



CESAR E. CHAVEZ AND THE FARMWORKER MOVEMENT NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK ACT

This bicameral bill would create the César Chávez and the Farmworker Movement National Historical Park as well as the Farmworker Peregrinacion National Historic Trail. This will better tell the story of Cesar Chavez and the farmworker movement, as well as help our National Park System tell the stories of historically underrepresented groups.

In 2012, President Obama established the César Chávez National Monument, which includes La Nuestra Señora Reina de la Paz in Keene, California. That was a monumental step forward but leaves much of the story of Chavez and the farmworker movement untold.

In 2013, the National Park Service completed a [Special Resource Study](#) recommending that Congress establish a National Historical Park that would incorporate several nationally significant sites in California and Arizona related to the life of César Chávez and the farm labor movement. The study also found that the 1966 March Route meets the criteria for a national historic trail. The legislation authorizing the Special Resource Study was championed by Senator McCain and Rep. Hilda Solis in the House with strong bipartisan support.

The National Historical Park bill would include the following sites recommended in the Special Resource Study: 1) The Forty Acres in Delano, California; 2) César Chávez National Monument; and 3) the Santa Rita Center in Phoenix, Arizona. The bill would also authorize Interior to add in an addition site, McDonnell Hall in San Jose, California, upon written consent of the landowners. Based on the Special Resource Study, it would also designate the 1966 March Route as the Farmworker Peregrinacion National Historic Trail.

The National Park Service embraces their role as “America’s storytellers”, yet we know that too few national park units primarily focus on women, communities of color, or other historically marginalized groups. In the words of Paul Chavez, “It is crucial that our national park system represents the diversity of America and respect the richness and fullness of the heritage of all of our nation’s people. Establishing a César Chávez National Historical Park would help fulfill that vision.”

This effort is supported by a number of conservation, Latino, and civil rights organizations, including the Chavez Foundation, whose president Paul Chavez is the son of Cesar Chavez, and Alejandro Chavez, grandson of Cesar Chavez.
