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SENATE

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### WOMEN WHO WORKED ON THE HOME FRONT WORLD WAR II MEMORIAL ACT

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OCTOBER 18, 2022.—Ordered to be printed

Filed, under authority of the order of the Senate of October 14, 2022

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Mr. MANCHIN, from the Committee on Energy and Natural  
Resources, submitted the following

### R E P O R T

[To accompany H.R. 3531]

The Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, to which was referred the bill (H.R. 3531), to authorize the Women Who Worked on the Home Front Foundation to establish a commemorative work in the District of Columbia and its environs, and for other purposes, having considered the same, reports favorably thereon without amendment and recommends that the bill do pass.

#### PURPOSE

The purpose of H.R. 3531 is to authorize the Women Who Worked on the Home Front Foundation to establish a commemorative work in the District of Columbia and its environs to commemorate the commitment and service represented by women who worked on the home front during World War II.

#### BACKGROUND AND NEED

H.R. 3531 would authorize construction of a commemorative work to commemorate the more than 18 million American women who kept the home front running during World War II. This included more than 10,000 women who worked as code breakers and over 1,100 female volunteers who flew military aircraft as part of the Women Airforce Service Pilots program. Women filled, often for the first time, millions of manufacturing, construction, and engineering jobs necessary to keep the American wartime economy functioning.

In February 2020, the National Capital Memorial Advisory Commission agreed that the compelling story of American women’s contributions and changing status during World War II is of lasting national significance and that the proposed commemorative work would enrich and diversify the portfolio of commemorative works in Washington, DC.

#### LEGISLATIVE HISTORY

H.R. 3531, sponsored by Delegate Norton and others, was introduced on May 25, 2021. The Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests, and Public Lands held a hearing on the bill on October 14, 2021, and the bill was reported by the Committee on Natural Resources on December 1, 2021 (H. Rept. 117–197). H.R. 3531 passed the House of Representatives by a vote of 425–1 on December 9, 2021.

A companion bill, S. 1814, was introduced by Senators, Duckworth, Blackburn, and Braun on March 25, 2021. Senator Duckworth introduced similar legislation in the 116th Congress, S. 3474. No further action was taken on that bill.

The Subcommittee on National Parks held a hearing on S. 1814 and H.R. 3531 on May 11, 2022.

#### COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

The Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, in open business session on July 21, 2022, by a voice vote of a quorum present, recommends that the Senate pass H.R. 3531.

#### SECTION-BY-SECTION ANALYSIS

##### *Section 1. Short title*

Section 1 provides the short title of the bill, the “Women Who Worked on the Home Front World War II Memorial Act.”

##### *Section 2. Authorization to establish commemorative work*

Section 2(a) authorizes the Women Who Worked on the Home Front Foundation to establish a commemorative work on federal land in the District of Columbia to commemorate the commitment and service represented by women who worked on the home front during World War II.

Subsection (b) provides that the establishment of the commemorative work shall be in accordance with 40 U.S.C. chapter 89, commonly known as the “Commemorative Works Act.”

Subsection (c) prohibits the use of Federal funds to pay any expense of the establishment of the commemorative work. The Foundation shall be solely responsible for the acceptance of contributions for, and payment of the expenses of, establishing the commemorative work.

Subsection (d) provides that any excess funds remaining after establishment of the commemorative work shall be deposited into account provided for in 40 U.S.C. 8906(b)(3).

##### *Section 3. Determination of budgetary effects*

Section 3 is a budgetary effects statement.

## COST AND BUDGETARY CONSIDERATIONS

The Committee has requested, but has not yet received, the Congressional Budget Office's estimate of the cost of H.R. 3531 as ordered reported. When the Congressional Budget Office completes its cost estimate, it will be posted on the Internet at [www.cbo.gov](http://www.cbo.gov).

## REGULATORY IMPACT EVALUATION

In compliance with paragraph 11(b) of rule XXVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the Committee makes the following evaluation of the regulatory impact which would be incurred in carrying out H.R. 3531. The bill is not a regulatory measure in the sense of imposing Government-established standards or significant economic responsibilities on private individuals and businesses. No personal information would be collected in administering the program. Therefore, there would be no impact on personal privacy. Little, if any, additional paperwork would result from the enactment of H.R. 3531, as ordered reported.

## CONGRESSIONALLY DIRECTED SPENDING

H.R. 3531, as ordered reported, does not contain any congressionally directed spending items, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in rule XLIV of the Standing Rules of the Senate.

## EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS

The testimony provided by the Department of the Interior at the May 11, 2022, hearing on H.R. 3531 follows:

STATEMENT OF MICHAEL A. CALDWELL, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR, PARK PLANNING, FACILITIES, AND LANDS, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Chairman King, Ranking Member Daines, and members of the Subcommittee, thank you for the opportunity to present the views of the Department of the Interior on S. 1814, a bill to authorize the Women Who Worked on the Home Front Foundation to establish a commemorative work in the District of Columbia and its environs.

The Department supports this legislation.

S. 1814 would authorize the Women Who Worked on the Home Front Foundation to establish a commemorative work on Federal land in Washington, D.C. and its environs to commemorate the "commitment and service represented by women who worked on the home front during World War II." The bill requires compliance with the Commemorative Works Act (40 U.S.C. Chapter 89) (CWA) and prohibits Federal funds from being used to establish the memorial. "Women Who Worked on the Home Front" refers to the countless American women who stepped up to support their nation during America's involvement in World War II. Between 1941 and 1945, the female portion of the U.S. workforce increased from 27 percent to nearly 37 percent. More than 10,000 women worked as code breakers during WWII and over 1,100 female volunteers flew nearly

every type of military aircraft as part of the Women Airforce Service Pilots program. Women were trained to fly military aircraft so male pilots could leave for combat duty overseas. Other jobs women filled, often for the first time, included keel welder, telegraph operator, steam hammer operator, radio engineer, electrical engineer, crane operator, flash welder, ship fitter, tinsmith, pipe fitter, surveyor, draftsman, and so much more.

In February 2020, the National Capital Memorial Advisory Commission (Commission) reviewed an identical version of this legislation that was introduced in the 116th Congress. The CWA established the Commission and requires Congress to solicit its views when considering legislation authorizing Commemorative Works within the District of Columbia and its environs.

During its review, the Commission agreed that the compelling story of American women's contributions and changing status during World War II is of lasting national significance and that this proposed commemoration would enrich and diversify the portfolio of commemorative works in Washington, DC. The Commission also recommended keeping the focus of the commemorative work on the themes of "commitment" and "service," rather than on the individuals themselves, in accordance with section § 8903(c) of the CWA.

Chairman King, this concludes my statement. I would be pleased to answer any questions you or other members of the Subcommittee may have.

#### CHANGES IN EXISTING LAW

In compliance with paragraph 12 of rule XXVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the Committee notes that no changes in existing law are made by the bill as ordered reported.

