was formed to help promote partnership and cooperation between the United States and France, and we believe this legislation would help continue that mission.

H.R. 6611, and its Senate companion S. 3579, would authorize the French Embassy to establish a commemorative work in Rock Creek Park, which is managed within the District of Columbia by the National Park Service (NPS). Specifically, the Embassy would install a bench at a location within the park that is near to Mr. Monnet's historic home in the district. They would also be responsible for fundraising, designing, and installing the actual bench, should the Commission grant its approval.

Jean Monnet was a distinguished French diplomat that was instrumental to the establishment of the European Union and was a prominent ally of the United States. Mr. Monnet was indispensable to the Allied war effort during World War II, acting as an advisor to President Franklin Roosevelt and aiding the United States with the coordination of arms and supplies to Allied countries. After the war, Mr. Monnet facilitated the American Marshall Plan by creating mechanisms to handle the financial assistance that was crucial to rebuilding, modernizing, and re-equipping Europe.

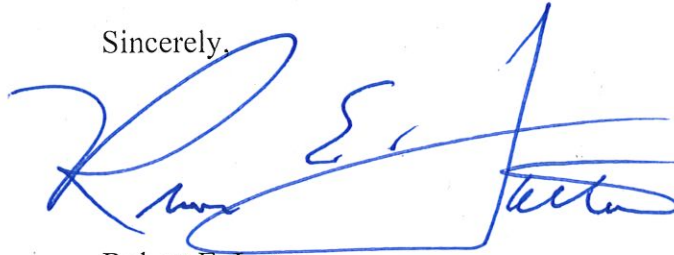
For his efforts to bridge our two countries, Mr. Monnet was specifically recognized by both the Kennedy and Johnson Administrations and was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1963, which is the highest civilian honor given by the United States. He demonstrated through his work that France and the United States are bonded by a rich history of collaboration and shared values, including life, liberty, and equality.

During Mr. Monnet's time in Washington, D.C., he enjoyed long walks near Rock Creek Park near his residence. He claimed that walks through Rock Creek Park helped him think and develop plans to achieve peace and unity in Europe. A commemorative bench in Rock Creek

Park appropriately honors Mr. Monnet's legacy and serves as a reminder for all who experience it to work towards a more peaceful world.

In closing, I again urge you to work with your fellow commissioners to provide due consideration of the request to allow the French Embassy to establish a commemorative work in Rock Creek Park to honor the life and legacy of Mr. Jean Monnet. Thank you for your service to this nation and for your efforts to preserve our shared history.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Robert E. Latta". The signature is stylized with large, sweeping loops and a prominent vertical stroke on the right side.

Robert E. Latta
Member of Congress