By Mr. MATHIAS: 
S. 1903. To preserve, protect, and maintain the original boundary stones of the Nation's Capital; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

NATIONAL CAPITAL BOUNDARY STONES ACT

S. 1903. Mr. President. This is a bill to preserve, protect and maintain the original boundary stones of the Nation’s Capital. The stones are the boundary markers of the site of the Nation’s Capital. They are important testimonial to the history of the Nation’s Capital, the work of Andrew Elliott and Benjamin Banneker and the history of early surveying and civil engineering in the United States.

The stones are category II landmarks of the U.S. National Park Service and the District of Columbia. The designation signifies that they are of paramount importance in preserving or restoring, if possible. They are also important in the National Register of Historic Places and维护 the District’s historic preservation efforts. The District of Columbia and Virginia are prepared to nominate them to the National Register.

In 1914, a committee of the District of Columbia recommended that the stones be protected. Over the course of the following 30 years, members of the DAR once again located the stones, secured “deeds” from affected property owners, and placed a fence around the stones. In 1941, the District of Columbia began to maintain the stones. In 1960, the Smithsonian Institution took over the maintenance of the stones.

In 1979, a program was established by the Smithsonian Institution to protect and maintain the stones. This program has been successful in preserving the stones over the years. The stones have been the subject of various studies and surveys, and the results are used to maintain the stones.

The President, Mr. President, this bill is a proposal to preserve, protect, and maintain the original boundary stones of the Nation’s Capital. The stones are an important part of the history of the Nation’s Capital, and it is important to preserve them for future generations.

The President, Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that several letters supporting the purpose of this Act be printed in the Record at the end of this bill.

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The President, Mr. President, this bill is a proposal to preserve, protect, and maintain the original boundary stones of the Nation’s Capital. The stones are an important part of the history of the Nation’s Capital, and it is important to preserve them for future generations.

The President, Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that several letters supporting the purpose of this Act be printed in the Record at the end of this bill.
be suitable for recording purposes;  
(2) with respect to each boundary stone located within 200 feet of the compass at the corners of the ten mile square, the monument, and within the original ten mile square of the National Capital a plan for preserving, protecting, and maintaining such boundary stones;  
(3) with respect to each of the other boundary stones, we propose a legislative recommendation that such boundary stones be left in place, maintained, and made the subject to appropriated funds for public viewing, to carry out such program;  
(4) in consideration of and maintenance for those boundary stones that have been moved or which are missing or which cannot be located in the original ten mile square of the National Capital a plan for those boundary stones which may include agreements with the Federal Government, local governments of the states and the municipalities of the District of Columbia, and with such other parties as may be involved in the preservation of such boundary stones;  
(5) alternative plans for the long-term care and maintenance of the boundary stones which may include agreements with the Federal Government, local governments of the states within the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the Commonwealth of Virginia within which such boundary stones are located, and the local governments of the states of Maryland, the Commonwealth of Virginia, and the District of Columbia.

We concur in this recommendation.

The National Park Service looks forward to working with you and your staff on this project.

Sincerely yours,

JACK PETHO, Assistant Director, Special Projects Branch, National Capital Planning Commission, Washington, D.C.

Dee Ms. Shoes: Although I had reviewed the attractively produced Boundary Stones report only a few days ago, I failed to realize the importance of the boundary stones before departure on extended absence outside the District of Columbia. I am very pleased to have them herewith in the event that they are still of interest.

We propose the Boundary stones and mile markers of the ten-mile square should become the property of the U.S. Government and be preserved, protected, and maintained, as such boundary stones are located precisely on, or by today's survey, between the boundary line of 1000 feet north of the Columbia River and the states of Maryland and Virginia.

We concur in this recommendation.

The National Park Service is convinced that the boundary stones and mile markers of the ten-mile square of the National Capital can be preserved, protected, and maintained, as such boundary stones are located precisely on, or by today's survey, between the boundary line of 1000 feet north of the Columbia River and the states of Maryland and Virginia.

We concur in this recommendation.

The National Park Service is prepared to take appropriate action to carry out such program.

Sincerely yours,

JACK PETHO, Assistant Director, Special Projects Branch, National Capital Planning Commission, Washington, D.C.
A "Cornerstone Park" should be created at each of the four cornerstone markers.

5. Create a "Boundary Stone Museum" at the lighthouse at Jones Point in Alexandria, Virginia, site of the South Boundary Stone.

