



Hon. Sara C. Bronin
Chair

Jordan E. Tannenbaum
Vice Chairman

Reid J. Nelson
Executive Director

December 12, 2024

The Honorable Joe Manchin, Chairman
Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
United States Senate, SD-304
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable John A. Barrasso, Ranking Member
Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
United States Senate, SD-304
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Bruce Westerman, Chairman
Committee on Natural Resources
U.S. House of Representatives, LHOB-1324
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Raúl Grijalva, Ranking Member
Committee on Natural Resources
U.S. House of Representatives, LHOB-1324
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Manchin, Chairman Westerman, Ranking Member Barrasso, Ranking Member Grijalva:

The Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) would like to provide comments on the Julius Rosenwald and Rosenwald Schools National Historical Park Act (S. 5122/H.R. 9691). The ACHP is the independent federal agency that is charged with advising the President and Congress on historic preservation matters and with overseeing review of federal projects under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.

In this capacity, the ACHP urges your committees to support the Julius Rosenwald and Rosenwald Schools National Historical Park Act in order to better manage and preserve the important history associated with Julius Rosenwald and his support for African American education in America.

While the philanthropy of the late Julius Rosenwald was wide-reaching, he is perhaps most well-known for funding the construction of more than 5,000 schools in the rural South for underserved African American children, which came to be known as “Rosenwald Schools.” In addition to establishing a National Park unit to interpret Rosenwald’s life and legacy, the bill also would create the Rosenwald Schools National Network program within the National Park Service (NPS). Like other thematic networks administered by NPS—such as the Reconstruction Era National Historic Network and the African American Civil Rights Network—this program would provide technical assistance, support research, and otherwise promote interpretation and visitation of sites associated with Rosenwald Schools. Both the park and the new network program would help to preserve buildings and sites that embody important themes and events in America’s history.

Please feel free to contact me to discuss this matter as consideration of the bill proceeds. In addition, your staff may wish to contact ACHP Executive Director Reid Nelson at rmelson@achp.gov. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Sara C. Bronin
Chair

ADVISORY COUNCIL ON HISTORIC PRESERVATION

401 F Street NW, Suite 308 • Washington, DC 20001-2637
Phone: 202-517-0200 • Fax: 202-517-6381 • achp@achp.gov • www.achp.gov