WASHINGTON, D.C. - Congressman Sam Farr (D-Carmel) on Friday introduced the Pinnacles National Park Act, a bill that would establish the Pinnacles National Park in San Benito County. The area is currently designated as a National Monument.

National Monuments, smaller than National Parks, are centered around a specific resource and lack diversity. It's clear that the Pinnacles region, at 14,500 acres and home to 32 species holding special federal of state status, is far more than rock formations.

"Upgrading Pinnacles to a National Park makes sense for historic, natural and economic reasons," said Rep. Farr. "This area is much more than rock formations. It's a huge swatch of land with historical significance for the state, it provides an important refuge for the California condor and it has great potential for tourism revenue."

The legislation, H.R. 3444, also allows the Interior Secretary to acquire land within the boundaries of the park as deemed necessary.

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