

# Committee on Natural Resources

Rob Bishop Chairman  
Mark-Up Memorandum

January 8, 2018

To: All Subcommittee on Federal Lands Members

From: Majority Committee Staff — Terry Camp and Steven Parr  
Subcommittee on Federal Lands (x6-7736)

Hearing: **H.R. 1220 (Rep. Stephen Lynch)**, To establish the Adams Memorial Commission to carry out the provisions of Public Law 107-62, and for other purposes.  
**January 10, 2018 at 10:00 a.m.; 1324 Longworth HOB**

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## **Summary of the Bill**

H.R. 1220, introduced by Rep. Stephen F. Lynch (D-MA-08), would establish an Adams Memorial Commission to plan, accept funds for, and construct a permanent memorial on federal land in the District of Columbia to honor John Adams and his legacy. The Adams Memorial Commission will be provided the authorities and responsibilities previously conferred on the Adams Memorial Foundation under Public Law 107-62, enacted in 2001.

## **Cosponsors**

[11 Cosponsors](#)

## **Background**

The Adams family, including our nation's second President, John Adams, his wife Abigail Adams, and their son, the sixth President, John Quincy Adams, has made a distinguished contribution to American history. Following his service as our Nation's first Vice President, John Adams was elected President in 1796. Abigail Adams, an early advocate of women's rights and a staunch abolitionist, is regarded as one of the most influential First Ladies. John Quincy Adams served in the Senate and as Secretary of State in the Monroe Administration prior to his election as President in 1824. He was subsequently elected to the House of Representatives, where he served until his death in 1848. Despite the enormous contributions of John Adams and his family to our nation, there is no memorial in Washington, D.C. dedicated to his legacy.

On November 5, 2001, President George W. Bush signed Public Law 107-62, which authorized the Adams Memorial Foundation to use private funds to construct a commemorative work on federal land in the District of Columbia honoring former President John Adams and the Adams family. On December 2, 2002, Congress enacted Public Law 107-315, approving the location for the commemorative work within Area I, the monumental core area in Washington, D.C. described in the Commemorative Works Act (CWA, 40 U.S.C. 8901 et seq.). Under the

CWA, a construction permit must be issued with seven years of authorization, or the legislative authority lapses.

Since 2001, the Adams Memorial Foundation has established a board of trustees and supporting committees, developed initial design concepts, conducted reviews of potential locations, engaged commemorative planning and design services, and coordinated with Congress, the National Park Service, and other stakeholders. It has not, however, been able to select a site, design the memorial, receive the requisite approvals, or raise sufficient funds for the construction to date. Under the terms of the CWA, the original legislative authority to establish the memorial expired on December 2, 2009. Congress subsequently extended the Foundation's authority until September 30, 2010, through Public Law 111-88; until December 2, 2013, through Public Law 111-155; and finally, until December 2, 2020, through Public Law 113-291.

H.R. 1220 would establish the Adams Memorial Commission to plan, accept funds for, and construct a permanent memorial to John Adams and his legacy. The authorities and responsibilities previously conferred on Adams Memorial Foundation will be transferred to the Adams Memorial Commission, and the Commission will expire seven years following enactment of the Act.

### **Cost**

A CBO cost analysis has not yet been completed for this bill.

### **Administration Position**

The Administration position is unknown at this time.

### **Anticipated Amendments**

- Rep. Rob Bishop (R-UT-01) will offer an amendment to strike the authorization of appropriations from the bill.

### **Effect on Current Law (Ramseyer)**

## **Showing Current Law as Amended by H.R. 1220**

[new text highlighted in yellow; text to be deleted bracketed and highlighted in blue]

### **Public Law 107-62**

#### **SECTION 1. COMMEMORATIVE WORK TO HONOR JOHN ADAMS AND HIS LEGACY.**

(a) FINDINGS.—The Congress finds the following: (1) Few families have contributed as profoundly to the United States as the family that gave the Nation its second president, John Adams; its sixth president, John Quincy Adams; first ladies Abigail Smith Adams and Louisa

Catherine Johnson Adams; and succeeding generations of statesmen, diplomats, advocates, and authors.

(2) John Adams (1735–1826), a lawyer, a statesman, and a patriot, was the author of the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts (the oldest written constitution still in force), the leader of the Second Continental Congress, a driving force for independence, a negotiator of the Treaty of Paris (which brought the Revolutionary War to an end), the first Vice President, the second President, and an unwavering exponent of freedom of conscience and the rule of law.

