

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 8800

To designate the bald eagle as the national bird.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 21, 2024

Mr. FINSTAD (for himself, Ms. CRAIG, Mr. EMMER, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. STAUBER, Mrs. FISCHBACH, Ms. OMAR, Mr. PHILLIPS, Mr. NEWHOUSE, Mr. VAN ORDEN, and Mr. BEYER) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

To designate the bald eagle as the national bird.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. DESIGNATION OF BALD EAGLE AS NATIONAL**
4 **BIRD.**

5 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

6 (1) Bald eagles are a historical symbol of the
7 United States representing independence, strength,
8 and freedom.

9 (2) The bald eagle is unique to North America.

1 (3) The bald eagle was adopted as the Coat of
2 Arms for the United States Great Seal on June 20,
3 1782.

4 (4) The bald eagle image remains the leading
5 insignia for all branches of the United States mili-
6 tary.

7 (5) The bald eagle is the leading image on
8 thousands of government branches, departments,
9 and agencies, including the President, Vice-Presi-
10 dent, Congress, and Senate.

11 (6) The bald eagle serves as the logo, trade-
12 mark, and brand icon by businesses, nonprofits, and
13 sports teams across the United States.

14 (7) Bald eagles are integral to the spiritual lives
15 and sacred belief systems of most Indigenous peoples
16 and Tribal communities.

17 (8) Bald eagles are prevalent in belief, practice,
18 stories, ceremonies, dance, traditions, songs, regalia,
19 flags, insignias, arts, craft, and other forms of spir-
20 itual reverence.

21 (9) Bald eagle festivals are held in over 100 lo-
22 cations across America and are key components of
23 community engagement.

1 (10) The bald eagle is prevalent on hundreds of
2 United States stamps and many coins and cur-
3 rencies.

4 (11) The bald eagle is a primary component
5 and symbol on Federal and State flags nationwide.

6 (12) Joint efforts of Federal, State, and local
7 governments, as well as nonprofits and individuals,
8 have contributed to the successful recovery of the
9 bald eagle.

10 (b) DESIGNATION.—Chapter 3 of title 36, United
11 States Code, is amended by adding at the end the fol-
12 lowing:

13 “**§ 306. National bird**

14 “The bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) is the na-
15 tional bird.”.

16 (c) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Chapter 3 of title
17 36, United States Code, is amended—

18 (1) in the chapter heading, by striking “**AND**
19 **TREE**” and inserting “**TREE, AND BIRD**”;
20 and

21 (2) in the table of sections, by adding at the
22 end the following:

“306. National bird.”.

23 (d) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this sec-
24 tion, the amendments made by this section, or the adop-
25 tion of the bald eagle as the national bird of the United

1 States may be construed or used as a reason to alter,
2 change, modify, or otherwise affect any plan, policy, man-
3 agement decision, regulation, or other action of the Fed-
4 eral Government.

