KENTUCKY

361-A RUSSELL SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1702
(202) 224-2541

United States Senate

COMMITTEES:
RULES AND ADMINISTRATION
RANKING MEMBER
AGRICULTURE
APPROPRIATIONS
SUBCOMMITTEE ON FOREIGN OPERATIONS
RANKING MEMBER
JUDICIARY

August 22, 2001

The Honorable Gale Norton
Secretary of the Interior
1849 C Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Secretary Norton:

I write to express my enthusiastic support for the candidacy of Mr. (b) (6) to serve on the National Park Service Board. I have known Ted for many years and believe that he would make an outstanding contribution to our nation's parks system.

I have come to know (b) (6) primarily through his involvement with Republican Party activities in Kentucky, where he has been an active leader in many political campaigns. His civic responsibilities include service as a member of the Jefferson County Air Pollution Control Board, chairman of Rep. Anne Northup's campaign committee, supporter of the Bush-Cheney campaign in Kentucky, and leader among fishermen's groups in Kentucky. In each of these capacities, (b) (6) has shown tremendous dedication, vision, and leadership.

In addition to his lifelong work in Jefferson County and Kentucky, (b) (6) worked in the Reagan Administration's Department of Housing and Urban Development. As a member of the National Park Service board, (b) (6) will be able to draw upon his extensive experience, both as a federal administrator and as a public servant who knows how to solve practical problems at the state and local level.

In the years that I have known him, (b) (6) has impressed me with his dedication to public service. I believe that both the Department of the Interior and the Bush Administration would benefit from his leadership. If I can be of any assistance to you, please do not hesitate to call on me.

Sincerely,

MITCH McCONNELL
UNITED STATES SENATOR

EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT
OFFICE OF THE

01 AUG 29 AM 10:42

RECEIVED

5459

FEDERAL BUILDING
241 E. MAIN STREET
ROOM 102
BOWLING GREEN, KY 42101
(270) 781-1673

1885 DIXIE HIGHWAY
SUITE 345
FORT WRIGHT, KY 41011
(859) 578-0188

771 CORPORATE DRIVE
SUITE 530
LEXINGTON, KY 40503
(859) 224-8286

301 [illegible]
LONDON, KY 40741
(606) 864-2026

601 WEST BROADWAY
SUITE 630
LOUISVILLE, KY 40202
(502) 582-6304

PROFESSIONAL ARTS BUILDING
SUITE 100
2320 BROADWAY
PADUCAH, KY 42001
(270) 442-4554

United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

IN REPLY REFER TO:

A18(2530)

OCT 23 2001

Honorable Mitch McConnell
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator McConnell:

Thank you for your letter of August 22 to Secretary Norton in support of Mr. (b) (6) to serve on the National Park System Advisory Board. Please be assured that the Secretary will give your recommendation every consideration in appointing members to the Board.

Thank you for your interest in the National Park System Advisory Board and the National Park Service.

Sincerely,

Loran Fraser
Chief, Office of Policy

cc: SIO/PMB-CMO
~~ES-RIngersol~~
OCL-NAppler
AS/FW-Rm 3156
FNP-0001-RF
~~FNP-002-Galvin~~
FNP-0120-CL-EHackett
FNP-2530-Rdg File
FNP-2530 CmteFile
~~FNP-2530-PJackson~~
FNP-2605-LStowe

~~FNP:PJackson:202/208-7456:8/10/01:ES#309563~~

MITCH McCONNELL
KENTUCKY

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United States Senate

COMMITTEES:
RULES AND ADMINISTRATION
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RANKING MEMBER
JUDICIARY

March 29, 2002

The Honorable Gale Norton
Secretary
Department of Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240-0001

Dear Secretary Norton:

I hope that you will you join me in celebrating the rapid growth and future promise of Kentucky's revived national wildlife refuge system. On May 29, 2002, we plan to dedicate a new headquarters building at Clark's River National Wildlife Refuge and promote the establishment of a new wildlife refuge in Henderson County. I am confident that this event would give you another platform to tout the "4-C's" that you have so effectively promoted during your tenure in office.

Before 1996, Kentucky was the only state in the Union without its own National Wildlife Refuge. That changed when Congress authorized the establishment of the Clark's River National Wildlife Refuge as part of the Fiscal Year 1997 Interior Appropriations bill. The refuge enjoyed deep and diverse support from the local community, as it offered new opportunities for sportsmen, nature enthusiasts, and local tourism. Protection of private property rights was a hallmark of this refuge, evidenced by a provision in the legislative language mandating that all refuge lands be acquired only from willing sellers. To date, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service has acquired more than one-third of the land from willing sellers, and a refuge headquarters building has just been completed to provide informational resources to visitors.

Given the success of Clark's River in providing Kentuckians with a diverse array of sporting and environmental educational opportunities, a second national wildlife refuge has been proposed along the confluence of the Green and Ohio Rivers in Henderson County, Kentucky. Like Clark's River, the proposed Green River refuge has generated a consensus of support among wildlife enthusiasts, sportsmen, business and community leaders, and ordinary citizens. And also like Clark's River, I have sponsored legislation to ensure that the land is acquired from willing sellers only. Further, I have been informed that new opportunities for carbon sequestration may add to the environmental promise of this new refuge. It is my hope, therefore, that this proposed refuge will receive final approval from the Director of Fish and Wildlife in the coming weeks.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
02 APR 30 AM 11:54
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564329

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241 E. MAIN STREET
ROOM 102
BOWLING GREEN, KY 42101
(270) 781-1673

1885 DIXIE HIGHWAY
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(270) 442-4554

Kentucky's burgeoning national refuge network contains several elements that dovetail nicely with your focus on the 4-C's, including support from local leaders and residents, the protection of private property rights, and parallel opportunities for environmental restoration and economic development. I am confident that, together, we can celebrate the environmental progress of Kentucky and promote a broader conservation plan for America.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this request. If you have any additional questions, you may contact Charles Marshall of my Washington staff at (202) 224-8292, or Larry Cox, my state director, at (502) 582-5780.

Sincerely,

MITCH McCONNELL
UNITED STATES SENATOR

MITCH McCONNELL
KENTUCKY

361-A RUSSELL SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
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(202) 224-2541

United States Senate

COMMITTEES:
RULES AND ADMINISTRATION
RANKING MEMBER
AGRICULTURE
APPROPRIATIONS
SUBCOMMITTEE ON FOREIGN OPERATIONS
RANKING MEMBER
JUDICIARY

May 6, 2002

The Honorable Gale Norton
Secretary
Department of Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240-0001

Dear Secretary Norton:

I write to express my support for the application submitted by the Jefferson Community College in Louisville, Kentucky, for a Save America's Treasures grant for Fiscal Year 2002.

It is my understanding that the Jefferson Community College has applied for a grant to restore the chapel, refectory, and library in the Jefferson Building, which served as the Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary building. The Jefferson Building is one hundred years old and continues to be used on a regular basis by students, faculty, staff, and the public. Securing funding for the preservation of the Jefferson Building will give the College an opportunity to foster positive economic growth, and I hope you will realize the importance of this project to Kentucky and give every favorable consideration to the application.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

MITCH McCONNELL
UNITED STATES SENATOR

MM/bmd

OFFICE OF THE
EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT
02 MAY 23 PM 3:00
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566383

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241 E. MAIN STREET
ROOM 102
BOWLING GREEN, KY 42101
(270) 781-1673

1885 DIXIE HIGHWAY
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(859) 578-0188

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(502) 582-6304

PROFESSIONAL ARTS BUILDING
SUITE 100
2320 BROADWAY
PADUCAH, KY 42001
(270) 442-4554

315116

History

JUN 7

H30(2255)

Honorable Mitch McConnell
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510-1702

Dear Senator McConnell:

Thank you for your letter of May 6, 2002, to this Department supporting Jefferson Community College's application for a Federal Save America's Treasures grant to preserve the Jefferson Building (the former Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary) in Louisville, Kentucky.

The National Park Service administers these grants in collaboration with the National Endowment for the Arts. A national selection panel, which is comprised of senior staff with expertise in the appropriate disciplines and representing non-competing Federal agencies, will meet later in June to evaluate applications and make recommendations for funding to the Secretary of the Interior. By law, the Secretary must consult with the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations prior to commitment of grant funds. Grants will be announced in late summer.

Thank you for your interest in the Save America's Treasures grants.

Sincerely,

/s/ John Robbins

Katherine H. Stevenson
for Associate Director, Cultural Resource
Stewardship and Partnerships

bcc: 0120-Lowery
2200-Reading File
2250-Robbins
2255-Wallis, Shiffer, Spriggs
FNP:JWallis:jw:202-343-9564:6\06\2002:SAT Grants 2002/Congressional # 2002-00690
BASIC FILE RETAINED IN 2255

MITCH McCONNELL
KENTUCKY

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(202) 224-2541

United States Senate

COMMITTEES:
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RANKING MEMBER
JUDICIARY

May 24, 2002

The Honorable Gale Norton
Secretary
Department of Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240-0001

Dear Secretary Norton:

I write to express my support for the application submitted by the Perryville Battlefield Preservation Association, Inc. in Perryville, Kentucky, for a Save America's Treasures grant for Fiscal Year 2002.

It is my understanding that the Perryville Battlefield Preservation Association, Inc. has applied for a grant to restore Parks' Store on Merchants' Row, one of the nation's only intact 19th-Century mercantile districts. The Parks family owned and operated the store for more than a century, and following the Battle of Perryville in October of 1862, the family helped care for thousands of soldiers who were wounded in the line of duty. The Perryville Battlefield Preservation Association plans to reopen the store as a museum, and thanks to an extensive collection of goods original to the store, the Parks' Store will ultimately provide a priceless and unique experience to visitors. Securing funding for the preservation of Parks' Store will give the Association an opportunity to foster positive economic growth, and I hope you will realize the importance of this project to Kentucky and give every favorable consideration to the application.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

MITCH McCONNELL
UNITED STATES SENATOR

MM/bmd

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02 JUN -7 PM 3:17
OFFICE OF THE
EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT

867206

FEDERAL BUILDING
241 E. MAIN STREET
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BOWLING GREEN, KY 42101
(270) 781-1673

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SUITE 100
2320 BROADWAY
PADUCAH, KY 42001
(270) 442-4554

315395

#2002-00769

Joe Wallis
6/19/02

Joe Wallis
for Sharon Park
6-19-02

JUN 21

Robbins
6/21/02

H30(2255)

History

Honorable Mitch McConnell
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510-1702

Dear Senator McConnell:

Thank you for your letter of May 24, 2002, to this Department supporting the application of the Perryville Battlefield Preservation Association for a Federal Save America's Treasures grant to preserve Parks' Store in Perryville, Kentucky.

The National Park Service administers these grants in collaboration with the National Endowment for the Arts. A national selection panel, which is comprised of senior staff with expertise in the appropriate disciplines and representing non-competing Federal agencies, evaluates applications and makes recommendations for funding to the Secretary of the Interior. By law, the Secretary must consult with the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations prior to commitment of grant funds. Grants will be announced in late summer.

Thank you for your interest in the Save America's Treasures grants.

Sincerely,

/s/ John Robbins

for Katherine H. Stevenson
Associate Director, Cultural Resource
Stewardship and Partnerships

bcc: 0120-Lowery
2200-Reading File
2250-Robbins
2255-Wallis, Shiffer, Spriggs
FNP:JWallis:jw:202-343-9564:6\19\2002:SAT Grants 2002/Congressional # 2002-00769
BASIC FILE RETAINED IN 2255

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

January 30, 2003

Lieutenant General Robert B. Flowers
Commander and Chief of Engineers
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
441 G Street, NW
Washington, DC 20001-2648

Dear General Flowers:

We write to call to your attention and respectfully request your assistance with the Nationwide Permit (NWP) 21 authorizations in the Huntington Army Corps of Engineers District. We are concerned with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' recent notice that directs coal mine companies with existing NWP authorizations to submit new permit applications to the Corps in order to continue to operate after February 11, 2003. The new permit process could result in grave hardship for coal mines with existing authorizations affecting hundreds of NWP permits and forcing many coal companies to stop production and to layoff their employees.

Previously, coal mine companies were not required to seek reauthorization of NWP 21 activities connected with their permits under the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act. This longstanding practice had been in effect in all of the Corps of Engineers' districts.

A recent decision by the Corps of Engineers, however, changed its practice regarding NWP. Under the new Huntington District notice, coal mine companies will now be required to submit new permit applications by February 11, 2003. Unfortunately, the Corps of Engineers just recently notified only some of the companies of the requirement of its new permit process. As a result of the short notice, many companies are confused by the process and have struggled with ascertaining the new requirements for obtaining authorization in order to continue their mining operations without unnecessary interruptions.

In addition, we have a growing concern that under the Corps' new process there is a real possibility that mines will have to cease or curtail operations in order to complete the paperwork involved with submitting new applications and hear back from the Corps about the status of those applications. The authorization process for coal companies should be a fair process that will minimize any work stoppage in the mining operations and any unnecessary burdens on them.

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03 FEB -6 PM 4:25
579423
OFFICE OF THE
EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT

In this regard, we ask that you conduct a full and fair review of the Huntington Corps of Engineers' new notice while keeping in mind the approaching February 11, 2003 expiration date. In order for coal companies, their employees and mining communities to help provide for a healthy coal mining industry and navigate through this new process, they must be given clear consideration, communication and direction from the Corps of Engineers. We anxiously look forward to your full and timely response to this letter with any relevant information and direction.

Sincerely,

cc: Secretary Norton
Secretary Abraham

MITCH McCONNELL
KENTUCKY

361-A RUSSELL SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1702
(202) 224-2541

United States Senate

MAJORITY WHIP

COMMITTEES:
AGRICULTURE
APPROPRIATIONS
SUBCOMMITTEE ON FOREIGN OPERATIONS
CHAIRMAN
RULES AND ADMINISTRATION

RECEIVED
03 MAY 14 PM 2:32
OFFICE OF THE
EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT

585369

April 30, 2003

The Honorable Gale Norton
Secretary
U.S. Department of Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240-0001

Dear Secretary Norton:

I write to express my support for the application submitted by the Perryville Battlefield Preservation Association, Inc. in Perryville, Kentucky, for a Save America's Treasures grant.

The Perryville Battlefield Preservation Association, Inc. is working to preserve and restore historically significant structures related to the Battle of Perryville, one of the bloodiest engagements in the Civil War. More specifically, the Association seeks funds to restore Parks' Store on Merchants' Row, one of the nation's only intact 19th-Century mercantile districts.

The Perryville Battlefield Association has an extensive collection of mercantile goods original to the Parks' Store and would like to reopen the store as a museum. The structure of the store, however, requires significant restoration before this collection can be displayed for the public. It is my understanding that years of neglect and wear from natural elements have caused the roof to bow and leak, which has caused damage to the wooden interior, and that the stone foundation is failing and the building's framing and siding have shifted.

Restoring Parks' Store will provide a priceless and unique experience to visitors. I hope you will realize the importance of this project to Kentucky and give every appropriate consideration to the application.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

MITCH McCONNELL
UNITED STATES SENATOR

MM/bmd

FEDERAL BUILDING
241 EAST MAIN STREET
ROOM 102
BOWLING GREEN, KY 42101
(270) 781-1673

1885 DIXIE HIGHWAY
SUITE 345
FORT WRIGHT, KY 41011
(859) 578-0188

771 CORPORATE DRIVE
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310 SOUTH MAIN
SUITE 310
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601 WEST BROADWAY
SUITE 630
LOUISVILLE, KY 40202
(502) 582-6304

PROFESSIONAL ARTS BUILDING
2320 BROADWAY
SUITE 100
PADUCAH, KY 42001
(270) 442-4554

United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Washington, D.C. 20240

MAY 20 2

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator McConnell:

Thank you for your April 30, 2003, letter to Secretary Norton concerning the application submitted by the Perryville Battlefield Preservation Association, Inc., for a "Save America's Treasures" grant, which I received on May 14, 2003.

I sincerely appreciate your interest in this matter, and I am referring your letter to the appropriate member of our staff for response. You will hear from us again in the near future.

Your interest in the Department of the Interior is appreciated. Please let me know whenever I can be of assistance.

Sincerely,

David L. Bernhardt
Director, Office of Congressional and
Legislative Affairs and Counselor to
the Secretary

122584

United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

History

IN REPLY REFER TO:

H30(2255)

MAY 23 2003

FF2003-00415

Honorable Mitch McConnell
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510-1702

Dear Senator McConnell:

Thank you for your letter of April 30, 2003, to this Department supporting the Perryville Battlefield Association's application for a Federal Save America's Treasures grant to preserve Parks' Store in Perryville, Kentucky.

The National Park Service administers these grants in collaboration with the National Endowment for the Arts, the National Endowment for the Humanities, and the Institute for Museum and Library Services. A national selection panel, which is comprised of senior staff with expertise in the appropriate disciplines and representing non-competing Federal agencies, evaluates applications and makes recommendations for funding to the Secretary of the Interior. By law, the Secretary must consult with the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations prior to commitment of grant funds.

The deadline for 2003 Save America's Treasures grants was extended to May 20, 2003. Accordingly, grants will be announced in October.

Thank you for your interest in the Save America's Treasures grants.

Sincerely,

For deTeel Patterson Tiller
Acting Associate Director, Cultural Resources

MITCH McCONNELL
KENTUCKY

MAJORITY WHIP

COMMITTEES:
AGRICULTURE
APPROPRIATIONS
SUBCOMMITTEE ON FOREIGN OPERATIONS
CHAIRMAN
RULES AND ADMINISTRATION

361-A RUSSELL SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
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United States Senate

RECEIVED
03 MAY 14 PM 2:32
OFFICE OF THE
EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT

585369

April 30, 2003

The Honorable Gale Norton
Secretary
U.S. Department of Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240-0001

Dear Secretary Norton:

I write to express my support for the application submitted by the Perryville Battlefield Preservation Association, Inc. in Perryville, Kentucky, for a Save America's Treasures grant.

The Perryville Battlefield Preservation Association, Inc. is working to preserve and restore historically significant structures related to the Battle of Perryville, one of the bloodiest engagements in the Civil War. More specifically, the Association seeks funds to restore Parks' Store on Merchants' Row, one of the nation's only intact 19th-Century mercantile districts.

The Perryville Battlefield Association has an extensive collection of mercantile goods original to the Parks' Store and would like to reopen the store as a museum. The structure of the store, however, requires significant restoration before this collection can be displayed for the public. It is my understanding that years of neglect and wear from natural elements have caused the roof to bow and leak, which has caused damage to the wooden interior, and that the stone foundation is failing and the building's framing and siding have shifted.