(3) Abigail Smith Adams (1744–1818) was one of the most remarkable women of her time. Wife of former President John Adams and mother of former President John Quincy Adams, she was an early advocate for the rights of women and served the cause of liberty as a prolific writer, fierce patriot, and staunch abolitionist.

(4) John Quincy Adams (1767–1848), the son of John and Abigail Adams, was a distinguished lawyer, legislator, and diplomat and a master of 7 languages, who served as Senator, Minister to the Netherlands under President George Washington, Minister to Prussia under the first President Adams, Minister to Great Britain under President James Madison, chief negotiator of the Treaty of Ghent (which ended the War of 1812), Secretary of State under President James Monroe, author of the Monroe Doctrine (which declared the Western Hemisphere off limits to European imperial expansion), sixth President, and the only former President to be elected to the House of Representatives, where he was known as “Old Man Eloquent” and served with great distinction as a leader in the fight against slavery and a champion of unpopular causes.

(5) Louisa Catherine Johnson Adams (1775–1852), the wife of former President John Quincy Adams, was an educated, accomplished woman and the only first lady born outside the United States. Like Abigail Adams, she wrote eloquently on behalf of the rights of women and in opposition to slavery.

(6) Charles Francis Adams (1807–1886), the son of John Quincy and Louisa Adams, served 6 years in the Massachusetts legislature, was a steadfast abolitionist who received the Free Soil Party’s vice-presidential nomination in 1848, was elected to his father’s seat in the House of Representatives in 1856, and served as ambassador to Great Britain during the Civil War, where his efforts were decisive in preventing the British Government from recognizing the independence of the Confederacy.

(7) Henry Adams (1838–1918), the son of Charles Francis Adams, was an eminent writer, scholar, historian, and public intellectual, and was the author of many celebrated works, including “Democracy”, “The Education of Henry Adams”, and his 9-volume “History of the United States during the Administrations of Jefferson and Madison”.

(8) Both individually and collectively, the members of this illustrious family have enriched the Nation through their profound civic consciousness, abiding belief in the

perfectibility of the Nation’s democracy, and commitment to service and sacrifice for the common good.

(9) Although the Congress has authorized the establishment of commemorative works on Federal lands in the District of Columbia honoring such celebrated former Presidents as George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, and Abraham Lincoln, the National Capital has no comparable memorial to former President John Adams.

(10) In recognition of the 200th anniversary of the end of the presidency of John Adams, the time has come to correct this oversight so that future generations of Americans will know and understand the preeminent historical and lasting significance to the Nation of his contributions and those of his family.

(b) **AUTHORITY TO ESTABLISH COMMEMORATIVE WORK.**—The Adams Memorial **[Foundation]** **Commission** may establish a commemorative work on Federal land in the District of Columbia and its environs to honor former President John Adams, along with his wife Abigail Adams and former President John Quincy Adams, and the family’s legacy of public service.

(c) **COMPLIANCE WITH STANDARDS FOR COMMEMORATIVE WORKS.**—The establishment of the commemorative work shall be in accordance with the Commemorative Works Act (40 U.S.C. 1001, et seq.).

(d) **USE OF FEDERAL FUNDS PROHIBITED.**—Federal funds may not be used to pay any expense of the establishment of the commemorative work. The Adams Memorial **[Foundation]** **Commission** shall be solely responsible for acceptance of contributions for, and payment of the expenses of, the establishment of the commemorative work.

(e) **DEPOSIT OF EXCESS FUNDS.**—If, upon payment of all expenses of the establishment of the commemorative work (including the maintenance and preservation amount provided for in section 8(b) of the Commemorative Works Act (40 U.S.C. 1001, et seq.)), or upon expiration of the authority for the commemorative work under section 10(b) of such Act, there remains a balance of funds received for the establishment of the commemorative work, the Adams Memorial **[Foundation]** **Commission** shall transmit the amount of the balance to the Secretary of the Treasury for deposit in the account provided for in section 8(b)(1) of such Act.

**SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.** For purposes of this Act, the terms “commemorative work” and “the District of Columbia and its environs” have the meanings given to such terms in section 2 of the Commemorative Works Act (40 U.S.C. 1002). Approved November 5, 2001.