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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

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ANTITRUST
SUBCOMMITTEE ON COURTS,
INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY, AND THE INTERNET
COMMITTEE ON RULES

October 4, 2023

Chairperson Tammy Stidham
National Capital Memorial Advisory Commission
U.S. Department of Interior
Washington, D.C. 20242

Dear Chairperson Stidham,

Thank you for inviting me to provide written testimony in support of my legislation, H.R. 1318, *The Women's Suffrage National Monument Location Act*.

In the 116th Congress—my first term serving in the United States House of Representatives—I was proud to champion bipartisan legislation that authorized a statue to commemorate the women's suffrage movement. H.R. 473 authorized the first outdoor statue to commemorate the women's suffrage movement to be placed in Washington, D.C, and I was proud to move this bill through Congress and see it signed into law in 2020.

This effort has been locally-led from the start, and is a prime example of what we can accomplish when Colorado's ingenuity and passion are put to work. Securing the first outdoor statue in honor of the brave and bold women behind the women's suffrage movement honors the additions these individuals made to our republic. In short, the monument will exemplify the countless contributions made by a diverse group of women to the fight for women's suffrage.

H.R. 1318 would allow for the monument to women's suffrage authorized in H.R. 473 to be placed in the Reserve—on the National Mall in Washington, D.C. The bill is also bicameral, with companion legislation led by Senators Baldwin and Blackburn in the Senate.

H.R. 1318 has broad bipartisan support in the House of Representatives, and currently has 28 Democratic cosponsors and 9 Republican cosponsors, including our Republican co-lead, Representative Lesko of Arizona. The bill's cosponsors span across the country—from

California to Louisiana, Oklahoma to Massachusetts and more. This has not been, and should not be, a partisan issue.

Support for this effort is not just limited to Congress. All 6 of our nation's living First Ladies—both current and former—serve as Honorary Chairs of the Foundation and are supportive of this effort to bring women's history to the forefront of our Nation's Capital.

The Commemorative Works Act gave Congress the ability to place additional installations on the Reserve where deemed appropriate. The Federal Lands Subcommittee, on which I am proud to serve as Ranking Member, held a hearing on H.R. 1318 on July 13th of this year to consider this legislation and its potential placement in the Reserve. During that hearing, we heard from many of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle who support this effort to bring women's history to the National Mall.

We subsequently passed the bill out of the House Natural Resources Committee during a markup shortly after—and we did so on a unanimous basis, with a final vote of 32-0. The bill shares the support of many Members of Congress—both Republicans and Democrats—on the House Natural Resources Committee, and we were proud to achieve this bipartisan, unanimous vote.

It is not every day that legislation shares such broad, bipartisan support to receive a unanimous vote in the House Natural Resources Committee. This vote clearly demonstrates the broad support within the Natural Resources Committee to advance the legislation, and a desire to ensure women's representation on our National Mall.

I am hopeful that this monument will continue to inspire young women across our nation for generations to come. For my young daughter and all those who come after her – the monument will be a special site for future generations to visit from all across the country.

Thank you for considering this bill today, and allowing me the opportunity to provide a written statement. If you have any additional questions about the legislation, please feel free to contact my staff.

Sincerely,



Joe Neguse
Member of Congress