Restoring Parks' Store will provide a priceless and unique experience to visitors. I hope you will realize the importance of this project to Kentucky and give every appropriate consideration to the application.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

MITCH McCONNELL
UNITED STATES SENATOR

MM/bmd

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United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Washington, D.C. 20240

MAY 20 2

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator McConnell:

Thank you for your April 30, 2003, letter to Secretary Norton concerning the application submitted by the Perryville Battlefield Preservation Association, Inc., for a "Save America's Treasures" grant, which I received on May 14, 2003.

I sincerely appreciate your interest in this matter, and I am referring your letter to the appropriate member of our staff for response. You will hear from us again in the near future.

Your interest in the Department of the Interior is appreciated. Please let me know whenever I can be of assistance.

Sincerely,

David L. Bernhardt
Director, Office of Congressional and
Legislative Affairs and Counselor to
the Secretary

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR
EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT
TRANSMITTAL

	Review Office	Initials		
_____	Secretary	_____	Accession Number	322588
_____	Deputy Secretary	_____	Transmittal Date	
_____	Chief of Staff	_____	Print Date	05/19/2003
_____	Deputy Chief of Staff	_____	SIGMAC Auth	
5/20	Executive Secretariat	SD	_____	Gale A. Norton
_____	_____	_____	_____	Gale

Addressee: Gale A. Norton

Author: McConnell, Mitch

Subject: Senator supports the application submitted by the Perryville Battlefield Preservation Association, Inc., for a "Save America's Treasures" grant to preserve and restore historically significant structures related to the Battle of Perryville, specifically Parks' Store on Merchants' Row

Response: acknowledgement letter

Actual Surnames:

Response Office	Response Person	Response Phone
FNP	Carolyn Howard	208-6701

Mailing Instructions:

122588

United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

History

IN REPLY REFER TO:

H30(2255)

MAY 23 2003

FF2003-00415

Honorable Mitch McConnell
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510-1702

Dear Senator McConnell:

Thank you for your letter of April 30, 2003, to this Department supporting the Perryville Battlefield Association's application for a Federal Save America's Treasures grant to preserve Parks' Store in Perryville, Kentucky.

The National Park Service administers these grants in collaboration with the National Endowment for the Arts, the National Endowment for the Humanities, and the Institute for Museum and Library Services. A national selection panel, which is comprised of senior staff with expertise in the appropriate disciplines and representing non-competing Federal agencies, evaluates applications and makes recommendations for funding to the Secretary of the Interior. By law, the Secretary must consult with the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations prior to commitment of grant funds.

The deadline for 2003 Save America's Treasures grants was extended to May 20, 2003. Accordingly, grants will be announced in October.

Thank you for your interest in the Save America's Treasures grants.

Sincerely,

For deTeel Patterson Tiller
Acting Associate Director, Cultural Resources

MITCH McCONNELL
KENTUCKY

361-A RUSSELL SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
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(202) 224-2541

United States Senate

MAJORITY WHIP

COMMITTEES:
AGRICULTURE
APPROPRIATIONS
SUBCOMMITTEE ON FOREIGN OPERATIONS
CHAIRMAN
RULES AND ADMINISTRATION

May 12, 2003

The Honorable Gale Norton
Secretary
Department of Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240-0001

Dear Secretary Norton:

I write to express my support for the application submitted by the Kentucky Historical Society for a Save America's Treasures grant.

The Kentucky Historical Society seeks funds to preserve nine original historic paintings in the 1830 Old State Capitol Building. This building served as the center of Kentucky government in the mid-1800s and has been restored to appear as it did during legislative sessions in the 1850s. The House and Senate chambers display portraits of Henry Clay, George Washington, Zachary Taylor, Marquis de Lafayette, Daniel Boone, Isaac Shelby, and William Henry Harrison as well as two paintings there were commissioned in 1892 in honor of Kentucky's centennial. Most of these unique pieces were painted by well-known Kentucky artists and hang in their original positions.

These oversized portraits, unfortunately, have been difficult to maintain and need significant restoration and preservation work. For many years, the canvases were hung in leaky, drafty rooms heated with coal grates and woodstoves, and previous preservation efforts also have taken their toll. Yellowed coats of varnish, chipping and peeling pigment layers, cracked canvas joints and over-painted repairs all need to be corrected to restore these pieces of art. The Society hopes to clean, stabilize and conserve these famous paintings through the Save America's Treasures program.

In short, restoring the nine original paintings in the 1830 Old State Capitol Building will preserve a unique and historic piece of Kentucky's past. I hope you will realize the importance of this project to Kentucky and give every appropriate consideration to the application.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

MITCH McCONNELL
UNITED STATES SENATOR

MM/bmd

OFFICE OF THE
EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT
03 MAY 22 AM 11:32

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(502) 582-5304

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SUITE 100
PADUCAH, KY 42001
(270) 442-4554

United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

History

IN REPLY REFER TO:

JUN 13 2003

H30(2255)

#2003-00466

Honorable Mitch McConnell
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510-1702

Dear Senator McConnell:

Thank you for your letter of May 7, 2003, to this Department supporting Jefferson Community College's application for a Federal Save America's Treasures grant to preserve the Old Presbyterian Theological Seminary building in Louisville, Kentucky.

The National Park Service administers these grants in collaboration with the National Endowment for the Arts, the National Endowment for the Humanities, and the Institute for Museum and Library Services. A national selection panel, which is comprised of senior staff with expertise in the appropriate disciplines and representing non-competing Federal agencies, evaluates applications and makes recommendations for funding to the Secretary of the Interior. By law, the Secretary must consult with the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations prior to commitment of grant funds.

The deadline for 2003 Save America's Treasures grants was extended to May 20, 2003. Accordingly, grants will be announced in October.

Thank you for your interest in the Save America's Treasures grants.

Sincerely,

for deTeel Patterson Tiller
Acting Associate Director, Cultural Resources

MITCH McCONNELL
KENTUCKY

361-A RUSSELL SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1702
(202) 224-2541

United States Senate

MAJORITY WHIP

COMMITTEES:
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APPROPRIATIONS
SUBCOMMITTEE ON FOREIGN OPERATIONS
CHAIRMAN
RULES AND ADMINISTRATION

May 7, 2003

The Honorable Gale Norton
Secretary
U.S. Department of Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240-0001

Dear Secretary Norton:

I write to express my support for the application submitted by the Jefferson Community College in Louisville, Kentucky, for a Save America's Treasures grant.

The Jefferson Community College owns the Old Presbyterian Theological Seminary building, which was built between 1901 and 1907 and is an excellent example of collegiate gothic architecture. I am told, in addition, that the building serves as a reminder of the only time in history when the northern and southern factions of the Presbyterian Church joined resources to build a common seminary. The College currently uses the building for classrooms and faculty and staff offices.

The College has been working since 1998 to stabilize the Old Presbyterian Theological Seminary building, as the structure suffered from roofing problems, various code violations and numerous safety threats. Although the improvements the College has made thus far have preserved the structural integrity of the building, the College still seeks funds to perform historic restoration work in the chapel and library, the building's most ornate sections. Changes in moisture levels have accelerated plaster separation from the walls, endangering original stenciling. Varnish from wood ceilings is bleeding onto the walls, further damaging them and compromising the integrity of the wood itself. The terra cotta tile floor in the Chapel was covered by glued carpet for a number of years, and the stained glass windows and limestone gateposts at the entrance of the building also need to be refurbished.

Restoring the Old Presbyterian Theological Seminary will preserve a unique and historic piece of architecture. I hope you will realize the importance of this project to Kentucky and give every appropriate consideration to the application.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

MITCH McCONNELL
UNITED STATES SENATOR

MM/bmd

EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT
OFFICE OF THE

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(270) 781-1673

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United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

JUN 13 2003

History

IN REPLY REFER TO:

H30(2255)

2003 - 00446

Honorable Mitch McConnell
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510-1702

Dear Senator McConnell:

Thank you for your letter of May 12, 2003, to this Department supporting the Kentucky Historical Society's application for a Federal Save America's Treasures grant to preserve nine historic paintings in the 1830 Old State Capitol Building in Frankfort, Kentucky.

The National Park Service administers these grants in collaboration with the National Endowment for the Arts, the National Endowment for the Humanities, and the Institute for Museum and Library Services. A national selection panel, which is comprised of senior staff with expertise in the appropriate disciplines and representing non-competing Federal agencies, evaluates applications and makes recommendations for funding to the Secretary of the Interior. By law, the Secretary must consult with the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations prior to commitment of grant funds.

The deadline for 2003 Save America's Treasures grants was extended to May 20, 2003. Accordingly, grants will be announced in October.

Thank you for your interest in the Save America's Treasures grants.

Sincerely,

for deTeel Patterson Tiller
Acting Associate Director, Cultural Resources

MITCH McCONNELL
KENTUCKY

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MAJORITY WHIP

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RULES AND ADMINISTRATION

June 3, 2003

The Honorable Gale Norton
Secretary
U.S. Department of Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240-0001

Dear Secretary Norton:

I write to express my support for the application submitted by the Louisville Olmsted Parks Conservancy in Louisville, Kentucky for a Save America's Treasures grant.

The Louisville Olmsted Parks Conservancy is working to restore the Rest House Pavilion in Louisville's Shawnee Park. Originally designed by Frederick Law Olmsted and constructed in 1915, the Rest House provides a great vantage point from which visitors may view recreational activities and other events at the park.

Although the Rest House is a popular attraction at Shawnee Park, the open-air pavilion has suffered from years of water damage, vandalism and age. The Conservancy plans to repair the clay tile roof, install new gutters, and repaint the exterior of the structure. The parking facilities at the Rest House, in addition, have not been changed to reflect the needs of modern park visitors. Not only is the current parking lot inadequate for existing traffic levels but it also does not allow for defined traffic flow patterns; parking at the Rest House, as a result, is difficult and dangerous. To address these concerns, the Conservancy hopes to develop a new entry drive to reflect Olmsted's original circulation pattern while improving parking conditions. Finally, the Conservancy would like to increase handicapped accessibility, add a small restroom structure, and develop connecting pathways to enhance the use of the Rest House and Shawnee Park.

In short, restoring the Rest House Pavilion will preserve an example of an open-air pavilion from the Reform Era and will help provide a unique experience to Shawnee Park visitors. I hope you will realize the importance of this project to Kentucky and give every appropriate consideration to the application.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

MITCH McCONNELL
UNITED STATES SENATOR

MM/bmd

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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20314-1000

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

MAY 15 2003

Program Management Division
Eastern Programs Execution Branch

Honorable Mitch McConnell
United States Senate
361-A Senate Russell Office Building
Washington, DC 20510-1702

Dear Senator McConnell:

This is in response to your letter of March 5, 2003, with enclosed correspondence from Mr. William H. Edwards II, with a petition from the Cannonsburg Road Community Owners to Stop the Floods, requesting assistance with flooding problems along Cannonsburg Road in Cannonsburg, Kentucky.

In June 1994, a reconnaissance report was completed by the Huntington District which addressed flooding problems within the Little Sandy River and Tygarts Creek basins. The study was authorized by a resolution of the House Committee on Public Works and Transportation, Docket 2372, adopted February 5, 1992. Several channel widening alternatives and a snagging and clearing plan were evaluated for East Fork of the Little Sandy River in the Cannonsburg area. At that time, an economically feasible flood control project could not be identified. However, a feasible project was identified for Dry Fork of the Little Fork of the Little Sandy River at Willard. The Carter County Fiscal Court acted as the local sponsor and a flood protection project was completed in Willard.

Since the completion of our reconnaissance report, additional development has occurred in the area, especially along U.S. Route 60 and Kentucky Route 180, which may not have been factored into flood plain management plans. Urbanization of the area may have interrupted the natural process of temporarily storing water during storm events. However, a recent field visit to the area confirmed our earlier findings that potential solutions to the flooding problems in this area still appear to be infeasible. Further involvement by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for project development under existing authorities is not warranted.

There are several other State and Federal programs that may provide more immediate assistance to the residents of the area. For example, the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) offered by the Federal Emergency Management Agency may serve the residents of structures that appear to have the highest risk of flooding.

The HMGP program is administered by the Kentucky Emergency Management Office (KEMO) and provides funds and assistance to elevate or acquire structures at risk from flooding. The person to contact at the KEMO for the HMGP is: Mr. Michael Lynch, Kentucky Emergency

Management Office, Building 1 D, 1121 Louisville Road, Frankfort, Kentucky, 40601, or by phone at (502) 607-5768.

I trust this information serves your needs. If you have any further questions concerning the flooding problems in Boyd County, please feel free to contact Carol Angier, the Great Lakes and Ohio River Division Team Leader, at (202)761-4101.

Sincerely,

for

Thomas F. Caver, Jr., P.E.
Deputy Director of Civil Works

United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Washington, D.C. 20240

JUN 20 2003

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator McConnell:

Thank you for your June 3, 2003, letter to Secretary Norton supporting the application submitted by the Louisville Olmstead Parks Conservancy for a "Save America's Treasures" grant, which I received on June 11, 2003.

I sincerely appreciate your interest in this matter, and I am referring your letter to the appropriate member of our staff for response. You will hear from us again in the near future.

Your interest in the Department of the Interior is appreciated. Please let me know whenever I can be of assistance.

Sincerely,

David L. Bernhardt
Director, Office of Congressional and Legislative Affairs and Counselor to the Secretary

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR
EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT
TRANSMITTAL

	Review Office	Initials		
_____	Secretary	_____	Accession Number	323309
_____	Deputy Secretary	_____	Transmittal Date	
_____	Chief of Staff	_____	Print Date	06/18/2003
_____	Deputy Chief of Staff	_____	SIGMAC Auth	
_____	Executive Secretariat	_____	_____	Gale A. Norton
_____	_____	_____	_____	Gale

Addressee: Gale A. Norton

Author: McConnell, Mitch

Subject: Senator supports the application submitted by the Louisville Olmstead Parks Conservancy for a "Save America's Treasures" to restore the Rest House Pavilion in Louisville's Shawnee Park

Response: acknowledgement ltr

Actual Surnames:

Response Office	Response Person	Response Phone
FNP	Carolyn Howard	208-6701

Mailing Instructions:

ltr corrected + fwd to OCL 6/19

United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

History

IN REPLY REFER TO:

JUN 19 2003

H30(2255)

#2003-00529

Honorable Mitch McConnell
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510-1702

Dear Senator McConnell:

Thank you for your letter of June 3, 2003, supporting the application of the Louisville Olmsted Parks Conservancy for a Federal Save America's Treasures grant to preserve the Rest House Pavilion in Shawnee Park in Louisville, Kentucky.

The National Park Service administers these grants in collaboration with the National Endowment for the Arts, the National Endowment for the Humanities, and the Institute for Museum and Library Services. A national selection panel, which is comprised of senior staff with expertise in the appropriate disciplines and representing non-competing Federal agencies, evaluates applications and makes recommendations for funding to the Secretary of the Interior. By law, the Secretary must consult with the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations prior to commitment of grant funds.

The deadline for 2003 Save America's Treasures grants was extended to May 20, 2003. Grants will be announced in October.

Thank you for your interest in the Save America's Treasures grants program.

Sincerely,

de Teel Patterson Tiller
Acting Associate Director, Cultural Resources

MITCH McCONNELL
KENTUCKY

361-A RUSSELL SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1702
(202) 224-2541

United States Senate

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03 JUN 25 AM 8:30
OFFICE OF THE
EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT

June 17, 2003

The Honorable Gale Norton
Secretary
Department of Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240-0001

Dear Secretary Norton:

I write to express my support for the application submitted by The National History Foundation Inc. in Louisville, Kentucky, for a Save America's Treasures grant.

It is my understanding that The National History Foundation seeks funds to collect videotaped oral histories of World War II veterans. The Foundation, an official partner in The Library of Congress Veterans History Project, plans to conduct interviews of these veterans at major reunion events, catalogue and edit the interview tapes, and transcribe the interviews for academic purposes. The Foundation also hopes to construct a website to provide information from the interviews to the public and to promote the educational aspects of the oral history collection.

Collecting these unique narratives and the firsthand accounts of World War II veterans will preserve an important and irreplaceable part of our nation's heritage. I hope you will realize the importance of this project to Kentucky and give every appropriate consideration to the application.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

MITCH McCONNELL
UNITED STATES SENATOR

MM/bmd

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601 WEST BROADWAY
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(502) 582-6304

PROFESSIONAL ARTS BUILDING
2320 BROADWAY
SUITE 100
PADUCAH, KY 42001
(270) 442-4554

History

JUL 8 2003

H30(2255)

Honorable Mitch McConnell
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510-1702

Dear Senator McConnell:

Thank you for your letter of June 17, 2003, to this Department supporting the National History Foundation's application for a Federal Save America's Treasures grant to collect videotaped oral histories of World War II veterans.

The National Park Service administers these grants in collaboration with the National Endowment for the Arts, the National Endowment for the Humanities, and the Institute for Museum and Library Services. A national selection panel, which is comprised of senior staff with expertise in the appropriate disciplines and representing non-competing Federal agencies, evaluates applications and makes recommendations for funding to the Secretary of the Interior. By law, the Secretary must consult with the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations prior to commitment of grant funds.

The deadline for 2003 Save America's Treasures grants was extended to May 20, 2003. Accordingly, grants will be announced in October.

Thank you for your interest in the Save America's Treasures grants.

Sincerely,

/s/ **John Robbins**

for de Teel Patterson Tiller
Acting Associate Director, Cultural Resources

bcc: 0120-Lowery 2250-Robbins
2200-Reading File 2255-Wallis, Shiffer, Spriggs
FNP:JWallis:jw:202-354-2054:7\7\03:SAT Grants 2003/McConnell-WWII Veterans Oral History #2003-00598
BASIC FILE RETAINED IN 2255

MITCH McCONNELL
KENTUCKY

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(202) 224-2541

United States Senate

COMMITTEES
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APPROPRIATIONS
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CHAIRMAN
RULES AND ADMINISTRATION

April 28, 2004

Mr. David L. Bernhardt
Director
Office Of Congressional and Legislative Affairs
Department of the Interior
1849 C Street N.W.
Room 6256
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Mr. Bernhardt:

I am writing on behalf of a constituent who has contacted me regarding his desire to raft solo down the river in the Grand Canyon. I would appreciate your review and response to my constituent's concerns.

I have enclosed a copy of my constituent's correspondence, for your information. Please direct any inquiries and all relevant information to Pamela Simpson in my Washington, D.C. office.

