



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
**WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM**

BILL NUMBER: <b>HB 1137</b>		DATE: <b>4/8/2025</b>	
COMMITTEE: <b>Government Efficiency</b>			
<b>TESTIFYING:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>ALLEN RAMSEY</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:		SUBMIT DATE: <b>4/8/2025 12:00 AM</b>
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>			



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>ARNIE C."HONEST-ABE" DIENOFF-STATE PUBLIC ADVOCATE</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>arniedienoff@yahoo.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>		SUBMIT DATE: <b>4/8/2025 11:57 PM</b>
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>			
<b>I am in Support of this Bill on its Face.</b>			



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>CARLI WARREN</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:		SUBMIT DATE: <b>4/8/2025 12:00 AM</b>
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>DAMON CERNETISCH</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>DENNIS ELLIS</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>EDWARD PIATT</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:		SUBMIT DATE: <b>4/8/2025 12:00 AM</b>
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>GERALD G. HUBBARD</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:		SUBMIT DATE: <b>4/8/2025 12:00 AM</b>
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>GREG ROWDEN</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:		SUBMIT DATE: <b>4/8/2025 12:00 AM</b>
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>HERMAN KELLY</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: <b>SHANNON COUNTY COMMISSIONER</b>		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: <b>4/8/2025 12:00 AM</b>	
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>KAREN S. DEARLOVE, THOMAS J. DEARLOVE</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>karen.s.dearlove@gmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>In-Person</b>		SUBMIT DATE: <b>4/3/2025 7:19 PM</b>
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Historically, national parks were established out of existing federal lands under the management of various US agencies such as the BLM, Forest Service, FWS, etc., therefore a 'park boundary' was never really in question: it was the federal land within the park boundary set at its declaration by Congress. However, ONSR was only the second national park formed by the acquisition of private lands within a Congressionally designated 'purchase area boundary', i.e., the maximum extent of area within which private lands could be purchased. As the federal appropriations ran out, the National Park Service did not acquire all the land within the ONSR's designated purchase area boundary. Thus, the federal park lands held in fee or fee simple title are a patchwork across the landscape of the Current and Jacks Fork rivers. HB 1454 / HB 1137 will clarify and codify that the jurisdiction on all State lands is reserved to the State of Missouri - especially as the State has extensive forest landholdings, as well as public roads and state highways that fall within the 'purchase area boundary' but are not under any concurrent jurisdiction that provides for their management, maintenance, or operational expense. NPS ONSR patrols and enforcement actions on the rivers, trails, park roads, and park lands are where the limited federal resources are to be expended.



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>MICHAEL BELL</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:		SUBMIT DATE: <b>4/8/2025 12:00 AM</b>
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>PHILIP D. WATSON</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:		SUBMIT DATE: <b>4/8/2025 12:00 AM</b>
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>ROB DAMOUTH</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:		SUBMIT DATE: <b>4/8/2025 12:00 AM</b>
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>ROBERT ROSS</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>Rossformo@gmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>		SUBMIT DATE: <b>4/8/2025 1:40 PM</b>
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>STEVE HOGAN</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:		SUBMIT DATE: <b>4/8/2025 12:00 AM</b>
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>STEVEN RAY HOGAN, SHERIFF SHANNON COUNTY</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>hogan1270@gmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>		SUBMIT DATE: <b>4/8/2025 7:35 AM</b>
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>			

