

May 15, 2018

The Honorable James E. Clyburn
242 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mark Sanford
2211 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representatives Clyburn and Sanford,

As organizations committed to the conservation and preservation of America's public lands, waters, forests and cultural and historic heritage, we write to provide our proud endorsement of H.R. 5532, the Reconstruction Era National Historical Park Act.

When the Reconstruction Era National Monument was established by presidential proclamation on January 12, 2017, it was the first public lands designation to highlight the Reconstruction Era. This proclamation preserved a critical piece of African American history and made it accessible for all Americans to learn from and experience. This proclamation also reaffirmed the importance of developing a public lands narrative for the 21st century focused on equity and inclusion of all Americans and the diversity of the American experience throughout our nation's history.

By redesignating the Reconstruction Era National Monument as a National Historical Park, and expanding the designation within the Beaufort National Historic Landmark District, on St. Helena Island, and at the Camp Saxton Site in Port Royal, these important places in American history will be further elevated within the National Park Service portfolio, and another benchmark will be reached in our shared goal of achieving a more equitable and inclusive public lands experience.

Additionally, by creating the Reconstruction Era National Historic Network, more Reconstruction Era sites will be preserved and promoted by the National Park Service, further enhancing opportunities for Americans to learn about the importance of these places and their importance.

Thank you for introducing this important legislation, and for your continued leadership in ensuring the recognition and preservation of America's heritage.

Sincerely,

National Organizations

Alaska Wilderness League
Clean Water Action
Conservation Lands Foundation
Earthwise Productions, Inc.
GreenLatinos
Hip Hop Caucus
Hispanic Access Foundation
League of Conservation Voters
National Trust for Historic Preservation
Next100 Coalition
Outdoor Afro
Rural Coalition
The Praxis Project

The Trust for Public Land
The Wilderness Society

Alabama

Alabama State Association of Cooperatives
Cottage House, Inc.

Arizona

Archaeology Southwest
Friends of Arizona Joshua Tree Forest
Friends of Ironwood Forest
Friends of The Cliffs

California

Amargosa Conservancy
Bodie Hills Conservation Partnership
Californians for Western Wilderness
FORT Friends
Friends of the Inyo
Friends of Point Arena-Stornetta Lands
Lost Coast Interpretive Association
Mojave Desert Land Trust
Native American Land Conservancy
Trinidad Coastal Land Trust

Colorado

CITYWILD
Conejos Clean Water
Dolores River Boating Advocates
Western Slope Conservation Center

Florida

Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse & Museum

Nevada

Desert Wildlife Consultants, LLC
Dream Big Nevada
Friends of Basin and Range
Friends of Black Rock-High Rock
Friends of Gold Butte
Friends of Sloan Canyon

New Mexico

Friends of the Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks
New Mexico Wildlife Federation

Oregon

Friends and Neighbors of the Deschutes Canyon Area

Friends of Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument
Oregon Natural Desert Association

South Carolina

Penn Center
Rural Advancement Fund of the National Sharecroppers, Inc.

Utah

Conserve Southwest Utah
Friends of Cedar Mesa
Grand Staircase Escalante Partners
Utah Dine Bikeyah

Washington

The Trail Posse