Thank you for your time and assistance. I will look forward to receiving your response.

Sincerely,

MITCH McCONNELL
UNITED STATES SENATOR

MM/PS

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PADUCAH, KY 42001
(270) 442-4554

(b) (6)
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Office (b) (6) (b) (6)

2004 MAR 15 PM 1:19

Friday, March 12, 2004

The Honorable Senator Jim Bunning
1717 Dixie Hwy – Suite 220
Ft. Wright, Kentucky 41011

Dear Senator Bunning,

The first showing of the large Grand Canyon black & white prints will hang at the Central Bank Gallery in Lexington. Opening and reception will be held Friday March 26, from 4:30 – 6:00pm, and the show will be available to the public until April 16. KET-TV, the state PBS network will air a segment on their program "Mixed Media" (b) (6) The TV program will be on the web as streaming video at some point, and if you give me an email address in Ft. Wright, I will send you a link to it.

This is your opportunity to see what it is that I do, and have been talking about to you the last few years. The National Park Service steadfastly denies me access to the river to shoot pictures alone from my raft, while their own research club goes down the river week after week, year after year, no strings attached. There is still something wrong, and I still am asking for your help. All this special privilege about river trips should come to a halt. The Park claims they are in the process of fixing it, but you know what, they have been "in the process" now for over eight years. Unfortunately, the Park seems to have little authority in these matters.

So how can you help? You could have a conversation with Senator Hatch and ask him to back off of those monopoly outfitter leases in Grand Canyon, and let access return to the public where it belongs. Frankly, many of those companies are friends and family members of the Senator. Because of their government granted monopolies over access to the river, and legislated Federal protection (Hatch Amendment – SU175, 1980), the public is left sitting here with a 20+ year long wait to get a river trip. Those companies have all made millions and all their families are set for life. They have done well, and they made it with ease. It is my turn to go there and shoot some more pictures. I don't want special privilege. I just want to have a fair shot at a river trip, that's all. You could also ask the Department of Interior to come clean about all those so-called research river trips they do each year (thousands over the past decade). Only one in ten has anything to do with science, the rest are just a way for various Federal agencies to run the river without having to go through the usual channels.

Here it is in a nutshell. If I want to run the river with a commercial outfitter, I make a phone call and run the river next summer, and as many times as I have the money to do so. No waiting at all. If I want to take my own raft and cameras I wait 23 years, maybe longer. If the outfitters went to the places I shoot pictures, I would do it, but they don't. If I work for the USGS, or Bureau of Reclamation, I come up with a science project and run the river as many times as I like. As it is now, I have to beg to strangers to take me on their public trip, which they have waited 14 years for, in order to have a chance at a picture. Maybe they will let me take my cameras, maybe not. That's how it works.

I appreciate your consideration of these matters Senator and I hope you will take the time to see the pictures in Lexington, and watch the TV show on KET.

Sincerely,

(b) (6)

cc Senator Mitch McConnell

(b) (6)
Office (b) (6) (b) (6)

2004 APR 21 AM 11:59

Friday, April 16, 2004

Honorable Senator Mitch McConnell
601 West Broadway – Room 630
Louisville, KY 40202

Re: Grand Canyon National Park
River Permit System

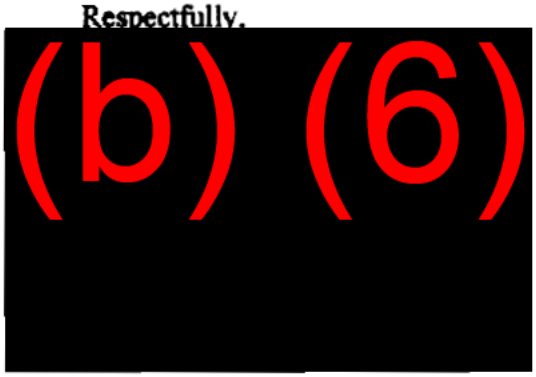
Dear Senator McConnell,

Please refer to your letter from a few days ago (enclosed). I truly appreciate your inquiry to into the matter of river trips in Grand Canyon. You mention that the correspondence is heading to the National Park Service at Grand Canyon. Unfortunately, the Park Service has little authority when it comes to the river concession's monopoly. Access to the river in Grand Canyon is strictly the domain of the Department of Interior. If you wouldn't mind, please forward my letter, and any additional inquiry you may have, over to the Department of Interior. They are well aware of the situation, and are the only ones who can make any changes in the current system. The Park Service will merely send you a lawyerly letter about my personal history, and about how they are working hard to comply with assorted federal advisories about how to run their Park. It's a bit of a fill-in-the-blank form they have been using for years to respond to elected officials. The Department of Interior may send you the same thing I don't know. What I do know is that Interior is the only division of government that can fix this. Beyond that is Federal Legislation, and it may come to that one day.

Let me re-state the bottom line. If I want to run the river with a commercial outfitter, I can make a phone call tomorrow and be on the river in Grand Canyon almost anytime I want to go this year, or any year. If I want to go alone with my own vessel to shoot pictures, my wait is 26 years and getting longer. I used to be able to call in and get a last minute cancellation to run the river, however, the Park has continuously changed the rules the last five years, and its 26 years now more or less.

I sent you an invitation to a museum show of the photographic prints from Grand Canyon, and I don't know if anyone from your office made it by. The show will eventually hang in Louisville, and I will send an invitation for that show as well. I would like for you to see what it is that I do. Enclosed are a few advertising pieces from the show, and a newspaper clipping. KET, the statewide PBS station featured the art on a telecast of theirs as well. All of it was well received. I hope you will review these materials to better understand my commitment to the fine art of photography in Grand Canyon, and that it is of benefit to citizens of the Commonwealth.

Respectfully,



MITCH McCONNELL
KENTUCKY

361-A RUSSELL SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1702
(202) 224-2541

United States Senate

MAJORITY WHIP

COMMITTEES:
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CHAIRMAN

RULES AND ADMINISTRATION

July 23, 2004

The Honorable Gale Norton
Secretary
Department of Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240-0001

Dear Secretary Norton:

I am writing on behalf of a constituent who has contacted me regarding the activity programs provided to tourists at Mammoth Cave National Park. I would appreciate your review and response to my constituent's concerns.

I have enclosed a copy of my constituent's correspondence, for your information. Please direct any inquiries and all relevant information to Pamela Simpson in my Washington, D.C. office.

Thank you for your time and assistance. I will look forward to receiving your response.

Sincerely,

MITCH McCONNELL
UNITED STATES SENATOR

MM/PS

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United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Southeast Regional Office
Atlanta Federal Center
1924 Building
100 Alabama St., S.W.
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

IN REPLY REFER TO:
A3815

AUG 3 2004

(b) (6)

Dear Mr. (b) (6)

We reviewed your recent letter in which you expressed several concerns related to visitation trends, cave tour offerings, partnership initiatives, and public satisfaction at Mammoth Cave National Park. This letter will address the major items identified in your letter so that you will have a better understanding of current National Park Service management efforts at Mammoth Cave National Park.

Cave Tour Offerings: During the summer season, Mammoth Cave National Park offers more than 32 cave tours on a daily basis. Virtually all park visitors are able to purchase a ticket for a guided cave tour that will embark within 60 minutes. The park closely monitors visitor demand, and additional cave tours are added, as appropriate, to ensure visitors can attend a guided cave tour within 60 minutes of arrival.

Your belief that the park has reduced the number of cave tour offerings at Mammoth Cave National Park is not correct. In fact, a considerably higher number of cave tour offerings are presently available to the public than in the past. To illustrate, in 2003, 7,332 cave tours were offered to the public (about 1,000 more than what has typically been offered in prior years). Ensuring the availability of cave tour offerings commensurate with public demand and with providing a high quality national park experience continues to be the highest priority management objectives at Mammoth Cave National Park.

Visitation Trends: In 2003, Mammoth Cave National Park had 379,645 cave tour visitors, which is down 15-24 percent from the long-term average visitation levels of 450,000 to 500,000. This decrease is similar to the visitation decreases experienced at many other national park areas during the past 10-15 years, including Carlsbad Caverns National Park.

In addition to cave tour visitation (in which every "head" is counted), Mammoth Cave National Park uses a standard visitor counting system for estimating total recreational use within the park. This system, which is extrapolated from data collected from embedded

road traffic counters in the park, indicated that Mammoth Cave National Park had a total of 1,869,137 recreational visitors in 2003. Over the past 10 years, overall park visitation has fluctuated between a low of 1,710,983 (in 1999) to as high as 2,396,234 (in 1993). Since 1998 (the last year that visitation exceeded 2 million), overall numbers have been trending downward.

The park will continue its regular policy of disseminating annual visitation data, with relevant comparisons to the prior year. Increases are noted when visitation is higher than the previous year, and visitation decreases are likewise reported. It is not true that the park has been reporting stable or increasing visitation levels over the past several years when overall visitation has been declining.

Partnerships: As a matter of policy, National Park Service areas are strongly encouraged to establish partnerships towards fulfilling the park's public use and resource preservation mission. Mammoth Cave National Park is proud to be involved in dozens of partnership relationships, which have produced substantial benefits, including several initiatives related to promoting tourism and marketing. It is not true that park participation in these various partnership efforts have negatively affected the park's ability to provide basic park operations and visitor services.

Public Satisfaction: In contrast to the negative feedback you have received about Mammoth Cave National Park, annual visitor surveys consistently show extremely high levels of visitor satisfaction with park operations and services. These surveys are available for review at the park Division of External Programs and Communication.

If you have additional questions, please contact Jim Carroll, Chief of External Programs, at (270) 758-2191.

Sincerely,

Patricia Hooks
Regional Director
for Southeast Region

361–A Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510–1702
(202) 224–2541

United States Senate

COMMITTEES:
AGRICULTURE
APPROPRIATIONS
SUBCOMMITTEE ON FOREIGN OPERATIONS
CHAIRMAN
RULES AND ADMINISTRATION

August 27, 2004

814479

The Honorable Gale Norton
Secretary
Department of Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240-0001

Dear Secretary Norton:

I write on behalf of Clark County Judge/Executive John Myers, who has contacted me regarding his community's efforts to relocate a local soccer field that was developed with the assistance of a grant from Land and Water Conservation Funds. I would appreciate your review and response to his concerns.

I have enclosed a copy of Judge Myers's correspondence, for your information. Please direct any inquiries and all relevant information to Brytt Brooks in my Washington, D.C. office.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

MITCH McCONNELL
UNITED STATES SENATOR

MM/ bdb

RECEIVED
2004 SEP -8 PM 4:07
EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT

Federal Building
241 East Main Street
Room 102
Bowling Green, KY 42101
(270) 781-1673

1885 Dixie Highway
Suite 345
Fort Wright, KY 41011
(859) 578-0188

771 Corporate Drive
Suite 530
Lexington, KY 40503
(859) 224-8286

300 South Main
Suite 310
London, KY 40741
(606) 864-2026

601 West Broadway
Suite 630
Louisville, KY 40202
(502) 582-6304

Professional Arts Building
2320 Broadway
Suite 100
Paducah, KY 42001
(270) 442-4554

JOHN W. MYERS

Clark County Judge/Executive

FISCAL COURT MAGISTRATES
PAMELA BLACKBURN
JOE McCORD, JR.
JOHN HENRY RAMSEY
WILL RICHARDSON
JERRY ROGERS
CLIFTON RICHARD SMITH
BILLY C. THOMAS

CLARK COUNTY COURT HOUSE
34 SOUTH MAIN - ROOM 103
WINCHESTER, KENTUCKY 40391
Ph: 859-745-0200 • Fax: 859-737-5678

July 30, 2004

Hon. Gale A. Norton
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Madame Secretary:

My letter today is being written to address what I feel are certain disasters waiting to happen. In 1986, as a community effort for our youth soccer program, Clark County applied and was granted $30,000.00 to be included in the development of a local soccer field. The grant (#8606-23-0535) was issued on July 31, 1986.

The original land amounting to 15 acres was donated by an industry (Winchester Farms Diary) that was one of the first occupants in our newly developed industrial park. Many local businesses made significant contributions to the project creating what we believed would serve our community youth for many years to come. Many individuals put thousands of hours of sweat equity into the development of this field.

At the time the soccer park was developed, the soccer program was half its present day size and the industrial park was one-third its present size. This wonderful community project has now grown into a major safety concern for the community. Access to the soccer field is by the same roadway that hundreds of semi trucks use daily. Many of the adjoining industries use chemicals in their processes that if released, would create disastrous results in minutes. With the current configuration of the soccer field, three large industries are within a stones throw from the field.

Our industrial park is located within the limits of our city and thus is subject to the city's recommendations; however, we are exploring the possibility of relocating the park to land that is owned by the City of Winchester, and in an area that is farm land and will not be subject to development. The abandoned land through reversionary will be returned to the County of Clark and will be sold to an adjoining industry with one hundred percent of the funds being used to develop the new more modern facility that I feel will only enhance the opportunity for our youth to participate in the program.

In studying the conditions of the grant, I have learned that certain conditions present hurdles to continue the efforts to relocate the soccer field. It clearly states that the substitute land must be of equal value and with the present location being within the confines of an industrial park; it is impossible to purchase additional land and build a new facility. The land it currently is located on is appraised at $225.000.00 and the proposed site at best is $100.000.00.

EDUCATION PAYS

Since the value of the original Land & Water Conservation Fund Grant has been clearly achieved and with the serious public safety issues that exist at the current site, I respectfully request that you consider releasing the conditions and allow us to relocate to a safe location for our youth.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Respectfully,

John W. Myers
Clark County Judge/Executive

Cc: Mr. Hord Tipton

Sept. 29, 2004 per Denise Pope

~~OCT - 8 2004~~

L32(2225)

OPTIONAL FORM 99 (7-90)

FAX TRANSMITTAL

To: Doris Lowery	From: Sheila Sue
Dept./Agency	Phone # 354-6903
Fax #	Fax #

NSN 7540-01-217-7368 5099-101 GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

Honorable Mitch McConnell
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator McConnell:

This is in response to your August 27 letter to the Secretary of the Interior, Gale Norton concerning a request by Clark County Judge/Executive John Myers to relocate a local soccer field that was developed with grant assistance from the Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) State assistance program.

By letter dated August 17, the National Park Service (NPS), which administers the LWCF program on behalf of the Secretary, responded to the Judge's inquiry. A copy of this response is enclosed for your information and is summarized below.

The LWCF program provides matching grants to States, and through States local units of government, for the acquisition and development of public outdoor recreation areas and facilities. Clark County has been a long-time partner in this program; the soccer complex is one of four LWCF grants the county has received over the life of the program (including grants for the Winchester Community Swimming Pool in 1969 and Lykins Park in 1974 and 1980).

One of the conditions agreed to by every State and sub-recipient of LWCF assistance, including Clark County, is that the area being acquired or developed with Fund assistance will be maintained for public park and recreation use in perpetuity. This condition is based on Section 6(f)(3) of the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act, one of the Nation's strongest conservation mandates, aimed at protecting public investments in parks and recreation land, and at preventing casual treatment of parks as a land bank for other developments. It requires that the area acquired or developed continue to be used for public outdoor recreation use in perpetuity.

However, the requirements are flexible and allow for changes in use if justified, if consistent with the State's comprehensive outdoor recreation plan, and if the converted property is replaced with other lands 1) "of equal fair market value," and 2) "equivalent recreation usefulness and location" that have not previously been dedicated to recreation use. The "conversion process" is discussed and the prerequisites for approval are described more fully in Title 36 Part 59.3 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* that can be found at http://www.access.gpo.gov/nara.

Because these requirements are based in legislation, our legal counsel has long-held that value of capital improvements cannot substitute for the value of the replacement property and the prerequisites described above cannot be administratively waived as suggested in the Judge's correspondence.

We did encourage the county officials to contact the Kentucky Department of Local Government, the agency responsible for administering the LWCF program at the State level, for further information on the conversion process. We understand that they have done so.

Should the county pursue the conversion option, you can be assured that NPS will work closely with the State to ensure a satisfactory solution. Please feel free to contact Michael D. Wilson, Chief, Recreation Programs Division 202-354-6905, if you have further questions.

Sincerely,

151

Christopher K. Jarvi
Associate Director
Partnerships, Interpretation and Education,
Volunteers and Outdoor Recreation

Enclosure

bcc:2225-chron/program/Wilson/2220-Ross/3128-AD/SERO/2004-01129EST?334073
FNP:Strum:sl:09/22/04:202-354-6931.O\corresp\lwcf\strum-McConnell

L32(2225)

AUG 17 2004

Honorable John W. Myers
Clark County Judge/Executive
34 South Main, Room 103
Winchester, Kentucky 40391

Dear Judge Myers:

This is in response to your July 30 letter to the Secretary of the Interior, Gale Norton, requesting that the conditions of a Federal grant that helped establish the Clark County soccer complex be waived so that the county can relocate the facility to a more desirable location.

Your letter has been forwarded to the National Park Service (NPS) for reply. NPS administers the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) State assistance program, the Federal grant program that provided $30,000 in financial assistance to the county in 1986 for the acquisition and development of the soccer complex (LWCF Project No. 21-00991).

This LWCF program provides matching grants to States and through States to local units of government, for the acquisition and development of public outdoor recreation areas and facilities. Since 1965, nearly 40,000 projects have been approved nationwide providing $3.5 billion in financial assistance to State governments and local communities. Clark County has been a long-time partner in this program–the soccer complex is one of four LWCF grants the county has received over the life of the program (including grants for the Winchester Community Swimming Pool in 1969 and Lykins Park in 1974 and 1980).

One of the conditions agreed to by every State and subrecipient of LWCF assistance is that the area being acquired or developed with Fund assistance will be maintained for Public Park and recreation use in perpetuity. This condition, referenced in your letter, is based on Section 6(f)(3) of the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act, one of the Nation's strongest conservation mandates, aimed at protecting public investments in parks and recreation land, and at preventing casual treatment of parks as a land bank for other developments (see enclosed brochure).

However, the requirements are flexible and allow for changes in use if justified, if consistent with the State's comprehensive outdoor recreation plan, and if the converted property is replaced with other lands 1) "of equal fair market value," and 2) "equivalent recreation usefulness and location" that have not previously been dedicated to recreation use. The "conversion process" is discussed and the prerequisites for approval are described more fully in Title 36 Part 59.3 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* that can be found at http://www.access.gpo.gov/nara.

Because these requirements are based in legislation, our legal counsel has long-held that value of capital improvements cannot substitute for the value of the replacement property and the prerequisites described above cannot be administratively waived.