Ladies and gentlemen, Thank you for being here today. I stand before you not just as a resident of this community but as your elected Sheriff—someone who swore an oath to protect and serve each and every one of you. When I first took office, I made a promise to the people of Shannon County: You will live in peace, and I will stand beside you in the face of any government overreach that threatens your rights. This promise is one I take seriously, and it's one that has never been more important than now, as we are facing actions that I believe cross the line of lawful conduct by the National Park Service (NPS) Rangers. Our community is rich with history and beauty, and we take pride in the land we call home. But, unfortunately, the actions of some within the National Park Service are threatening to infringe upon the freedoms and rights of the very people who have lived here for generations. One of the most concerning issues we are seeing is the growing number of traffic stops conducted by NPS Rangers. These stops often involve minor infractions, like equipment violations, but quickly devolve into invasive questioning. Instead of focusing on the violation at hand, many of these encounters have seen NPS Rangers questioning citizens with intrusive, baseless accusations, asking things like, "Where are your drugs?" or "Where are your weapons?" This is unacceptable. It is not the role of law enforcement to use an equipment violation as an excuse to harass people with unfounded, sweeping questions that have no merit. This is not what law enforcement should be about. What is even more concerning is that these incidents are happening outside of the National Park Service's jurisdiction. To be clear, the NPS Rangers' jurisdiction does not extend far beyond the boundaries of the park itself. However, traffic stops and harassment are occurring many miles outside of their potential jurisdiction—an act that is both unlawful and an abuse of power. This is not just an overreach; it is an overstep that must be addressed. I want to make it clear that the Shannon County Sheriff's Office is currently investigating one of these incidents, which occurred outside the NPS's jurisdiction. We are treating this matter with the seriousness it deserves, and charges are expected to be filed in the near future by the Shannon County Prosecutor. We will ensure that those responsible for unlawful conduct will be held accountable. Our office will not stand by while any agency operates outside the bounds of the law, especially when it comes to harassing our citizens. It's also important to point out that the actions of the National Park Service Rangers are in stark contrast to the approach taken by the Shannon County Sheriff's Office and the Missouri State Highway Patrol (MSHP). Both agencies are dedicated to protecting our citizens and respecting their rights. Unlike the NPS, we don't conduct these kinds of unjustified stops or engage in harassment. We focus on serving our community with integrity, not intimidation. As your Sheriff, it pains me to admit that I myself avoid driving through areas under the jurisdiction of the National Park Service out of fear of harassment. It's a sad day when even the Sheriff of Shannon County feels that he may be targeted simply for driving through his own county. But it's even more tragic for the people of Shannon County who have to endure this harassment multiple times a day as they go about their peaceful, everyday lives. This is not the kind of treatment any citizen



should have to endure. Let's be clear: The right to travel freely without undue harassment or infringement upon our personal rights is a fundamental one. This kind of overreach—whether from the NPS or any other agency—cannot be allowed to stand. Our citizens deserve better. They deserve to live in peace, without the constant fear of being unlawfully stopped or interrogated by overzealous officers. As your Sheriff, I will continue to stand by your side. I will fight against government overreach and ensure that your rights are protected. And as we continue our investigation into the recent unlawful traffic stop, we will make sure that justice is served. Thank you for your support, and let us work together to ensure that our community remains a place where our rights are respected and our freedoms upheld. Steven R. Hogan, SHERIFF Shannon County Sheriff's Office Office: 573-226-3615 Cell: 573-604-1118 Fax: 573-226-5561 "The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing."



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>CONSERVATION FEDERATION</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>573-634-2322</b>	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: <b>CONSERVATION FEDERATION OF MISSOURI</b>		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: <b>728 W. MAIN ST.</b>			
CITY: <b>JEFFERSON CITY</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>65101</b>
EMAIL: <b>info@confedmo.org</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>		SUBMIT DATE: <b>4/8/2025 5:44 PM</b>

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The Conservation Federation of Missouri (CFM) is the largest conservation group in Missouri, comprised of over 100 conservation and outdoor affiliated organizations. We proudly represent hunters, anglers, birders, campers, floaters, and other outdoor enthusiasts, who collectively number over 80,000 Missourians. CFM was formed in 1935, when deer and turkey were nearly gone from Missouri, and our forests had been mostly cleared. Our members have been supporters of Ozark National Scenic Riverways since its creation. This beautiful resource provides recreation opportunities for all Missourians, and the preservation of these lands is essential to the local economies of many small communities in the Ozarks. The Current and Jacks Fork Rivers are two of the most beautiful examples of Ozark streams. Their clear waters harbor unique and endemic species that only exist in the Ozarks, while supporting endless fishing, floating, and other outdoor activities. These areas must remain protected by the National Park System for all to enjoy.