The Maryland-National Capital Commission has also been asked to study historical markers.

Agreed.

While they do have historic interest, the boundary stones should not rank with buildings where historic events occurred and which have architectural merit. They should retain the Category II Landmark designation. Rather than create a new office or agency, the National Park Service should be assigned responsibility for the boundary stones.

This would be especially appropriate for the North Cornerstone which lies just off of Van-Watt Highway in the west section of Silver Spring, where the National Capital Commission is now considering removal of the stone as subject to consideration of safety. A highway should be considered as an integral part of the national fabric - and formal beauty and historical significance of the stones as well as for the development of a program. The introduction of an appropriate body and public awareness and protection of these historical markers. I respectfully suggest the Maryland-National Capital Commission study the boundary stones and report in a manner consistent with the recommendations of the Historical Marker Commission. The Monuments Board should have a representative on the Maryland-National Capital Commission.
The Maryland Historical Trust, Annapolis, Md., February 3, 1977.

Attention: Hon. James H. Rowe, Jr.

Re: NCPC File No. 1502.

National Capital Planning Commission,
400 First Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Rowe:

Please accept the thanks of the Maryland Historical Trust for the comprehensive study of the Boundary Markers of the "Capital City." (National Capital Planning Commission, Washington, D.C., 1976.)

We understand that a draft of such legislation with supporting documentation has been completed recently by the American Society of Civil Engineers in cooperation with the National Capital Planning Commission and is now presented for your consideration.

At its meeting of September 25, the Committee of 100 voted to support this proposal and advise you on its interest in seeing that Mr. Mathias was introduced and approved by the Congress at an early date.

Sincerely,

C. J. Mathias
Interior

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
Richmond, Va., October 12, 1979.

Re: D.C. Boundary Stones, Fairfax County

Mr. Maurice Meissner
Legislative Assistant
Senator Charles McC. Mathias, Jr.
359 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Mr. Meissner:

Thank you for sending the information on the D.C. Boundary Stones. The stones are a remarkable series of landmarks and I fully support the bill you will keep me informed of action on the legislation and its implementation.

It is gratifying to know Congress' interest in this matter.

With best wishes,

Sincerely,

TUCKER HILL
Executive Director

THE LEAGUE OF AMERICAN WILDLIFE, INC.


Re: NCPC File No. 1502.

National Capital Planning Commission

Dear Senator Mathias:

I find the boundary marker report to be excellent; a first-class effort.

On page 57, picture No. 4, drawing SW-2 is out to be in good condition.

This is a minor comment; I commend the report and I think NCPC did a terrific job.

Sincerely,

ALAN HINCKLEY

Governrnent of the District of Columbia

Hon. Charles McC. Mathias, Jr.
U.S. Senate.
Washington, D.C.

Dear Senator Mathias:

It has come to our attention that you plan to introduce legislation to insure the preservation and maintenance of the remaining boundary markers placed in the 18th century to identify the boundaries of the District of Columbia.

Mr. Robert L. Moore, State Historic Preservation Officer for the District of Columbia, supports the proposed nomination of the boundary markers to the National Register of Historic Places. A copy of a report from Mr. Moore is enclosed.

We are ready to cooperate with the Maryland and Virginia State Historic Preservation Officers and the National Capital Planning Commission on the legislation for the preservation and maintenance of the boundary markers.

We appreciate your leadership in this matter.

Sincerely yours,

Barbara G. Washington, Assistant City Administrator for Intergovernmental Relations

Memo:

To: Robert D. Moore, State Historic Preservation Officer for the District of Columbia,

From: Robert D. Moore, State Historic Preservation Officer for the District of Columbia.

Subject: Preservation of the Original Boundary Markers of the District of Columbia.

It has come to my attention that there is growing concern and interest in the preservation of the remaining boundary markers set up by Andrew Ellicott during his 1791-1792 survey establishing the boundaries of the District of Columbia.

Thirty-eight of the original forty markers are extant, but many of them have been damaged over the years. They are designated Category II sites because they are remnants of historic sites but are not listed in the National Register of Historic Places. The District's historic preservation office sought to work with the historic preservation officers in Maryland and Virginia toward the nomination and listing of the markers in the National Register.

This legislation would study and map the boundary markers. It would propose the nomination of the boundary markers to the National Register.

It is hoped that Senator Mathias is going to introduce a bill calling for the markers to be preserved. The District of Columbia might seek Senator Mathias' assistance in getting passage of this bill.