Your letter does make a case for relocating the soccer complex and we encourage you to pursue the conversion alternative with the official responsible for administering the LWCF program at the State level. In Kentucky, that official is Mr. Darrell D. Brock, Jr., Commissioner of the Kentucky Department of Local Government, telephone number. 502-573-2382. Either Mr. Brock or a member of his staff will be able to discuss the conversion process in more detail and answer any additional questions that you may have.

Should you ultimately submit a "conversion" request to NPS through the Kentucky Department of Local Government, you can be assured that the NPS staff will expedite its review of the proposal once the necessary documentation supporting a conversion request are received. I hope this information is helpful.

Sincerely,

D. Thomas Ross

Christopher K. Jarvi
Acting Associate Director,
Partnerships, Interpretation, and Education
Volunteers, and Outdoor Recreation

Enclosure

KENTUCKY

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(202) 224-2541

United States Senate

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CHAIRMAN
RULES AND ADMINISTRATION

8230117

February 25, 2005

Mr. David L. Bernhardt
Director
Office Of Congressional and Legislative Affairs
Department of the Interior
Mailstop 6242
1849 C Street N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

RECEIVED
05 MAR -9 AM 10:08
EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT

Dear Mr. Bernhardt:

I am writing on behalf of a constituent who has contacted me regarding the Kentucky Surface Coal Mining Permit #895-0150. I would appreciate your review and response to my constituent's concerns.

I have enclosed a copy of my constituent's correspondence, for your information. Please direct any inquiries and all relevant information to Pamela Simpson in my Washington, D.C. office.

Thank you for your time and assistance. I will look forward to receiving your response.

Sincerely,

MITCH McCONNELL
UNITED STATES SENATOR

MM/PS

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241 EAST MAIN STREET
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BOWLING GREEN, KY 42101
(270) 781-1673

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771 CORPORATE DRIVE
SUITE 530
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(859) 224-8286

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(606) 864-2026

601 WEST BROADWAY
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LOUISVILLE, KY 40202
(502) 582-6304

PROFESSIONAL ARTS BUILDIN
2320 BROADWAY
SUITE 100
PADUCAH, KY 42001
(270) 442-4554

Cover Page

To: Senator Mitch McConnell

From: Daniel M. Molloy
RR-2 Box 59-E
Boonevile Ky. 41314
606-593-7582

Tel: 606-593-7582
Fax: 606-593-7582

Pages To Follow (5)

2-22-0005

To: Secretary of the Interior
Gale A. Norton
Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington DC 20240

From: (b) (6)

Subj: Kentucky Surface Coal Mining Permit # 895-0150

Ref: Public Law 95-87
Kentucky Revised Statutes Chapter 350.00
Permit # 895-0150
Owsley County Map 13
Deed: Recorded in deed book 74-page 341 Owsley County court house 22, July 2000.

Madam Secretary,

The information here I belive needs your immediate attention. What you will fined here is of grave importances to the citizen of Kentucky. First of all I need to give you a brief review of the circumstances concerning my complaint of permit # 895-0150. The bottom line is that the State illegally gave a permit to Sturgeon Mining Co,. of Beatyville, Ky, to strip mine a property that the owner had not given permission to do so. They Removed all the trees and coal from the property.

SEC 101. The Congress finds and declares that -

(c) many surface mining operations result in disturbances of surface areas that burden and adversely affect commerce and the public welfare by destroying or diminishing the utility of land for commercial, industrial, residential, recreational, agricultural, and forestry purposes, by causing erosion and landslides, by contributing to floods, by polluting the water, by destroying fish and wildlife habitats, by impairing natural beauty, by damaging the property of citizens, by creating hazards dangerous to life and property by degrading the quality of life in local communities, and by counteracting governmental programs and efforts to conserve soil, water, and other natural resources;

SEC. 102. It is the purpose of this Act to -

(a) establish a nationwide program to protect society and the environment from the adverse effects of surface coal mining operations;

Note: The State of Kentucky is part of this nationwide program. But you would never know it with the problems that we the citizens have seen in the case of permit # 895-0150.

(b) assure that the rights of surface landowners and other persons with a legal interest in the land or appurtenances thereto are fully protected from such operations;

Note: They have failed to in the case of permit # 895-0150. One landowner whose property was in the CENTER of the permitted site did not give their permission to enter or mine coal on their land. Now they will have to take civil action because the State did not do their job as per Public Law 95-87 & Kentucky Revised Statutes Chapter 350.00

(c) assure that surface mining operations are not conducted where reclamation as required by this Act is not feasible;

Note: This permit should have never been approved. The land cannot be reclaimed as required by this Act. It was not feasible before, and is not feasible now.

(d) assure that surface coal mining operations are so conducted as to protect the environment;

Note: This strip mining operation did massive environmental damages to the property and the water way that runs though the property. The operation came to with in 10 feet of the stream.

(e) assure that adequate procedures are undertaken to reclaim surface areas asontemporaneously as possible with the surface coal mining operations;

Note: This has not taken place. The fact is that this has created a situation where much run off including muddy debris is dumping directly into the adjoining stream and the hill sides are sliding. This has created a substantial health and safety risk for the public, plus an environmental risk if this problem is not corrected.

(f) assure that the coal supply essential to the Nation's energy requirements, and to its economic and social well-being is provided and strike a balance between protection of the environment and agricultural productivity and the Nation's need for coal as an essential source of energy;

Note: There was no balance here.

(i) assure that appropriate procedures are provided for the public participation in the development, revision, and enforcement of regulations, standards, reclamation plans, or programs established by the Secretary or any State under this Act;

Note: The State has not and apparently will not.

On 2-9-05 at 2:30 pm I called a Mr Charles Oldham at Division of Mine Permits #2 Hudson Hollow Rd. Frankfort, KY 40601 to check on some information that they had requested. At this time he told me that my letter to Ms. Perry Johnson, was not of any help to me. He informed me that because of my letter in response to her letter of 2-03-2005 resulted in the acting director A Mr. Johnson instructed that ALL ELECTRONIC AND PAPER FORM CONTACT FROM ME OR TO ME WAS TO BE REMOVED FROM ALL STATE DOCUMENTS AND THAT I NO LONGER EXSESTED. I stated to Mr. Oldhan that I sent the letter to alert all that something was wrong here. Mr Oldham informed me that I had to understand that the laws do not apply in Eastern Kentucky. That is a fact that I have to live with. That all the power is in the Fiscal Courts, that is the law in Eastern KY and the fact is it makes no difference what the law says under KRS. 350. that they do things by a memo that was sent down by the late director. He also stated that I shouldn't bother with any State Reps because they don't care about them. Get in touch with your Congressman, they will only listen to them because that is were the money comes from.

(m) wherever neessary, exercise the full reach of Federal constitutional powers to insure the protection of the public interest through effective control of surface coal mining operations.

Note: There was no effective control of this mining operation. It is time to exercise the full reach of Federal constitutional powers.

Below are just a few of the Kentucky Revised Statutes that address the problem and are also part of Public Law 95-87.

I. A .W: KRS. 350.085 Denial of permits and operations -- Deletion of land areas.

(3) Subject to valid existing rights, no surface coal mining operations except those which existed on or before August 4, 1977, shall be permitted within three hundred (300) feet from any occupied dwelling unless waived by the owner, nor within three hundred (300) feet of any public building, school, church, community, orminstitutional building, public park, or within one hundred (100) feet of a cemetery. The cabinet shall not issue a permit if it finds that the operation will constitute a hazard to or do physical damage to a dwelling house, public building, school, church, cemetery, commercial or institutional building, public road, stream, lake, or other public property. The cabinet shall delete the areas from the permit application or operation.

Note: The public road is gone and the mining operation came to within 10 feet of the stream. The cabinet either did not delete the areas from the permit application or the permittee just ignored it.

(4) Subject to valid existing rights, no surface coal mining operations except those which existed on or before August 4, 1977, shall be permitted within one hundred (100) feet of the outside right-of-way line of any public road, except where mine access roads or haulage roads join the right-of-way line. The cabinet shall permit the roads to be relocated or the area affected to lie within one hundred (100) feet of the road if, after public notice and opportunity for public hearing in the locality, a written finding is made that the interest of the public and the affected land owner will be protected.

Note: The Public road is gone and the mining operation destroyed the land of said laud owner and the coal under the 1/2 mile of missing road was so mined. The road can not be restored to it's approximate original contour and this will land loek said land owner whose property was mined and destroyed with out their consent.

I. A. W: KRS. 350.060 Permit requirement -- Contents of application -- Fee -- Bond -- Exemptions -- Administrative regulations -- Successive renewal -- Auger mining of previously mined area -- Exempt operations.

(2) No permit or revision application shall be approved unless the application, affirmatively demonstrates, and the cabinet finds in writing on the basis of the information set forth in the application or from information otherwise available, that the permit application is accurate and complete and that all the requirements of this chapter have been complied with.

Note: Just a check with the county P.V.A on this application would have identified the inaccuracy of the application as to the true owner of the property that was in the center of this permit request. Ref: Owsley County Map 13 Parcel # 6. Deed: Recorded in deed book 74-page 341 Owsley County court house 22, July 2000. Also Parcel # 7 belonging to someone other than what is listed on the application.

I.A.W: KRS. 350.010 Definitions for chapter.

(15) "Approximate original contour" means that surface configuration achieved by backfilling and grading of the mined area so that the reclaimed area, including any terracing or access roads, closely resembles the general surface configuration of the land prior to mining and blends into and complements the drainage pattern of the surrounding terrain, with all highwalls and spoil piles eliminated; water impoundments may be permitted where the cabinet determines that they are in compliance with KRS 350.455;

Note: Original contour of this property can no longer be found. It has been destroyed. A parcel of beautiful pristine woodlands with terracing and a waterfalls is lost forever. The day we bought this land my wife said. "This will be one piece of property that they will never STRIP MINE".

SEC. 701. For the purposes of this Act - (29) "unwarranted failure to comply" means the failure of a permittee to prevent the occurrence of any violation of his permit or any requirement of this Act due to indifference, lack of diligence, or lack of reasonable care, or the failure to abate any violation of such permit or the Act due to indifference, lack of diligence, or lack of reasonable care;

"As caretakers of the public trust, government officials can affect the finances and lives of its citizenry everyday."

In closing I will say that SEC. 201 & SEC. 521 of Public Law 95-87 needs to be applied with the full reach of Federal constitutional powers. I have additional information if required. "I have no financial interest in this matter."

(b) (6)

A Citizen of the Commonwealth of Kentucky

cc. Senator Mitch McConnell
Senator Jim Bunning
Congressman Harold Rogers
Congressman Ben Chandler
Office of Surface Mining

United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF SURFACE MINING
Reclamation and Enforcement
Washington, D.C. 20240

MAY - 9 2005

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510-2541

Dear Senator McConnell:

This responds to your February 25, 2005, letter to Mr. David L. Bernhardt on behalf of your constituent, Mr. (b) (6) of Booneville, Kentucky, concerning violations of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act (SMCRA) that he believes exist at the Sturgeon Mining Company, permit number 895-0150, in Owsley County, Kentucky. He is also concerned about the overall implementation of SMCRA in Kentucky. Mr. Bernhardt asked me to respond to you. I apologize for the delay.

On March 2, 2005, the Office of Surface Mining (OSM) responded to several letters from Mr. (b) (6) and his son, Mr. (b) (6), who is the landowner on a portion of the property covered under the Sturgeon Mining Company permit.

Based on the information in Mr. (b) (6) and Mr. (b) (6) letters, the OSM issued two Ten-Day Notices (TDN) to the Department for Natural Resources (DNR). These TDNs identified Mr. (b) (6)'s concerns and those of Mr. (b) (6), and required that the DNR respond to the allegations. Mr. (b) (6) and Mr. (b) (6) were sent a copy of the TDNs and given an explanation of the TDN process. The following paragraphs explain the status of these TDNs as of the date of this letter.

TDN Number 05-081-415-050 was issued on February 3, 2005, for an allegation that Sturgeon Mining Company was mining property without proper authorization [right to mine] from the landowner. The original due date for the DNR to respond to this TDN was February 14, 2005. Based on the DNR's request for additional time to investigate the right-to-mine allegation, the due date for a response was extended to May 16, 2005. This is the third extension requested by the DNR. Right-to-mine allegations typically take more than ten days to investigate. The DNR must obtain information from both the complainant and the company regarding the rights they claim. This information must then be reviewed by the legal staff to determine if the proper demonstrations of right to mine have been made. It would not be unusual for the DNR to request additional extensions before the decision is made on this allegation. Mr. (b) (6) and Mr. (b) (6) will be sent copies of any TDN extensions.

Original mailed from OSM Director's Office by P. Braxton

TDN Number 05-081-415-051 was issued on February 10, 2005, for allegations that Sturgeon Mining Company mined within ten feet of a stream and through a public road. The original due date for this TDN was February 22, 2005. Based on the DNR's request for additional time to investigate, this due date was extended to March 24, 2005. The OSM received a response to this TDN on March 3, 2005. The DNR advised that they had approved a stream buffer zone variance allowing surface disturbance operations within 100 feet of Little Sturgeon Creek. The DNR also explained that they had approved a variance to conduct operations within 100 feet of a public road and to temporarily close the road. On March 18, 2005, we sent Mr. (b) (6) a letter summarizing the DNR's response and our decision that the DNR had shown good cause for not taking further action with regard to his complaint. Our decision was based on the variances approved by the DNR. We advised Mr. (b) (6) of his right under 30 CFR 842.15 to request an informal review by the Regional Director of the OSM Appalachian Regional Office if he disagreed with our decision. Mr. (b) (6) requested this informal review.

The Regional Director notified Mr. (b) (6) of the results of the informal review in a letter dated April 21, 2005. The Regional Director agreed that the DNR had shown good cause for not taking action regarding the allegation of mining within ten feet of a stream. However, he did not agree that the DNR had shown good cause with respect to the allegation of mining through the public road. As a result, the Regional Director ordered a Federal inspection. The purpose of the Federal inspection is to determine if the company mined through the public road without the required authorizations.

In a letter to Secretary Norton, Mr. (b) (6) expressed concern regarding the overall implementation of SMCRA in Kentucky. As you know, the Kentucky DNR is the approved regulatory authority in Kentucky for surface coal mining and reclamation operations. This authority is referred to as "primacy" and means that the DNR has the primary authority for the regulation of surface coal mining and reclamation operations. Kentucky was granted "primacy" on May 18, 1982.

Our role is one of oversight. The OSM has the responsibility to conduct the investigations, evaluations, and inspections necessary to determine whether the DNR is administering and enforcing the approved State program in accordance with approved program provisions. This oversight is accomplished through special studies that focus on specific areas of the approved State program, general assessments through random oversight inspections, and review of State actions in response to citizen complaints. It is through these studies, investigations, and reviews that the OSM measures the success of a regulatory authority. We do monitor the site-specific allegations as a part of our evaluation of the DNR's implementation of its approved program. The DNR's investigation of Mr. (b) (6)'s site-specific issues will also become part of the overall evaluation of the implementation of the approved regulatory program.

We hope this information is helpful to you. Should you or your staff have any questions, please contact Mr. William J. Kovacic, Field Office Director, at (859) 260-8405.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey D. Jarrett
Director

KENTUCKY

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WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1702
(202) 224-2541

United States Senate

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CHAIRMAN
RULES AND ADMINISTRATION

August 22, 2005

The Honorable Gale Norton
Secretary
Department of Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240-0001

Dear Secretary Norton:

I am writing on behalf of a constituent who has contacted me with regard to locating a site for a fire department "burn building" facility on land acquired with the use of Federal funds. I would appreciate your review and response to my constituent's concerns.

I have enclosed a copy of my constituent's correspondence, for your information. Please direct any inquiries and all relevant information to Pamela Simpson in my Washington, D.C. office.

Thank you for your time and assistance. I will look forward to receiving your response.

Sincerely,

MITCH McCONNELL
UNITED STATES SENATOR

MM/PS

8361175

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05 AUG 30 PM 3:56
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EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT

FEDERAL BUILDING
241 EAST MAIN STREET
ROOM 102
BOWLING GREEN, KY 42101
(270) 781-1673

1885 DIXIE HIGHWAY
SUITE 345
FORT WRIGHT, KY 41011
(859) 578-0188

771 CORPORATE DRIVE
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300 SOUTH MAIN
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LOUISVILLE, KY 40202
(502) 582-6304

PROFESSIONAL ARTS BUILDING
2320 BROADWAY
SUITE 100
PADUCAH, KY 42001
(270) 442-4554

Secretary Gale Norton
Department of the Interior
1849 C Street N. W
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Madam Secretary Norton : August 20,2005

Re: Locating A Fire Department's " Burn Building"

I am Gene Zick, City Councilmen from Russellville, Logan County, Kentucky.

The reason I am writing to you is because I am trying to locate a site for a fire department " Burn Building" training facility. (Copy enclosed) We need a couple of acres, of which the building and pad require only an area of 30 by 36 feet and the balance would be available for parking. This would be a graveled area. Two (2) acres is available in our city/county park , adjacent to the Animal Shelter. This is located at the far edge of the park, far away from the recreational areas. (See enclosed maps) Next to the back entrance to the Park, just off the Terry Wilcut Highway (431).

Since the Park land was acquired with the use of Federal funds, restrictions as to use were applied. (See enclosed – " Separate Restriction")Therefore, I need your permission in writing to use a small section of the park property for the "Burn Building". As mentioned an Animal Shelter is located near our proposed site so apparently permission for non-recreational use was given prior.

I might mention that this facility would be used to permit the area fire people to complete their required training without traveling to other out of town facilities (where they are not readily welcomed), at a cost to the tax payer and requires them to be absent from their home area. (see justification sheet)

Users of the facility would include the fire departments of: Russellville, Auburn , Adairville, Lewisberg, Rural Fire Departments , Logan Aluminum, Inc. as well as other local Industries.

The facility would not be used daily, but perhaps twice a year for each group. I feel that this training , although not recreational in the true meaning , benefits ALL the citizens of the area. This is the purpose of a park.

It is a facility that trains people in the use of contained air packs, search and rescue techniques in a smoke filled room. Additionally, training includes getting use to facing flames and hot rooms thru the use of propane burners and how to ventilate a building by chopping their way through a replaceable wooden hatch in the roof. (See photos)

There will not be any water used, nor chemicals to harm or contaminate the environment or the adjacent area.

As I mentioned , this building would be located at the far reaches of the park, adjacent to the highway, close to the rear park entrance use to get to the Animal Shelter.