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>EDWARD JOHNSON</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>edwrd_jhnsn@hotmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>		SUBMIT DATE: <b>4/8/2025 7:54 PM</b>
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>REGISTERED LOBBYIST:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>ELIZABETH L SMITH</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>573-694-5787</b>	
REPRESENTING: <b>THE NATURE CONSERVANCY</b>		TITLE: <b>EXTERNAL RELATIONS</b>	
ADDRESS: <b>2011 WAYNE AVE</b>			
CITY: <b>JEFFERSON CITY</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>65109</b>
EMAIL: <b>e.smith@TNC.org</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>		SUBMIT DATE: <b>4/8/2025 8:11 PM</b>

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Ozark National Scenic Riverways provides a framework for protection to some of the most ecologically and economically important Ozark streams. Our concern is that removal of such designation could threaten the protection that has made this area so such a draw for tourism and a stronghold for freshwater biodiversity.



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>MELISSA VATTEROTT</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>314-727-0600</b>	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: <b>MISSOURI COALITION FOR THE ENVIRONMENT</b>		TITLE: <b>DIRECTOR OF POLICY AND STRATEGY</b>	
ADDRESS: <b>725 KINGSLAND AVENUE, SUITE 100</b>			
CITY: <b>SAINT LOUIS</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>63130</b>
EMAIL: <b>mvatterott@moenvironment.org</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>4/8/2025 12:18 PM</b>	
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>			

April 8, 2025  
Chairman Ben Baker  
House Government Efficiency  
201 W Capitol Ave. RM 302-1  
Jefferson City, MO 65101

Dear Chairman Baker and Members of the Committee,

Missouri Coalition for the Environment is a statewide, advocacy nonprofit organization that works to empower Missourians to protect their environment and health. We at MCE urge you to reject HB 1137 / HB 1454, which would remove federal jurisdiction over the Ozark National Scenic Riverways. This bill threatens America's first federally protected river system, established in 1964 to preserve the pristine Current and Jacks Fork Rivers. Removing federal jurisdiction would endanger ongoing conservation efforts that protect water quality, biodiversity, and cultural sites. The economic consequences would be severe, as the area attracts 1.3 million annual visitors who generate substantial revenue for local communities. The bill's attempt to remove federal jurisdiction would harm Missouri's natural heritage, economy, and reputation as a steward of unique natural resources. Additionally, this legislation would violate the good faith agreements through which the federal government acquired these lands. Preserving federal jurisdiction is essential to maintaining this national treasure for future generations. I respectfully urge you to reject this bill and protect Missouri's natural beauty and resources. Thank you for your time and please do not hesitate to reach out to me if you have any questions.

Sincerely, Melissa Vatterott, JD  
Director of Policy and Strategy  
Missouri Coalition for the Environment  
mvatterott@moenvironment.org  
(314) 727-0600, ext. 111



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>ABIGAIL HERNDON</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>abbymherndon@gmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>		SUBMIT DATE: <b>4/7/2025 5:29 PM</b>

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**I have concerns related to Payments in Lieu of Taxes our state receives from the federal government and the ecological impacts this bill will have.**



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BILL NUMBER: <b>HB 1137</b>		DATE: <b>4/8/2025</b>	
COMMITTEE: <b>Government Efficiency</b>			
<b>TESTIFYING:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>ABIGAIL HERNDON</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>abbymherndon@gmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>		SUBMIT DATE: <b>4/7/2025 5:17 PM</b>

**THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.**

**Is this bill regarding the creation of a prison farm while causing severe ecological damage of federally protected land?**