

September 16, 2026

The Honorable Bruce Westerman
Chairman
Committee on Natural Resources
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Jared Huffman
Ranking Member
Committee on Natural Resources
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Westerman and Ranking Member Huffman,

On behalf of ADL (the Anti-Defamation League), I write in support of H.R. 1031, the Fort Ontario Holocaust Refugee Shelter National Historical Park Establishment Act, introduced by Representatives Claudia Tenney (NY-24) and Tom Suozzi (NY-3).

ADL's [research](#) shows that Holocaust education is one of the most effective tools we have for preventing antisemitic ideology. In a national study conducted by ADL, respondents who correctly knew that six million Jews were murdered in the Holocaust endorsed significantly fewer antisemitic tropes than those who underestimated or did not know that figure.

As the population of living survivors continues to shrink, and as Holocaust denial and distortion spread online, memorials and historical parks are even more important to preserving the memory of the Holocaust. These sites remain a tangible reminder of what occurred, ensuring that the history of the Holocaust remain accessible for future generations long after the last survivors are gone.

Fort Ontario, the only Jewish refugee shelter established in the United States during World War II, is one of the few remaining physical sites in the United States that can tell this story firsthand. Between August 1944 and February 1946, Fort Ontario sheltered 982 refugees from 18 countries who survived the Holocaust and came to the United States to begin again. National historical park designation would secure permanent federal stewardship of the site and protect its integrity for future generations of students, families and visitors.

ADL urges the Committee to favorably report the bill during its upcoming markup and looks forward to its advancement.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Lauren Wolman

Lauren Wolman
Senior Director of Government Relations & Strategy
ADL (Anti-Defamation League)