If you or your staff have any questions relative to the project, location or use, I would be happy to answer them.

We would appreciate your prompt decision on our request. Hopefully you will find that this is a very beneficial project for the community as a whole.

Thank you for your consideration, We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely yours:

Gene Zick, Russellville City Councilman
(b) (6)
[redacted]
E-mail=(b) (6) [redacted]

Cc: Senator Mitch McConnell
Senator Jim Bunning
Representative Ed Whitfield
Representatives of the Congressmen
File

City of Russellville, Logan County, Kentucky
Fire Training Burn Building

Firefighters are required to have training with air packs in smoke-filled rooms and need to learn how to safely enter burning buildings. The burn building facility will provide the appropriate training venue.

This building will allow our regional fire departments to use a local training site, and schedule training for a date and time that is convenient for each department. As it is now, the departments are at the mercy of other cities, in regard to schedules and costs. In addition, out-of-town training leaves individual fire departments and the region short-staffed, should a fire occur.

The City of Russellville and its fire department would not be the only beneficiaries of this training facility. The cities and fire departments of Adairville, Auburn, and Lewisburg would benefit, as would our rural fire department. Logan Aluminum, which has an in-house fire fighting staff, would use the training facility as well.

Having a local burn facility would:

Eliminate travel time and cost
Eliminate usage fees paid to out-of-town facilities
Leave firefighters in our area, available to cover fires
Enable timely, regular training

There are two additional factors/benefits: the facility would be volunteer-maintained, keeping costs down; and Logan Aluminum has agreed to contribute funds to the facility.

United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Southeast Regional Office
Atlanta Federal Center
1924 Building
100 Alabama St., S.W.
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

IN REPLY REFER TO:

L3219 (SERO-RPB)
21-00021
21-00191
21-00548

SEP 2 7 2005

Honorable Mitch McConnell
United States Senator
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator McConnell:

Thank you for your August 22, 2005, letter to Secretary Norton on behalf of your constituent, Councilman Gene Zick, requesting permission to build a fire department burn-building facility at a park site in Russellville. The Secretary has asked us to respond.

The park site where the burn building is proposed to be built is Russellville Memorial Park, which received grant assistance under the Land and Water Conservation Fund (L&WCF). Under this program, matching grants are provided to States and through States to local units of government for the acquisition and development of public outdoor recreation areas and facilities.

The conditions agreed to by every recipient of L&WCF assistance include compliance with the conditions set forth in the grant contract and maintenance of the area being acquired or developed with Fund assistance for public park and recreation use in perpetuity. It requires that the area acquired or developed continue to be used for public outdoor recreation use in perpetuity as described in Title 36, Part 59, of the Code of Federal Regulations (copy enclosed).

If the City of Russellville wishes to build a burn building on the site of Russellville Memorial Park, this action will constitute a Section 6(f)(3) conversion of use. The City should contact Ms. Ellen Williams, Commissioner, Kentucky Department for Local Government, 1024 Capital Center Drive, Frankfort, Kentucky 40601. Ms. Williams is the official directly responsible for administering the L&WCF program at the State level and can provide you and local officials with further information on program criteria and the procedures for requesting a conversion of use.

TAKE PRIDE IN AMERICA

We hope this information will be useful to you and your constituent.

Sincerely,

Patricia A. Hooks

Patricia A. Hooks
Regional Director
Southeast Region

Enclosure

cc: Ms. Ellen Williams, State Liaison Officer

OCL
Mcconn
9/25/05

IN REPLY REFER TO:

L3219 (SERO-RPB)
21-00021
21-00191
21-00548

Honorable Mitch McConnell
United States Senator
Washington, DC 20510

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MITCH McCONNELL
KENTUCKY

361-A RUSSELL SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1702
(202) 224-2541

United States Senate

MAJORITY WHIP

COMMITTEES:
AGRICULTURE

APPROPRIATIONS
SUBCOMMITTEE ON FOREIGN OPERATIONS
CHAIRMAN

RULES AND ADMINISTRATION

September 26, 2005

The Honorable Gale Norton
Secretary
Department of Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240-0001

Dear Secretary Norton:

I am writing on behalf of a constituent who has contacted me regarding the proposed memorial to Flight 93, "The Crescent of Embrace." I would appreciate your review and response to my constituent's concerns.

I have enclosed a copy of my constituent's correspondence, for your information. Please direct any inquiries and all relevant information to Pam Simpson in my Washington, D.C. office.

Thank you for your time and assistance. I will look forward to receiving your response.

Sincerely,

MITCH McCONNELL
UNITED STATES SENATOR

MM/PS

838001

RECEIVED
05 OCT -4 PM 4:23
OFFICE OF THE
EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT

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241 EAST MAIN STREET
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BOWLING GREEN, KY 42101
(270) 781-1673

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(502) 582-6304

PROFESSIONAL ARTS BUILDING
2320 BROADWAY
SUITE 100
PADUCAH, KY 42001
(270) 442-4554

[redacted]

SEP 22 PM 3:07

21 September 2005

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
361-A Russell Senate Office Building
1ST & C Streets
Washington DC 20510

Re: The Flight 93 Memorial

Dear Senator McConnell:

I am reading some reports of a proposed memorial, presumably to memorialize those who lost their lives as a result of Muslim terrorists attempt to hijack Flight 93 over Pennsylvania 9/11, and to honor those heroes who foiled the goal of those terrorists.

These reports describe a monument set within a red crescent, a symbol of Islam, called "The Crescent of Embrace", with the designer envisioning a "gesture of healing and bonding", from the perspective of "healing" and "contemplation".

Such a structure with its underlying theme not only fails to memorialize or to honor, but, in my opinion, is completely counter to the original thought, and I believe that you will agree.

Public moneys, through the Park Service, are involved in this, along with private contributions. I know that the National Parks Service is not one of your committees, but I beg of you to exert your considerable influence to redirect the project, or at least, to prevent public moneys (my taxes) to support this perversion of an honorable intention.

Thank you for your kind consideration.

Sincerely yours,

[redacted]

ES# 343319

United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Northeast Region
200 Chestnut Street
Philadelphia, PA 19106-2878

2005-00788
NER

IN REPLY REFER TO:
A7221 (NER)

OCT 27 2005

Honorable Mitch McConnell
United States Senator
Washington, D.C. 20515-0606

Northeast Region

Dear Senator McConnell:

Thank you for your letter of September 26, 2005, regarding your constituents concern about the design of the Flight 93 National Memorial recently adopted by the Flight 93 Federal Advisory Commission. I appreciate receiving your thoughts on this important matter.

While recognizing that some have questioned the memorial and perceive it to have unintended meanings, I thought it might be helpful to explain how the design was developed and the role of the Federal Advisory Commission, family members of those aboard Flight 93, and other partners. The Families of Flight 93 managed the contract with the juried design competition consultants. During the entire process, the families, the Flight 93 Federal Advisory Commission, and the Flight 93 Memorial Task Force, which includes representatives of the surrounding communities, collaborated as full partners with the National Park Service. Our role in this process was to provide staff and logistical support.

Observers and participants have viewed the Flight 93 National Memorial design competition as an exceptionally open and inclusive process. It included the deliberations of two separate juries and there were several opportunities for both online and in-person public comment. Comments were received on the approximately 1,000 originally submitted designs that were the subject of the first jury's analyses, as well as on the five finalist designs that were evaluated by the second jury. Family members, design professionals, and community members and/or partner organization representatives served on both the first and the second stage juries.

The selected design was viewed by all involved in the selection process to best represent the goals of the mission statement for the memorial. The goals of the mission statement, developed jointly by the partners mentioned above, are as follows:

1. Honor the passengers and crew members of Flight 93 who courageously gave their lives, thereby thwarting a planned attack on Washington, DC;

2. Allow the public to visit the site and express feelings about the event and the passengers and crew of Flight 93; and

3. Respect the rural landscape and preserve the solemn and tranquil setting of the crash site of Flight 93.

The Families of Flight 93, the Federal Advisory Commission and the Flight 93 Task Force continue to support the design process and the final design selected by the jury.

Given this inclusive selection process, I believe we all can understand and agree that the design was not intended to imply or depict any religious iconography. The winning designer, Paul Murdoch, has stated that the memorial is reflective of the landform, which follows the ridgeline topography, and is intended to symbolically embrace honor and provide comfort for the families and their loved ones.

Neither Mr. Murdoch nor the many others involved in the process wish to have any perceived iconography blemish the intent of the memorial design. As part of the next steps of the design process, and in response to the second jury's instructions, Mr. Murdoch is exploring several refinements to the design, which will include negating any perceptions relating to the iconography. I expect these refinements to be completed in the coming months, and anticipate a change in the name currently associated with the memorial.

Please be assured that we are all committed to having a national memorial that conveys the full honor due to the heroes of Flight 93 by the American people.

If you or your staff needs any additional information please contact Joanne Hanley, Superintendent, Flight 93 at (814) 443-4557.

I appreciate your interest in the National Park Service.

Sincerely,

Mary A. Bomar

Mary A. Bomar
Regional Director
Northeast Region

MITCH MCCONNELL
KENTUCKY

361-A RUSSELL SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1702
(202) 224-2541

United States Senate

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RULES AND ADMINISTRATION

November 10, 2005

The Honorable Gale Norton
Secretary
Department of Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240-0001

Dear Secretary Norton:

I am writing on behalf of my constituent, (b) (6) [redacted], who has contacted me regarding the proposed memorial to those on Flight 93 who gave their life on September 11, 2001. I would appreciate your review and response to my constituent's concerns.

I have enclosed a copy of my constituent's correspondence, for your information. Please direct any inquiries and all relevant information to Pamela Simpson in my Washington, D.C. office.

Thank you for your time and assistance. I will look forward to receiving your response.

Sincerely,

MITCH McCONNELL
UNITED STATES SENATOR

MM/PS

8429 79

RECEIVED
05 NOV 23 AM 7:26
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2320 BROADWAY
SUITE 100
PADUCAH, KY 42001
(270) 442-4554

View f:\emailobj\200509\3\91291829.txt

From: (b) (6)
Date: 9/12/2005 9:16:33 AM
To: webmail@mcconnell-iq.senate.gov
Subject: www_email

I would like you to support the efforts of "Take Back the Memorial". Inclusion of the proposed International Freedom Center at the 9-11 memorial site is an outrage and an insult to the victims, their families, and ALL AMERICANS. This can not be allowed to happen! You have a powerful voice and I urge you to represent me and use it to Take Back The Memorial!

==== Original Formatted Message Starts Here ====

<APP>SCCMAIL
<PREFIX>Mrs.</PREFIX>
<FIRST>Donna</FIRST>
<LAST>Scrivener</LAST>
<ADDR1>12603 Blackthorn Trace</ADDR1>
<ADDR2></ADDR2>
<CITY>Louisville</CITY>
<STATE>KY</STATE>
<ZIP>40299</ZIP>
<PHONE></PHONE>
<EMAIL>dnscrivener@earthlink.net</EMAIL>
<ISSUE>OTHER</ISSUE>
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</APP>

L. Stone
ES# 344698

United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Northeast Region
United States Custom House
200 Chestnut Street
Philadelphia, PA 19106

IN REPLY REFER TO:
A3821 (NER)

DEC 20 2005

Honorable Mitch McConnell
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510-1702

Northeast Region

Dear Senator McConnell:

Thank you for your letter of November 10, 2005 to Secretary of the Interior Gale Norton regarding the proposed International Freedom Tower Center at the 9-11 Memorial which has been forwarded to me for response. Ms. (b) (6) indicated her outrage and asked that you support the efforts of the "Take Back the Memorial" organization. The 9-11 memorial to which Ms. (b) (6) is referring is located at the World Trade Center site in New York City. The National Park Service is not responsible for the planning and design of the memorial at the World Trade Center.

The "Take Back the Memorial" organization is an alliance of 15 major 9/11 family groups. They are calling upon the Lower Manhattan Development Corporation (LMDC) and its chairman, John Whitehead, to move forward with Governor George E. Pataki's mandate that the World Trade Center Memorial and memorial quadrant be solely devoted to honoring the victims and heroes of September 11, 2001, telling the story of that day and of those who came to aid, and the story of the first attack on the Trade Center in 1993.

The following is contact information for the LMDC:
Lower Manhattan Development Corporation
One Liberty Plaza, 20th Floor
New York, NY 10006
Phone: (212) 962-2300
Fax: (212) 962-2431/33

Please feel free to contact me if I can provide further information during this process.

Sincerely,

Kathleen M Karlmark

for Mary A. Bomar
Regional Director

MITCH McCONNELL
KENTUCKY

361-A RUSSELL SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1702
(202) 224-2541

United States Senate

COMMITTEES:
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CHAIRMAN
RULES AND ADMINISTRATION

November 10, 2005

The Honorable Gale Norton
Secretary
Department of Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240-0001

Dear Secretary Norton:

I am writing on behalf of my constituent, (b) (6) [redacted], who has contacted me regarding the proposed memorial to those on Flight 93 who gave their life on September 11, 2001. I would appreciate your review and response to my constituent's concerns.

I have enclosed a copy of my constituent's correspondence, for your information. Please direct any inquiries and all relevant information to Pamela Simpson in my Washington, D.C. office.

Thank you for your time and assistance. I will look forward to receiving your response.

Sincerely,

MITCH McCONNELL
UNITED STATES SENATOR

MM/PS

842979

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L. Stone
ES# 344698

United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Northeast Region
United States Custom House
200 Chestnut Street
Philadelphia, PA 19106

IN REPLY REFER TO:

A3821 (NER)

DEC 2 0 2005

Honorable Mitch McConnell
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510-1702

Northeast Region

Dear Senator McConnell:

Thank you for your letter of November 10, 2005 to Secretary of the Interior Gale Norton regarding the proposed International Freedom Tower Center at the 9-11 Memorial which has been forwarded to me for response. Ms. [redacted] (b) (6) indicated her outrage and asked that you support the efforts of the "Take Back the Memorial" organization. The 9-11 memorial to which Ms. (b) (6) is referring is located at the World Trade Center site in New York City. The National Park Service is not responsible for the planning and design of the memorial at the World Trade Center.

The "Take Back the Memorial" organization is an alliance of 15 major 9/11 family groups. They are calling upon the Lower Manhattan Development Corporation (LMDC) and its chairman, John Whitehead, to move forward with Governor George E. Pataki's mandate that the World Trade Center Memorial and memorial quadrant be solely devoted to honoring the victims and heroes of September 11, 2001, telling the story of that day and of those who came to aid, and the story of the first attack on the Trade Center in 1993.

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Kathleen M Kerlinak

for Mary A. Bomar
Regional Director

KENTUCKY

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United States Senate

MAJORITY WHIP

COMMITTEES:
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November 10, 2005

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UNITED STATES SENATOR

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Subject: www_email

Senator,

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You recall the deaths of brave innocents on Flight 93 in PA on 9-11, the "Let's Roll" flight. I believe that those people were picked out by the murdering Islamists partly because Americans are not Islamics generally, and, even worse, mostly Christian.

The memorial being considered for their site of glory in PA will apparently include an Islamic Red Cresent as its most visible feature! Please tell me I've got it wrong.

I would prefer that the entire NPS be discarded and the parks and their employees be handed over to the several states for administration if it would keep such a monstrosity from coming to pass. The entire nation will be insulted if this travesty is built on such hallowed ground.

I got my information from the design competition site for the memorial.

(b) (6)

==== Original Formatted Message Starts Here ====

<APP>SCCMAIL
<PREFIX>Mr.</PREFIX>
<FIRST(b) (6)FIRST>
<LAST> /LAST>
<ADDR1(b) (6) /ADDR1>
<ADDR2></ADDR2>
<CITY>Hopkinsville</CITY>
<STATE>KY</STATE>
<ZIP>42240</ZIP>
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(b) (6) /MSG>
</APP>

L. Stone
ES# 344699

United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Northeast Region
United States Custom House
200 Chestnut Street
Philadelphia, PA 19106

IN REPLY REFER TO:

A3821 (NER)

DEC 2 0 2005

Honorable Mitch McConnell
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510-1702

Dear Senator McConnell:

Northeast Region

Thank you for your four letters of November 10, 2005 to the Secretary of the Interior Gale Norton, regarding your constituent's concern about the design of the Flight 93 National Memorial which were forwarded to me. These included letters from Mr. [redacted], Mr. [redacted], Mr. [redacted], and Mr. [redacted]. I appreciate receiving your thoughts on this important matter.

While recognizing that some have questioned the memorial and perceive it to have unintended meanings, I thought it might be helpful to explain how the design was developed and the role of the Federal Advisory Commission, family members of those aboard Flight 93, and other partners. The Families of Flight 93 managed the contract with the juried design competition consultants. During the entire process, the families, the Flight 93 Federal Advisory Commission, and the Flight 93 Memorial Task Force, which includes representatives of the surrounding communities, collaborated as full partners with the National Park Service. Our role in this process was to provide staff and logistical support.

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1. Honor the passengers and crew members of Flight 93 who courageously gave their lives, thereby thwarting a planned attack on Washington, DC;

2. Allow the public to visit the site and express feelings about the event and the passengers and crew of Flight 93; and

3. Respect the rural landscape and preserve the solemn and tranquil setting of the crash site of Flight 93.

The Families of Flight 93, the Federal Advisory Commission and the Flight 93 Task Force continue to support the design process and the final design selected by the jury.

Given this inclusive selection process, I believe we all can understand and agree that the design was not intended to imply or depict any religious iconography. The winning designer, Paul Murdoch, has stated that the memorial is reflective of the landform, which follows the ridgeline topography, and is intended to symbolically embrace honor and provide comfort for the families and their loved ones.

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Please be assured that the American people commit us all to having a national memorial that conveys the full honor due to the heroes of Flight 93, and that the families of the passengers and crew of Flight 93 are integral along every step of the way. Please feel free to contact me if I can provide further information during this process.

Sincerely,

Kathleen M Kerlinek

for Mary A. Bomar
Regional Director
Northeast Region

MITCH MCCONNELL
KENTUCKY

361-A RUSSELL SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1702
(202) 224-2541

United States Senate

COMMITTEES:
AGRICULTURE
APPROPRIATIONS
SUBCOMMITTEE ON FOREIGN OPERATIONS
CHAIRMAN
RULES AND ADMINISTRATION

November 10, 2005

The Honorable Gale Norton
Secretary
Department of Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240-0001

Dear Secretary Norton:

I am writing on behalf of my constituent, (b) (6), who has contacted me regarding the proposed memorial to those on Flight 93 who gave their life on September 11, 2001. I would appreciate your review and response to my constituent's concerns.

