

# Congress of the United States

## House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM

2157 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6143

MAJORITY (202) 225-5074  
MINORITY (202) 225-5051  
<http://oversight.house.gov>

### Opening Statement

**Ranking Member Gerald E. Connolly**

**H.R. 2897, to authorize the District of Columbia and the National Park Service to enter into cooperative management agreements**

**July 19, 2017**

Mr. Chairman, this bill is a win-win for the Federal and District of Columbia governments, a rare occurrence. The bill would authorize the National Park Service and the District to enter into agreements for the cooperative management of land controlled by the Park Service in the District.

Under current law, the Park Service may enter into such agreements with state and local governments if such agreements would be more effective and efficient for the management of its land.

Existing law does not give the Park Service express authority to enter into such agreements with the District of Columbia. The bill would remove any doubt that it has such authority.

Congress has chronically underfunded our national parks, resulting in a deferred maintenance backlog of \$11.3 billion in fiscal year 2016.

By authorizing cooperative management agreements, the bill would allow the District to relieve the Park Service of some of these costs. It would also give the District the authority to rehabilitate and revitalize national park lands in the District, consistent with both Federal and District needs.

I urge adoption of the bill.

---

Contact: Jennifer Werner, Communications Director, (202) 226-5181.