

A BILL

To authorize the Every Word We Utter Monument to establish a commemorative work in the District of Columbia and its environs, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. FINDINGS.

Congress finds as follows:

(1) A monument as a tribute to the magnitude of the suffragists' seven-decade effort to pass the 19th Amendment in a way that engages the viewer and serves as a call to action for present and future generations is appropriate on Federal land.

(2) Such a monument should include—

(A) a sculptural portrait to honor Susan B.

BACKGROUND AND BILL STATUS

On January 10, 2019 Congressman Joe Neguse introduced H.R. 473. On June 19, 2019, Senator Michael Bennet introduced companion bill S. 1705. The purpose of the legislation is to authorize the establishment of the Every Word We Utter Monument in recognition of the 70-year suffragist effort to pass the 19th Amendment. The monument will be established as a commemorative work in the District of Columbia and environs.

On June 19, 2019, the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources Subcommittee on National Parks held a hearing on S. 1705. The National Park Service testified on behalf of the Department of the Interior on the bill. The testimony ask that the committee defer action on the bill until the organization that would be authorized to establish the memorial attains 501(c)(3) status under the Internal Revenue Code.

On May 22, 2019, the House Natural Resources Committee’s Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests, and Public Lands held a hearing on H.R. 473. On September 18, 2019, the House Natural Resources Committee reported H.R. 473 favorably with amendments. The amendments removed the “Findings” section from the bill.

NOTE: ON SEPTEMBER 18, 2019 THE HOUSE NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE STRUCK THE FINDINGS SECTION FROM H.R. 473. THE SENATE VERSION, S. 1705, STILL INCLUDES THE FINDINGS SECTION.

Section 1.(2) section uses “should” to strongly indicate the intent of Congress regarding the design elements and location of the monument. However, Findings are not deemed to be binding.

<p>Anthony, Elizabeth Cady Stanton with her daughter Harriot Stanton Blatch, Sojourner Truth, Alice Paul, and Ida B. Wells; and</p> <p>(B) a depiction of the Declaration of Sentiments and Ratification Flag with the names of other women instrumental in fighting for women's suffrage included in the depiction of the word "WE" of the Declaration of Sentiments with raised lettering on ripples radiating from the monument.</p> <p>(3) The preferred site location for the monument is Area II, near Belmont-Paul National Monument and the Supreme Court.</p> <p>SEC. 2. AUTHORIZATION TO ESTABLISH COMMEMORATIVE WORK.</p> <p>(a) In General.--The Every Word We Utter Monument may establish a commemorative work on Federal land in the District of Columbia and its environs to commemorate the passage of the 19th Amendment to the Constitution, which gave women the right to vote.</p> <p>(b) Compliance With Standards For Commemorative Works.--The establishment of the commemorative work under this section shall be in accordance with chapter 89 of title 40, United States Code (commonly known as the "Commemorative Works Act").</p> <p>(c) Prohibition on the Use of Federal Funds.--</p> <p>(1) In general.--Federal funds may not be used to pay any expense of the establishment of the commemorative work under this section.</p> <p>(2) Responsibility of the every word we utter monument.--The Every Word We Utter Monument shall be solely responsible for acceptance of contributions for, and payment of the expenses of, the establishment of the commemorative work under this section.</p> <p>(d) Deposit of Excess Funds.--</p> <p>(1) In general.--If upon payment of all expenses for the establishment of the memorial (including the maintenance and preservation amount required by section 8906(b)(1) of title 40, United States Code), there remains a balance of funds received</p>	<p>Section 1.(2)(A) describes specific design elements to be included in the commemorative work. These elements match a sculpture that is currently under development by sculptor Jane Dedecker. This is inconsistent with the CWA process.</p> <p>Section 1.(3) identifies a preferred location for the monument in Area II. This is inconsistent with the CWA process.</p> <p>This language requires compliance with the CWA which provides for a review framework and an approval process to determine design and location of commemorative works. Note the inconsistencies with the CWA, as stated above.</p> <p>The CWA includes in the definition of a "sponsor" of proposed commemorative work "an individual, group or organization that is described in section 501(c)(3)...". While the Every Word We Utter Monument organization is in the process of attaining this official status, it is not yet secured.</p>
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for the establishment of the commemorative work, the Every Word We Utter Monument shall transmit the amount of the balance to the Secretary of the Interior for deposit in the account provided for in section 8906(b)(3) of title 40, United States Code.

(2) On expiration of authority.--If upon expiration of the authority for the commemorative work under section 8903(e) of title 40, United States Code, there remains a balance of funds received for the establishment of the commemorative work, the Every Word We Utter Monument shall transmit the amount of the balance to a separate account with the National Park for memorials, to be available to the Secretary of the Interior or Administrator (as appropriate) following the process provided in section 8906(b)(4) of title 40, United States Code, for accounts established under 8906(b)(2) or (3) of title 40, United States Code.