I have enclosed a copy of my constituent's correspondence, for your information. Please direct any inquiries and all relevant information to Pamela Simpson in my Washington, D.C. office.

Thank you for your time and assistance. I will look forward to receiving your response.

Sincerely,

MITCH McCONNELL
UNITED STATES SENATOR

MM/PS

842981

RECEIVED
05 NOV 23 AM 7:25
EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT

FEDERAL BUILDING
241 EAST MAIN STREET
ROOM 102
BOWLING GREEN, KY 42101
(270) 781-1673

1885 DIXIE HIGHWAY
SUITE 345
FORT WRIGHT, KY 41011
(859) 578-0188

771 CORPORATE DRIVE
SUITE 530
LEXINGTON, KY 40503
(859) 224-8286

300 SOUTH MAIN
SUITE 310
LONDON, KY 40741
(606) 864-2026

601 WEST BROADWAY
SUITE 630
LOUISVILLE, KY 40202
(502) 582-6304

PROFESSIONAL ARTS BUILDING
2320 BROADWAY
SUITE 100
PADUCAH, KY 42001
(270) 442-4554

View f:\emailobj\200509\4\91345544.txt

From: (b) (6)
Date: 9/13/2005 4:55:31 AM
To: webmail@mcconnell-iq.senate.gov
Subject: www_email

Mr McConnell,
I am writing because I am totally offended by the proposed Flight 93 memorial. The design is one of the most abhorrent, disgusting, offensive frauds ever to be perpetrated on the American people. The design in case you have not looked at it closely, and there is no other interpretation for it, is the Islamic Red Crescent, with the crash site where the star of the symbol would be located and it is geographically located so the focus points directly toward Mecca. I can't think anything more offensive than to build a monument to Islam in the guise of a memorial to hero's killed by Islamic extremists. I am sorry for my language, but DAMN. This has to be stopped before it is actually built. I don't want my government supporting this garbage in any way. In case you can't tell, I am very passionate about this and I am not happy. If you want more information, please refer to this web site http://www.zombietime.com/flight_93_memorial_project/
Thank you for your time.

(b) (6)

==== Original Formatted Message Starts Here ====

<APP>SCCMAIL
<PREFIX>Mr.</PREFIX>
<FIRST(b) (6) </FIRST>
<LAST(b) (6) </LAST>
<(b) (6) .</ADDR1>
<ADDR2></ADDR2>
<CITY>Danville</CITY>
<STATE>KY</STATE>
<ZIP>40422</ZIP>
<PHONE(b) (6) </PHONE>
<EMAIL>(b) (6) </EMAIL>
<ISSUE>OTHER</ISSUE>
<MSG>Mr McConnell,
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(b) (6)

</MSG>
</APP>

L. Horne
ES# 344700

United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Northeast Region
United States Custom House
200 Chestnut Street
Philadelphia, PA 19106

IN REPLY REFER TO:

A3821 (NER)

DEC 2 0 2005

Honorable Mitch McConnell
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510-1702

Northeast Region

Dear Senator McConnell:

Thank you for your four letters of November 10, 2005 to the Secretary of the Interior Gale Norton, regarding your constituent's concern about the design of the Flight 93 National Memorial which were forwarded to me. These included letters from Mr. (b) (6) [redacted], Mr. (b) (6) [redacted], Mr. (b) (6) [redacted], and Mr. (b) (6) [redacted]. I appreciate receiving your thoughts on this important matter.

While recognizing that some have questioned the memorial and perceive it to have unintended meanings, I thought it might be helpful to explain how the design was developed and the role of the Federal Advisory Commission, family members of those aboard Flight 93, and other partners. The Families of Flight 93 managed the contract with the juried design competition consultants. During the entire process, the families, the Flight 93 Federal Advisory Commission, and the Flight 93 Memorial Task Force, which includes representatives of the surrounding communities, collaborated as full partners with the National Park Service. Our role in this process was to provide staff and logistical support.

Observers and participants have viewed the Flight 93 National Memorial design competition as an exceptionally open and inclusive process. It included the deliberations of two separate juries and there were several opportunities for both online and in-person public comment. Comments were received on the approximately 1,000 originally submitted designs that were the subject of the first jury's analyses, as well as on the five finalist designs that were evaluated by the second jury. Family members, design professionals, and community members and/or partner organization representatives served on both the first and the second stage juries.

The selected design was viewed by all involved in the selection process to best represent the goals of the mission statement for the memorial. The goals of the mission statement, developed jointly by the partners mentioned above, are as follows:

1. Honor the passengers and crew members of Flight 93 who courageously gave their lives, thereby thwarting a planned attack on Washington, DC;

2. Allow the public to visit the site and express feelings about the event and the passengers and crew of Flight 93; and

3. Respect the rural landscape and preserve the solemn and tranquil setting of the crash site of Flight 93.

The Families of Flight 93, the Federal Advisory Commission and the Flight 93 Task Force continue to support the design process and the final design selected by the jury.

Given this inclusive selection process, I believe we all can understand and agree that the design was not intended to imply or depict any religious iconography. The winning designer, Paul Murdoch, has stated that the memorial is reflective of the landform, which follows the ridgeline topography, and is intended to symbolically embrace honor and provide comfort for the families and their loved ones.

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Please be assured that the American people commit us all to having a national memorial that conveys the full honor due to the heroes of Flight 93, and that the families of the passengers and crew of Flight 93 are integral along every step of the way. Please feel free to contact me if I can provide further information during this process.

Sincerely,

Kathleen M Kerlinek

for Mary A. Bomar
Regional Director
Northeast Region

MITCH MCCONNELL
KENTUCKY

361-A RUSSELL SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1702
(202) 224-2541

United States Senate

COMMITTEES:
AGRICULTURE
APPROPRIATIONS
SUBCOMMITTEE ON FOREIGN OPERATIONS
CHAIRMAN
RULES AND ADMINISTRATION

November 10, 2005

The Honorable Gale Norton
Secretary
Department of Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240-0001

Dear Secretary Norton:

I am writing on behalf of my constituent, (b) (6), who has contacted me regarding the proposed memorial to those on Flight 93 who gave their life on September 11, 2001. I would appreciate your review and response to my constituent's concerns.

I have enclosed a copy of my constituent's correspondence, for your information. Please direct any inquiries and all relevant information to Pamela Simpson in my Washington, D.C. office.

Thank you for your time and assistance. I will look forward to receiving your response.

Sincerely,

MITCH McCONNELL
UNITED STATES SENATOR

MM/PS

842982

RECEIVED
05 NOV 23 AM 7:27
EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT

FEDERAL BUILDING
241 EAST MAIN STREET
ROOM 102
BOWLING GREEN, KY 42101
(270) 781-1673

1885 DIXIE HIGHWAY
SUITE 345
FORT WRIGHT, KY 41011
(859) 578-0188

771 CORPORATE DRIVE
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(502) 582-6304

PROFESSIONAL ARTS BUILDING
2320 BROADWAY
SUITE 100
PADUCAH, KY 42001
(270) 442-4554

View f:\emailobj\200509\11\921140908.txt

From: (b) (6)
Date: 9/21/2005 2:07:57 PM
To: webmail@mcconnell-iq.senate.gov
Subject: www_email

Please Stop the Crescent-Shaped Flight 93 National Memorial in PA

Dear Sen McConnell:

Sir, please do all you can to stop the National Park Service going forward with a crescent-shaped Flight 93 Memorial. The crescent is a significant symbol to the religious and ritual life of Muslims. Islam and the Koran's teachings of jihad were the ideological fuel for the terrorists who murdered the passengers and crew of Flight 93. It is political correctness lunacy to have a crescent-shaped memorial for Flight 93.

An appropriate Flight 93 Memorial is needed. But a memorial using an Islamic symbol, even if this is not the intention, is outrageous and offensive.

Thank you for your service and all the best.

(b) (6) Taylor Mill, KY

==== Original Formatted Message Starts Here ====

<APP>SCCMAIL
<PREFIX>Mr.</PREFIX>
<FIRST(b) (6) /FIRST>
<LAST(b) (6) </LAST>
<(b) (6) </ADDR1>
<ADDR2></ADDR2>
<CITY>Taylor Mill</CITY>
<STATE>KY</STATE>
<ZIP>41015</ZIP>
<PHONE></PHONE>
<EMAIL(b) (6) m</EMAIL>
<ISSUE>OTHER</ISSUE>
<MSG>

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(b) (6) aylor Mill, KY</MSG>
</APP>

L. Stowe
ES # 34470

United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Northeast Region
United States Custom House
200 Chestnut Street
Philadelphia, PA 19106

IN REPLY REFER TO

A3821 (NER)

DEC 20 2005

Honorable Mitch McConnell
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510-1702

Northeast Region

Dear Senator McConnell:

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Sincerely,

Kathleen M Kirkmark

for Mary A. Bomar
Regional Director
Northeast Region

United States Senate

November 30, 2005

The Honorable Gale Norton
Secretary
Department of Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240-0001

Dear Secretary Norton:

I am writing on behalf of my constituent, [redacted], who has contacted me regarding the proposed memorial to those on Flight 93 who gave their life on September 11, 2001. I would appreciate your review and response to my constituent's concerns.

I have enclosed a copy of my constituent's correspondence, for your information. Please direct any inquiries and all relevant information to Pamela Simpson in my Washington, D.C. office.

Thank you for your time and assistance. I will look forward to receiving your response.

Sincerely,

Mitch McConnell

MITCH McCONNELL
UNITED STATES SENATOR

MM/PS

84390 1

RECEIVED
05 DEC -7 PM
EXECUTIVE

(b) (6)

Incoming comments: He is upset that the memorial chosen for the crash of flight 93 in PA is in the shape of a crescent which is an Islamic symbol. He thinks someone should stop and re-think that!

L. Stowe
ES# 345018

United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Northeast Region
United States Custom House
200 Chestnut Street
Philadelphia, PA 19106

REPLY REFER TO:

A3821 (NER)

DEC 20 2005

Honorable Mitch McConnell
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510-1702

Northeast Region

Dear Senator McConnell:

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Sincerely,

Kathleen M Kerlinek

for Mary A. Bomar
Regional Director
Northeast Region

KENTUCKY

361-A RUSSELL SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1702
(202) 224-2541

United States Senate

COMMITTEES:
AGRICULTURE
APPROPRIATIONS
SUBCOMMITTEE ON FOREIGN OPERATIONS
CHAIRMAN
RULES AND ADMINISTRATION

March 24, 2006

The Honorable Gale Norton
Secretary
Department of Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240-0001

Dear Secretary Norton:

I am writing on behalf of a constituent who has contacted me regarding the preservation of Yahoo Falls in McCreary County, Kentucky. I would appreciate your review and response to my constituent's questions and concerns.

I have enclosed a copy of my constituent's correspondence, for your information. Please direct any inquiries and all relevant information to Pamela Simpson in my Washington, D.C. office.

Thank you for your time and assistance. I will look forward to receiving your response.

Sincerely,

MITCH McCONNELL
UNITED STATES SENATOR

MM/PS

849121

RECEIVED
06 APR -4 AM 7:46
OFFICE OF THE
EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT

FEDERAL BUILDING
241 EAST MAIN STREET
ROOM 102
BOWLING GREEN, KY 42101
(270) 781-1673

1885 DIXIE HIGHWAY
SUITE 345
FORT WRIGHT, KY 41011
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(502) 582-6304

PROFESSIONAL ARTS BUILDING
2320 BROADWAY
SUITE 100
PADUCAH, KY 42001
(270) 442-4554

View f:\emailobj\200601\9\131133221.txt

rom: [redacted] (b) (6) [redacted]
ate: 1/31/2006 1:30:25 PM
o: webmail@mcconnell-iq.senate.gov
ubject: Help Us Preserve Yahoo Falls

Yahoo Falls located in McCreary County Kentucky was the site of a terrible massacre of Cherokee/Shawnee Women, Children and Old Men.

The massacre took place in the year 1810 and a mass grave is located on site. A 20 year investigation supports this event taken place. The Yahoo Falls today is situated on Federal Property, the authority being the National Park Service. Negotiations with the Nation Park Service have been hauled and no communication currently exists. We need your support to helping us preserve Yahoo Falls. The Kentucky Native American Indian Council KNAIC as well as the Kentucky Virginia United Native American Museum KVUNAM is currently building support to help in the future negotiations with the NPS. The National Park Service is the only authority that can nominate the Yahoo Falls for the National Register of Historical Places and we must have achieve that goal. Please help us preserve Yahoo Falls Thank you for listening and GOD BLESS.

(b) (6) [redacted]

President

Kentucky Native American Indian Council Pine Mountain Region

KNAIC PMR

(b) (6) [redacted]

Dirk (b) (6) [redacted]

Chairman of the Board

Kentucky Virginia United Native American Museum

KVUNAM

===== Original Formatted Message Starts Here =====

<IP>68.222.204.90</IP>
<APP>SCCMAIL
<PREFIX>Mr </PREFIX>
<FIRS (b) (6) [redacted] /FIRST>
<LAS (b) (6) [redacted] </LAST>
<ADDR1>205 16th Street</ADDR1>
<ADDR2></ADDR2>
<CITY>Corbin</CITY>
<STATE>KY</STATE>
<ZIP>40701</ZIP>
<PHONE (b) (6) [redacted] >
<I (b) (6) [redacted] /MAIL>
<ISSUE>SKYIRONMENT</ISSUE>

Final
COPY

H32 (2280)

APR 2 6 2006

Honorable Mitch McConnell
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator McConnell:

Thank you for your letter of March 24, 2006, concerning Yahoo Falls in McCreary County, Kentucky. This property is located within the Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area. The Secretary of the Interior has asked the National Park Service to respond to your inquiry about the preservation of this property and the concerns of your constituent, Mr. William Shackleford.

It is our understanding that Yahoo Falls is reputed to be the site of an early nineteenth-century massacre of Native Americans. Victims of this massacre may be buried in a mass grave at the site. The National Park Service has not undertaken a detailed investigation of the events that are reputed to have taken place at Yahoo Falls, nor has it been able to determine if any cultural remains are present. Further historical research is needed before any formal evaluation of the historical and cultural significance of the property can be made.

National Park Service personnel at the Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area are involved in ongoing discussions with Mr. Shackleford about Yahoo Falls. Mr. Paul Stoehr, the Assistant Superintendent, has been the point of contact for these discussions. We recommend that Mr. Shackleford continue to discuss this matter with Mr. Stoehr. Mr. Stoehr and his colleagues at Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area would be pleased to meet with Mr. Shackleford and any other parties who may be interested in the history of Yahoo Falls. Mr. Stoehr can be reached by telephone at (423) 569-2404 or by email at paul_stoehr@nps.gov.

Because only limited historical information is currently available, we do not have a basis for determining if Yahoo Falls meets the criteria for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. If further research indicates that Yahoo Falls meets the National Register criteria, the National Park Service, as the Federal agency responsible for the stewardship of the property, may choose to nominate it under the provisions of Section 60.9 of the National Register regulations (36 CFR 60).

We appreciate your interest in the historic preservation programs of the National Park Service. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Daniel Vivian of the National Register staff at (202) 354-2252, or by email at dan_vivian@nps.gov.

Sincerely,

/s/ Janet Snyder Matthews

Janet Snyder Matthews, Ph.D.
Associate Director, Cultural Resources
and Keeper of the National Register of Historic Places

cc: Kentucky/SHPO
bcc: Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area
2201
2285
3127 Carrie Richardson-Control Number(348231)
7256 Office of Congressional & Legislative Affairs
Basic File Retained In 2280
FNP:DVivian:OP:04/21/06:S:\NR\VIVIAN\Kentucky\Yahoo Falls.doc

May 08 06 03:37p Asst Dir, Business Svcs 2022193972 p.2

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Office of the Assistant Director,
Business Services
1849 C Street NW, Room 3127
Washington, D.C. 20240-0001
Office: 202-208-5651
Fax: 202-219-3972

Date: 5/8/06
To: Carolyn Howard
Fax #: 202-219-2100 **Pages:** 1
From: Carrie Richardson
Re:

***Comments:**

Final copy of #348231
(we had talked about this item
this morning) Carrie

May 08 06 03:37p Asst Dir. Business Svcs 2022193972 p.1

MITCH McCONNELL
KENTUCKY

361-A RUSSELL SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1702
(202) 224-2541

United States Senate

COMMITTEES
AGRICULTURE
APPROPRIATIONS
SUBCOMMITTEE ON FOREIGN OPERATIONS
CHAIRMAN
RULES AND ADMINISTRATION

December 11, 2006

The Honorable Dirk Kempthorne
Secretary
Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20240-0002

Dear Secretary Kempthorne:

I write on behalf of a constituent who has contacted me regarding a tract of land bordering Mammoth Cave National Park. I would appreciate your review and response to my constituent's concerns as well as any information on how my constituent could address the issues that are raised in his letter.

I have enclosed a copy of my constituent's correspondence, for your information. Please direct any inquiries and all relevant information to Allison Thompson in my Washington, D.C. office.

Thank you for your time and assistance. I will look forward to receiving your response.

Sincerely,

MITCH McCONNELL
UNITED STATES SENATOR

MM/PS

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2006 DEC 20 P 2:13

FEDERAL BUILDING
241 EAST MAIN STREET
ROOM 102
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(270) 781-1673

1885 DIXIE HIGHWAY
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(859) 578-0188

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(502) 582-6304

PROFESSIONAL ARTS BUILDING
2320 BROADWAY
SUITE 100
PADUCAH, KY 42001
(270) 442-4554

(b) (6)
[redacted]

November 1, 2006

Senator Mitch McConnell
241 East Main Avenue
Bowling Green, Kentucky 42101

Reference: Mammoth Cave National Park

Dear Senator McConnell,

Thank you for taking the time to look into this matter for me. I have tried to solve the problem without bothering you. Unfortunately, my attorney and I do not seem to be able to get the staff of the Department of the Interior to recognize basic real estate law and negotiate with us in good faith.

To state it simply, the problem is that the Department of the Interior has taken very valuable property rights from my sisters and niece without any deed of conveyance and without just compensation. I have been working on behalf of my elderly sisters, Mary and Maydell Hanson, and my niece, Julie Gackenbach, to get this problem resolved fairly.

The property in question is a tract of land right on the eastern boundary of Mammoth Cave National Park along Highway 70. My sisters were living in the house on the property. In 2003 the Park began a project to change the appearance of the Park entrance along Highway 70 and to build a welcome center at that point. The project included significantly lowering the surface of the highway right in front of the house. The project also included changing the location of the highway just as it passed by the house.

In condemnation cases there is said to be a "taking" of the property. In this case there really was a taking. In order to lower the surface of the highway sixteen plus feet, hundreds of cubic feet of my sisters' front yard were dug up and trucked away by the contractors. Where the house and yard had been level with the highway before, now the yard was gone and the house set perched more than sixteen feet above the road. Where the yard had once been wide and covered in mature hardwood trees, now there were only a few feet of "yard," no trees, and an ugly slope of raw dirt and rock.

Prior to the project it was easy to get to the rest of the land beside and behind the house by simply pulling off the highway into the farm access drive just to the west of the house. This was important because access on the eastern side of the house was blocked by a large sinkhole. When the project changed the location of the highway as it passed the house, Park-owned land was put between the farm access drive and the new highway. It might be possible to reconnect the farm access drive to the new highway without going

over Park-owned land if the drive could be moved closer to the house. Unfortunately, now there is the huge dirt slope that would have to be cut back to make that access possible.

The property was left by will to my sisters for their lives and as long as they wanted to live in the house and then to my niece. When the Park began the project the Park staff and the contractors apparently did not search the title of the land and just assumed that my niece, (b) (6) was the full owner. They approached (b) (6) and she refused to sell them the land they wanted. Later a contractor for the local sewer district contacted Julie and convinced her that he just wanted to construct a sewer line along the highway in front of the house. (b) (6) agreed to do that and the water district paid $5,000 for the easement. This gentleman came back to (b) (6) and brought her a Temporary Construction Easement from the Park. He convinced her that the Park only wanted to work on the road and it would not hurt the land. The compensation for this Park easement was only to fix the driveway, which may have been reasonable for what (b) (6) had been led to believe was going to happen, just a temporary inconvenience to my sisters. But instead of just a temporary inconvenience, the contractors permanently wiped out my sisters' front yard, permanently destroyed their mature trees, and permanently shut off access to the rest of their land. No effort was made to contact my sisters. No effort was made to get (b) (6) my sisters to sign a deed of conveyance.

As you probably know, my family and I have lived around and even in the Park since long before the Park was built. My brother, (b) (6), ran the National Park Concessions at the Park for many many years. I knew some of the Park staff members personally. I contacted them and started working with them to resolve the many issues that the project had raised. I was able to get the Park to install a guardrail along the edge of the remaining "yard" to keep people from falling down the long slope. The Park also put in a culvert and some gravel on the farm access drive entrance and said that we could "temporarily" cross over Park land to get to the highway.

I thought that we would be able to mutually work out solutions to all the problems that the project had created. But when I asked for some legal easement across the strip of Park land for the farm access drive, replacement of the destroyed trees, decent grass on the slope, and proper maintenance of the slope I started running into stiff resistance. My lawyer and I have met with the Department attorney and the Park staff. I have met with the staff by myself. My lawyer have written back and forth with the attorney for the Department. (Copies of the letters are enclosed to show you what we have been willing to accept in compromise rather than suing for full compensation.) We just do not seem to be able to get the Department to negotiate in good faith.

My lawyer tells me that the hang-up in the negotiations seems to come from a misunderstanding of the real estate principles involved. The Department attorney apparently thinks that the Temporary Construction Easement (copy also enclosed), which expired by its own terms several months ago and was never signed by the owners of the life estate, somehow permanently conveyed my sisters' and niece's valuable property rights to the United States. I know that you have not practiced law for many years, but my attorney says that you would still remember from law school that there is no way to permanently convey property rights other than by a written deed of conveyance that specifically says what is conveyed and is signed by all the owners of interests in the property.

I really do not want to take advantage of the Park or get anything for my sisters and niece they are not entitled to receive. That is why I have simply asked for enough compensation to correct the problems or for the Park to solve the problems itself. As you can see from the exchange of letters, as long as the Department thinks that the United States can keep land without compensation and without a deed, the Department is only willing to throw us a few crumbs. If we could ever get the Department to realize that it has to get a proper deed of conveyance signed by all the owners and has to either fix the problems or pay compensation so that we can fix the problems, perhaps we could get this problem solved.

I know that you did not take on the attorneys for the Department of the Interior to raise them as children, but perhaps you can encourage other lawyers in the Department to review the situation in light of correct Kentucky real estate law. Anything that you can do for me would be very appreciated. Thank you in advance for your help.

Sincerely,

(b) (6)

Enclosures

Carrie Richardson@NPS

02/27/2007 11:40 AM

To: Carolyn J Howard/OES/OS/DOI@DOI
cc:
Subject: Fw: Can you let me know the status of the Mitch McConnell letter please :)

FYI

Carrie M. Richardson
Assistant to the Assistant Director, Business Services
National Park Service
1849 C Street NW, 2025
Washington DC, 20240
202.208.5651 or 202-208-3818-office
202-219-3972-fax
----- Forwarded by Carrie Richardson/WASO/NPS on 02/27/2007 11:40 AM -----

Patricia Hooks

02/27/2007 08:01 AM EST

To: William F Reynolds/Atlanta/NPS@NPS
cc: Carrie Richardson/WASO/NPS@NPS, "Patricia Landers" <Patricia_Landers@nps.gov>, Rachel_Wheelus@nps.gov
Subject: Re: Can you let me know the status of the Mitch McConnell letter please :)

Carrie,
One of the most recent developments was that we asked the park (MACA) to send in the documents referenced in the letter so that we could review them and make sure we were properly characterizing their contents. We learned that at least one document referenced in the letter, I think it was a reference to a written commitment from Federal Highway, does not exist. So the park suggested that we drop the word written--no brainer. This could have really gone badly later if we had not learned this before signing the letter. We just want to make sure that we do not get egg on our faces later by having inaccuracies or misrepresentations in the letter.

It is extremely important and a very high priority for us to get it out. Many thanks. Pat

Patricia A. Hooks
Regional Director
National Park Service
Southeast Region
T: 404-562-3327
F: 404-562-3216
William F Reynolds

William F Reynolds

02/26/2007 05:37 PM EST

To: Carrie Richardson/WASO/NPS@NPS
cc: "Patricia Landers" <Patricia_Landers@nps.gov>, (bcc: Patricia Hooks/Atlanta/NPS)
Subject: Re: Can you let me know the status of the Mitch McConnell letter please :)

Hi, Carrie! At the request of the RD I have been gathering background info so sshe can become more familiar with the situation and get a greater comfort level. She and I are meeting on Wednesday, 2/28, to go over it all. I'm out tomorrow, but we should get it resolved on Wednesday.
Hope that will be okay.
Best regards,
Bill

Sent from my BlackBerry Wireless Device
Carrie Richardson

From: Carrie Richardson
Sent: 02/26/2007 02:18 PM
To: William Reynolds
Subject: Can you let me know the status of the Mitch McConnell letter please :)

Carrie M. Richardson
Assistant to the Assistant Director, Business Services
National Park Service
1849 C Street NW, 2025
Washington DC, 20240
202.208.5651 or 202-208-3818-office
202-219-3972-fax

United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Southeast Regional Office
Atlanta Federal Center
1924 Building
100 Alabama St., S.W.
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

IN REPLY REFER TO:
A7221

MAR 0 8 2007

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510-1702

Dear Senator McConnell:

Thank you for your letter dated December 11, 2006, to Secretary of the Interior Kempthorne on behalf of your constituent, Mr. (b) (6). Mr. (b) (6) has raised a number of issues regarding a road project in Mammoth Cave National Park. The Director of the National Park Service has asked me to respond on behalf of the Secretary.

The project in question was completed in 2005 by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) in cooperation with the park. There are still a few issues pertaining to the project that are being addressed by FHWA, including some of those raised by Mr. (b) (6).

Mr. (b) (6) represents Ms. (b) (6), his (b) (6) who (b) (6) (b) (6). In July 2003, Ms. (b)(6) signed a construction easement for work associated with the project to be performed on her property. In November 2004, Ms. (b)(6) authorized Mr. (b) (6) in writing to represent her interests on six specific issues pertaining to the project's completion.

Numerous meetings and telephone discussions were conducted between Mr. (b) (6) and key park staff in late 2004 and in 2005, and we were successful in resolving most of those issues. While we were working to settle the initial issues, Mr. (b) (6) identified a number of new concerns. Subsequently, Park Superintendent Patrick Reed and legal counsel from the Department of the Interior Office of the Field Solicitor, have been working diligently with Mr. (b)(6) and his attorney to reach an agreement on the new issues. For example, on one of the new items requested by Mr. (b)(6), the park has already agreed to complete survey work to delineate the boundary line between park land and Ms. (b)(6)'s property.

TAKE PRIDE IN AMERICA

We are hopeful that we can soon reach a final resolution with Mr. (b) (6) . We continue to communicate with him and his attorney, and are currently working on projects related to his concerns. If further detailed information is needed, please contact Park Superintendent Patrick Reed at 270-758-2180. Thank you for contacting the National Park Service.

Sincerely,

Patricia A. Hooks

Patricia A. Hooks
Regional Director
Southeast Region

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

1849 C Street NW, Room 2242
Washington, D.C. 20240-0001
Office: 202-208-3581
Fax: 202-208-6514

Date: 3/8/07

To: Carolyn Howard

Fax #: 202-219-2100

From: Carrie Richardson

Comments: Mitch McConnell/ ES 354726

Thank you ☺

KENTUCKY

361-A RUSSELL SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1702
(202) 224-2541

United States Senate

COMMITTEES:
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March 2, 2007

The Honorable Dirk Kempthorne
Secretary
Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240-0002

Dear Secretary Kempthorne:

I write to express my support for ongoing funding for the Cumberland Gap National Park's effort to purchase Fern Lake, which is near Middlesboro in the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

As you may know, Fern Lake is located just southeast of Middlesboro, Kentucky and serves as the primary water source for the community. The owners of the lake and surrounding watershed have decided to sell the property, including 150 acres that comprise the lake. More specifically, Fern Lake is visible from the Pinnacle Overlook, which is a popular visitor attraction at the Cumberland Gap National Park, and efforts have been made by the National Park Service since 1997 to prevent surface coal mining of the watershed and to protect the watershed and the viewshed of the lake. This natural resource creates a beautiful vista, and I believe that this pristine lake would be best protected by the management of the National Park Service.

I sponsored legislation, therefore, in cooperation with Congressman Harold Rogers to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to acquire Fern Lake and the surrounding watershed. Congress passed our Fern Lake Conservation and Recreation Act on January 22, 2004 (P.L. 108-401). The Fiscal Year 2005 Interior Appropriations bill included $1 million to support this project, and I understand that these funds recently were used to protect the first 950 acres of the target property.

In accordance with Section 113 of P.L. 110-5, I understand that you are working to prepare a spending plan for Fiscal Year 2007. I am told that an additional $2.8 million is necessary for the next phase of the acquisition project, so I respectfully request that you provide this amount in the Fiscal Year 2007 spending plan.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

MITCH McCONNELL
UNITED STATES SENATOR

MM/bdb

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241 EAST MAIN STREET
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(502) 582-6304

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PADUCAH, KY 42001
(270) 442-4554

U.S. Senator

MITCH McCONNELL

Room 361-A
Russell Senate Office Building

Phone: (202) 224-2541
FAX: (202) 224-2499

FROM: Bryff Brooks

TO: Matt Eames

RE: FYI. Thanks

PAGES TO FOLLOW: 0

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WASHINGTON

United States Department of the Interior
OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY
POLICY, MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET
Washington, DC 20240

TAKE PRIDE IN AMERICA

APR 05 2007

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator McConnell:

Thank you for your March 2, 2007, letter to Secretary Kempthorne concerning funding for the acquisition of Fern Lake in Cumberland Gap National Park. He asked that I respond on his behalf.

The President recently signed into law P.L. 110-5 which provided full year funding for FY 2007 for the Department of the Interior as well as other Federal agencies. As you are aware, Congress did not enact regular appropriations for 2007 but instead passed the Joint Resolution and directed agencies to prepare operating plans detailing the allocation of funds.

Accordingly, final operating plans have been reviewed by OMB and have been submitted to the Appropriations Committees. Funding of $900,000 for land acquisition at Fern Lake, part of the Cumberland Gap National Historic Park is included in the 2007 operating plan.

We appreciate your interest in the Department's programs.

Sincerely,

R. Thomas Weimer

R. Thomas Weimer
Assistant Secretary

United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

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APR 05 2007

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator McConnell:

Thank you for your March 2, 2007, letter to Secretary Kempthorne concerning funding for the acquisition of Fern Lake in Cumberland Gap National Park. He asked that I respond on his behalf.

The President recently signed into law P.L. 110-5 which provided full year funding for FY 2007 for the Department of the Interior as well as other Federal agencies. As you are aware, Congress did not enact regular appropriations for 2007 but instead passed the Joint Resolution and directed agencies to prepare operating plans detailing the allocation of funds.

Accordingly, final operating plans have been reviewed by OMB and have been submitted to the Appropriations Committees. Funding of $900,000 for land acquisition at Fern Lake, part of the Cumberland Gap National Historic Park is included in the 2007 operating plan.

We appreciate your interest in the Department's programs.

Sincerely,

/s/ R. Thomas Weimer

R. Thomas Weimer
Assistant Secretary

COPY FOR THE SECRETARY'S OFFICE

361-A Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510-1702
(202) 224-2541

United States Senate

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COMMITTEES:
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008052

April 12, 2007

The Honorable Dirk Kempthorne
Secretary
Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20240-0002

Dear Secretary Kempthorne:

I am writing on behalf of a constituent, Ms. (b) (6), who has contacted me regarding the Mexican Gray Wolf Recovery Program.

I have enclosed a copy of my constituent's correspondence, and I would appreciate your review and response to her questions and concerns. Please direct any inquiries and all relevant information to Pam Simpson in my Washington, D.C. office.

Thank you for your time and assistance. I will look forward to receiving your response.

Sincerely,

Mitch McConnell

MITCH McCONNELL
UNITED STATES SENATOR

MM/PS

Federal Building
241 East Main Street
Room 102
Bowling Green, KY 42101
(270) 781-1673

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601 West Broadway
Suite 630
Louisville, KY 40202
(502) 582-6304

Professional Arts Building
2320 Broadway
Suite 100
Paducah, KY 42001
(270) 442-4554

Dear Senator McConnell,

Please use your influence to push for oversight hearings into the Bush administration's subversion of science in recovery of the Mexican Gray Wolf as well as other endangered species.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has ignored the urgent recommendations of an independent science panel that called for reforms in the Mexican Gray Wolf reintroduction program in New Mexico and Arizona. The recommendations would bring the program up to the same standards as other endangered species recovery programs such as that for wolves in the northern Rocky Mountains and in the Lake States. The panel's recommendations, issued in 2001, warned that without changes, "survival and recruitment rates . . .are far too low to ensure population growth or persistence. Without dramatic improvement in these vital rates, the wolf population will fall short of predictions for upcoming years."

As predicted, Mexican Wolves have not grown to the 100-number minimum that was projected and intended to be reached by the end of 2006. During 2004 and 2005, the population even declined. And the gene pool of this critically endangered species is being narrowed, foreclosing future opportunities for recovery.

Former U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Mexican Wolf Recovery Coordinator David Parsons has stated that his former employer "is systematically undermining recovery of the Mexican wolf" and that its "management appears to throw science out the window." He says that "Anti-wolf politics have been controlling agency decisions and actions to the detriment of wolf recovery."

Other endangered species recovery programs also have suffered from political interference by the Bush administration. It's time for Congress to take a close look at how science is used - and subverted - in endangered species recovery programs. The case of the Mexican Gray Wolf should be exhibit number one.

Sincerely,

(b) (6)

United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Washington, D.C. 20240

In Reply Refer To:
FWS/R2/AES/030840

APR 2 7 2007

(b) (6)

Dear Ms. (b) (6)

Thank you for your e-mail of April 20, 2007, to Senator Mitch McConnell regarding your concerns with the Mexican Wolf Reintroduction Program and recommendations from the independent science panel during the 3-Year Review of the program. Senator McConnell referred your letter to Secretary Kempthorne. The Secretary has asked the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) to respond directly to you, and we appreciate the opportunity to address your concerns.

Let me assure you that the Service is committed to implementing the Endangered Species Act (ESA) in accordance with the applicable law, regulations, and court opinions. As such, the Service is required to consider views from various interested groups when developing recovery plans. This is certainly true for the Mexican gray wolf. While I do not agree with the assertion that the Service has disregarded science in this matter, I do respect your views on this matter. I am enclosing the following summary of recent activity relating to the Mexican gray wolf.

At the time of the development of the original Recovery Plan, the Mexican gray wolf was considered to be part of the general wolf population throughout the United States. As recommended in the 3-Year Review, an update to the 1982 Mexican Wolf Recovery Plan was begun in 2003. Considerable progress was made until the recovery planning process was put on hold in 2005 to comply with two U.S. District Court decisions that vacated the Service's 2003 Final Rule to reclassify and remove the gray wolf from the list of endangered and threatened species in the coterminous United States. The Southwest Regional Office of the Service has recently announced that it anticipates reinitiating recovery planning this calendar year.

In addition, a 5-Year Review of the Mexican Wolf Reintroduction Program was completed in December 2005. In July 2006, the Service accepted the recommendations (with minor modifications) of the authors of the 5-Year Review, which included a recommendation to amend the Mexican Wolf nonessential experimental population rule to redefine the Mexican Wolf Experimental Population Area. We will analyze and recommend, among other things, alternative boundaries to the Recovery Area and any needed changes to the Mexican wolf release strategies. This is likely a major Federal action under the National Environmental Policy Act

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(NEPA) and may require an Environmental Impact Statement. The Service and its Federal, State, and Tribal cooperators have identified a source of initial funds to start the public scoping process under NEPA and anticipate beginning the scoping within the next few months.

Finally, your letter referenced the fact that Mexican wolves in the wild have not grown to 100 in number, as projected in the 1996 Final Environmental Impact Statement. Although the populations in the wild do not meet the projection of 102 wolves and 15 breeding pairs at this point in the program, the end of the year count for 2006 estimated a minimum of 59 wolves in the wild and 7 breeding pairs. These figures for 2006 are record highs and, in our view, demonstrate that progress is being made.

Thank you for your interest in the Mexican Wolf Reintroduction Program. The Service and its partners are committed to ensuring the success of the Mexican Wolf Reintroduction Program, while minimizing the effects on local residents in the Mexican Wolf Experimental Population Area and the Blue Range Wolf Recovery Area. I hope the information provided is helpful to you. If we can answer any other questions or provide additional information on the wolf program, please do not hesitate to contact Brian Millsap, State Administrator for New Mexico, or John Morgart, the Service's Mexican Wolf Recovery Coordinator, New Mexico Ecological Services Field Office at 505-761-4748.

Sincerely,

Randall Luthi

Acting DIRECTOR

cc: The Honorable Mitch McConnell

MITCH MCCONNELL
KENTUCKY

361-A RUSSELL SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
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(202) 224-2541

United States Senate

COMMITTEES:
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April 18, 2007

The Honorable Dirk Kempthorne
Secretary
Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20240-0002

Dear Secretary Kempthorne:

I am writing on behalf of a constituent, Mr. (b) (6) [redacted], who has contacted me regarding the designation of Churchill Weavers located in Berea, Kentucky as a National Historic Landmark.

I have enclosed a copy of my constituent's correspondence, and I would appreciate your review and response to her questions and concerns. Please direct any inquiries and all relevant information to Pam Simpson in my Washington, D.C. office.

Thank you for your time and assistance. I will look forward to receiving your response.

Sincerely,

MITCH McCONNELL
UNITED STATES SENATOR

MM/PS

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LOUISVILLE, KY 40202
(502) 582-6304

PROFESSIONAL ARTS BUILDING
2320 BROADWAY
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PADUCAH, KY 42001
(270) 442-4554

Dear Senator McConnell,
I recently learned that Churchill Weavers in Berea is at risk of being closed down and its assets liquidated at public auction.

http://www.richmondregister.com/homepage/local_story_037081113.html?keyword=leadpicturestory

Producing handmade blankets and other textiles since 1922, Churchill Weavers is more than just a factory, it is a regional landmark and icon in the community.

It would be a great loss for this state treasure to become another casualty of overseas economic competition. I understand that there is little financial interest for the factory to continue as a retail operation. And the city is apparently not in a position to buy the business either.

I am writing you to see if you have any contacts or other resources at the state level that can get involved to help keep this cultural institution alive.

The Churchill Weavers factory tour is a highlight of many visitor's trips, and several Kentucky guidebooks identify Churchill Weavers as a must-see stop on the I-75 corridor. It is described as America's largest and foremost hand-weaving studio, using the same equipment and similar production practices as they did 80 years ago. The soft yarns and fine workmanship have distinguished the Churchill line. You can still watch weavers at work, their feet and hands nimbly caressing the shuttles on their 150 looms.

It may be too much to ask for Historical Landmark consideration in a short timeframe, but my hopes are that you have some ideas and contacts with organizations or individuals that you can put in touch with Churchill Weavers before they are potentially shut down in the next 60 days.

My dream would be to see the location turn into a Living History museum like they have done at Shaker Village. Scale back the retail production focus and expand the teaching and hands-on educational aspects. The Churchill Weavers operation does more than just weave fabrics. They also have an impressive woodmaking workshop with traditional tools used to build and maintain the looms. And a nice old-timey machine shop too. The scope of a Living History museum here need not be limited to just textiles, it could encompass many aspects of manufacturing in the early to mid 1900's.

Thank you for your time. I hope you can help find some colleagues who take an interest.

(b) (6)

H32 (2280)

358 843

JUN 1 2007

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator McConnell:

Thank you for your letter of April 18, 2007, to Secretary of the Interior Dirk Kempthorne and the accompanying correspondence from your constituent, Mr. (b) (6), concerning the Churchill Weavers store and factory building in Berea (Madison County), Kentucky. The Secretary has asked the National Park Service to respond to your inquiry. We appreciate your interest in this property and your concerns about its future.

To learn about historic preservation programs that may assist in preserving the Churchill Weavers store and factory building, we recommend that Mr. Carlberg contact the Kentucky State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO), who serves as a partner of the National Park Service in administering the National Register of Historic Places and related Federal historic preservation programs. The SHPO can advise Mr. Carlberg on sources of funding and assistance for historic preservation. The Kentucky SHPO is:

Ms. Donna M. Neary
Kentucky Heritage Council
300 Washington Street
Frankfort, Kentucky 40601
(502) 564-7005

We hope you find this information useful and appreciate your interest in the historic preservation programs of the National Park Service. Should you have any questions or need further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact Daniel Vivian of the National Register staff at (202) 354-2252 or dan_vivian@nps.gov.

Sincerely,

/s/ Janet Snyder Matthews

Janet Snyder Matthews, Ph.D.
Associate Director, Cultural Resources

cc: Kentucky/SHPO

bcc: 2285
2201
7256 Office of Congressional & Legislative Affairs
2242 Office of the Assistant Director, Business Services (Charmaine Hickerson-07-358843)
Basic File Retained In 2280
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MITCH MCCONNELL
KENTUCKY

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(202) 224-2541

United States Senate

COMMITTEES:
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APPROPRIATIONS
RULES AND ADMINISTRATION

April 18, 2007

The Honorable Dirk Kempthorne
Secretary
Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20240-0002

Dear Secretary Kempthorne:

I am writing on behalf of a constituent, Mr. (b) (6), who has contacted me regarding the designation of Churchill Weavers located in Berea, Kentucky as a National Historic Landmark.

I have enclosed a copy of my constituent's correspondence, and I would appreciate your review and response to her questions and concerns. Please direct any inquiries and all relevant information to Pam Simpson in my Washington, D.C. office.

Thank you for your time and assistance. I will look forward to receiving your response.

Sincerely,

MITCH McCONNELL
UNITED STATES SENATOR

MM/PS

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(270) 442-4554

Senator McConnell,

A Kentucky icon is closing. It is the icon of Berea and the craft community of Eastern Kentucky. Please step forward and find a solution to preserve the heritage of this community.

If nothing else the looms and facility should be the foundation for a museum.

(b) (6) [redacted]

United States Department of the Interior

Exec Sec
358850
5-9

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

IN REPLY REFER TO:
H32 (2280)

JUN 6 2007

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator McConnell:

Thank you for your letter of April 16, 2007, to Secretary of the Interior Dirk Kempthorne and the accompanying correspondence from your constituent, Mr. (b) (6), concerning the Churchill Weavers store and factory building in Berea (Madison County), Kentucky. The Secretary has asked the National Park Service to respond to your inquiry. We appreciate your interest in this property and the concerns about its future.

To learn about historic preservation programs that may assist in preserving the Churchill Weavers store and factory building, we recommend that Mr. Wright contact the Kentucky State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO), who serves as a partner of the National Park Service in administering the National Register of Historic Places and related Federal historic preservation programs. The SHPO can advise Mr. Wright on sources of funding and assistance for historic preservation. The Kentucky SHPO is:

Ms. Donna M. Neary
Kentucky Heritage Council
300 Washington Street
Frankfort, Kentucky 40601
(502) 564-7005

We hope you find this information useful and appreciate your interest in the historic preservation programs of the National Park Service. Should you have any questions or need further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact Daniel Vivian of the National Register staff at (202) 354-2252 or dan_vivian@nps.gov.

Sincerely,

Jan Matthews

Janet Snyder Matthews, Ph.D.
Associate Director, Cultural Resources

cc: Kentucky/SHPO

MITCH McCONNELL
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United States Senate

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February 14, 2012

The Honorable Ken Salazar
Secretary of Interior
Department of the Interior
1849 C Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Secretary Salazar:

I am writing on behalf of one of my constituents, Mr. James Booth, who has contacted me regarding his concerns with the status of the Bureau of Land Management's Final Land Use Analysis/Final Environmental Impact Study Statement (EIS-ES-030-2008-0004), which was prepared for the East Lynn Lake Coal Lease application submitted by Argus Energy. Argus Energy is an affiliate of Booth Energy Group, which is owned and operated in Debord, Kentucky and employs 2,000 people in my state. Because of the significant economic impact Booth Energy Group has in Kentucky, I request you give full and fair consideration to their concerns in accordance with all controlling statutory restrictions.

I have enclosed a copy of my constituent's correspondence, for you information. Please direct any inquires and all relevant information to Eric King in my Washington, D.C. office. Thank you in advance for your time and attention to this request and I look forward to your prompt rely.

Sincerely,

MITCH McCONNELL
UNITED STATES SENATOR

MM/ek

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BOOTH Energy
P.O. Box 190, Lovely, KY 41231 (606) 395-6825

12FEB 13 PM 3:18

February 7, 2012

The Honorable Senator Mitch McConnell
United States Senate
317 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington DC 20510

Re: Argus Energy WV, LLC
East Lynn BLM LUA/EIS Delays

Dear Senator McConnell:

I am writing today to request your assistance on behalf of the 2,000 employees of Booth Energy by interceding with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the U.S. Secretary of the Interior regarding an issue confronting our company.

One of the Booth Energy affiliates, Argus Energy WV, LLC, has a surface and underground mining complex located in southern Wayne County, West Virginia. This operation currently employs 330 individuals that depend on our ability to maintain current production, and most importantly, access future coal reserves, including adjoining Bureau of Land Management administered federal coal reserves.

Booth Energy has been attempting to acquire by lease federal coal reserves adjacent to Argus operations within the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' East Lynn Lake Project Area in Wayne County, West Virginia. Argus' predecessor began seeking a lease agreement with the Bureau of Land Management in 1991 and worked for four years with the Corps' Huntington District to obtain the lease without resolution. In 1999, Congress acted legislatively to transfer the coal leasing responsibilities for the East Lynn Lake Project Area minerals from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to the Bureau of Land Management.

In 2004 following completion of exploration activities, Argus selected a consultant to prepare a Competitive Lease Application with BLM, the first step in seeking a mineral lease through the agency. In 2005, the Bureau of Land Management began the regulatory process of acting on the application through execution of a Memorandum of Understanding between BLM and the cooperating agencies (the Corps of Engineers' Huntington District and the Office of Surface Mining) addressing preparation of a Land Use Analysis (LUA) and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) that would be conducted by consultants approved by BLM and paid for by

Booth Energy
P.O. Box 190, Lovely, KY 41231 (606) 395-6825

Argus. In 2006 an additional consultant was retained to prepare and finalize the draft LUA / EIS and in November 2007 the Administrative Draft of the LUA / EIS was released to the cooperating agencies for review and comment. In April 2008, the Draft LUA / EIS was released for public comment. A public hearing was held on July 31, 2008 with no significant opposition; but, at the request of several citizens and congressional offices, BLM extended the comment period to November 2008.

Since November 2008, the draft LUA / EIS has been reviewed several times in a manner inconsistent with the regulations and established review process of the Bureau. In March 2009, it was Argus' understanding that the draft LUA / EIS had been sent to the Office of Management and Budget for final review before publication in the Federal Register, a standard and required action. As outlined under federal regulation, OMB has up to 90 days to review, finalize and order publication. However, we are over TWO YEARS past this 90-day timeframe and the draft LUA / EIS has still not been published. Furthermore, in conversations with BLM staff, we have been informed that the decision to hold publication was coming from the Secretary of the Interior which is, as we understand it, inconsistent with the federal laws and regulations governing these types of mineral applications.

In January 2009, Booth Energy and Argus representatives met with various West Virginia officials, including Governor Manchin, to brief them on the draft LUA / EIS timeline noted above, the results and content of the LUA / EIS and Argus Energy's commitment to access these reserves in the most environmental and safety conscious manner possible.

At this point, Booth Energy and Argus representatives have contacted the Bureau of Land Management repeatedly; but as of today, we have yet to receive any substantive information from the Bureau outside of indications that the publication delay is due to the Secretary's actions.

With this apparent violation of process and interference from the Secretary of the Interior, I am writing to ask that you contact the Secretary directly regarding the publication of this draft LUA / EIS and request the timeline by which the Secretary will have the document published.

The ability of Argus to lease and mine this coal is of great importance to all of the employees of Argus and Booth Energy, it will result in millions of dollars of investment on our part to conduct this mining, it will result in significant royalties to the Federal Treasury and it will continue Booth Energy's commitment to supply this nation with an inexpensive source of domestic energy.

I want to thank you in advance for your time and attention to this request and I and the employees of Booth Energy and Argus appreciate any assistance you can provide in helping us move forward with this operation and keep our employees working. If you have any questions

P.O. Box 190, Lovely, KY 41231 (606) 395-6825

or need any additional information on this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely yours,

James H. Booth

James H. Booth, CEO

MITCH McCONNELL
KENTUCKY

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United States Senate

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February 14, 2012

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Department of the Interior
1849 C Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20240

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Sincerely yours,

James H. Booth, CEO

United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Washington, D.C. 20240
http://www.blm.gov

JUN 1 1 2012

The Honorable Nick J. Rahall II
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Rahall:

You previously wrote a letter to Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar regarding the East Lynn Lake Land Use Analysis and Environmental Impact Statement (LUA/EIS). I would like to take an opportunity to update you on recent developments on the LUA/EIS.

As you know, Argus and Rockspring Development submitted coal lease applications to the BLM to access Federal coal from private, underground mines adjacent to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) East Lynn Lake Project. The BLM is the lead agency for analysis of these applications under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The Office of Surface Mining, the USACE, and the West Virginia Department of Natural Resources are cooperating agencies in the NEPA process.

Since release of the draft LUA/EIS for public review, the BLM and cooperating agencies addressed the substantive comments received on the draft document, including those raised by the USACE. The BLM and USACE have developed a Memorandum of Understanding for a path forward on competitive leasing of East Lynn Lake coal. The Federal Register published the final LUA/EIS today. This makes the document available to the public, initiates a 30-day protest period, and provides an opportunity for the Governor of West Virginia to conduct a Consistency Review. The BLM is then required to respond to any protests filed by the public and the Governor's review before it can issue a Record of Decision.

I appreciate your interest in this matter. If I can provide additional information, please contact me at 202-208-3801, or your staff may contact Patrick Wilkinson, Chief of BLM's Legislative Affairs Division, at 202-912-7421.

Sincerely,

Mike Pool
Acting Director

United States Department of the Interior
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Washington, D.C. 20240
http://www.blm.gov

JUN 1 1 2012

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator McConnell:

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Sincerely,

Mike Pool
Acting Director

United States Department of the Interior
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Washington, D.C. 20240
http://www.blm.gov

JUN 1 1 2012

The Honorable Hal Rogers
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Rogers:

Thank you for your May 1, 2012, letter to Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar regarding the East Lynn Lake Land Use Analysis and Environmental Impact Statement (LUA/EIS). Secretary Salazar asked the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to respond to your letter.

Argus and Rockspring Development submitted coal lease applications to the BLM to access Federal coal from private, underground mines adjacent to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) East Lynn Lake Project. The BLM is the lead agency for analysis of these applications under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The Office of Surface Mining, the USACE, and the West Virginia Department of Natural Resources are cooperating agencies in the NEPA process.

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Sincerely,

Mike Pool
Acting Director

United States Department of the Interior
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Washington, D.C. 20240
http://www.blm.gov

JUN 1 1 2012

The Honorable Joe Manchin III
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Manchin:

You previously wrote a letter to Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar regarding the East Lynn Lake Land Use Analysis and Environmental Impact Statement (LUA/EIS). I would like to take an opportunity to update you on recent developments on the LUA/EIS.

As you know, Argus and Rockspring Development submitted coal lease applications to the BLM to access Federal coal from private, underground mines adjacent to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) East Lynn Lake Project. The BLM is the lead agency for analysis of these applications under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The Office of Surface Mining, the USACE, and the West Virginia Department of Natural Resources are cooperating agencies in the NEPA process.

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Sincerely,

Mike Pool
Acting Director

MITCH McCONNELL
KENTUCKY

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United States Senate

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June 9, 2009

The Honorable Ken Salazar
Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Secretary Salazar:

I write on behalf of Dr. Gary Ransdell, President of Western Kentucky University, who has contacted me regarding White Nose Syndrome (WNS). Dr. Ransdell is concerned about the effect WNS might have on bat populations in Kentucky, and I would appreciate your review and response to his questions and concerns.

I have enclosed a copy of his correspondence, for your information. Please direct any inquiries and all relevant information to Allison Thompson in my Washington, D.C. office.

Thank you for your time and assistance. I will look forward to receiving your response.

Sincerely,

MITCH McCONNELL
UNITED STATES SENATOR

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WKU

A LEADING AMERICAN UNIVERSITY WITH INTERNATIONAL REACH

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

June 5, 2009

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
United States Senator
361A Russell Senate Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator McConnell:

Western Kentucky University has several educational and research initiatives underway in Kentucky caves and is responsible for managing caves on several properties owned or operated by WKU. As you know, we also maintain an educational and research partnership with Mammoth Cave National Park. I was recently contacted by a group of WKU faculty regarding an alarming ecological situation that may have significant impact on caves in Kentucky – it is already causing major issues in Northeastern states.

In recent years scientists have discovered a fungal disease that is causing catastrophic mortality in a wide variety of bat species, known as "White Nose Syndrome" (WNS). The disease was first identified in New York in 2006 but has quickly spread as far south and west as West Virginia and Virginia. Because evidence suggests that human activity may spread the fungus between caves on clothing or equipment, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) has issued a voluntary moratorium on recreational caving activities in all nine states where WNS has been documented. Adjoining states are also affected, including Kentucky. Without question, the spread of this disease poses substantial biological and economic threats, and Kentucky is fast becoming a focal point for these concerns.

Western Kentucky University | 1906 College Heights Blvd. #11001 | Bowling Green, KY 42101-1001
phone: 270.745.4346 | fax: 270.745.4492 | web: www.wku.edu

I am writing both to make you aware of this situation and to urge you to consider supporting efforts to study and control the spread of this disease. WKU faculty have adopted measures to control WNS on WKU properties and are working in cooperation with the USFWS. Dr. Hazel Barton, a cave microbiologist from Northern Kentucky University, is currently researching the efficacy of various WNS decontamination procedures, and Dr. Lee Florea, a WKU hydrologist, is working with USFWS to monitor bat populations in Kentucky. In addition, Dr. Carl Dick, a biologist who works with bats, bat parasites and their ecological and evolutionary associations, will join the WKU faculty later this summer and will be engaged with efforts to study this disease and its impact. Because of the importance of this issue to this cave and bat-rich region, WKU scientists are concerned and eager to assist with efforts to monitor bats and their roosting environments and to study the dynamics of WNS for the purpose of preventing the spread of the disease into Kentucky and beyond.

I am aware of a recent communication from a group of Northeastern members of Congress to contact Interior Secretary Ken Salazar to request funding for the USFWS and the U.S. Geological Survey to do the necessary research and develop a cure for this disease. My specific request to you is to ensure that any efforts to combat this disease are also focused in Kentucky. WKU is located in the heart of Kentucky's cave and karst region, and we are greatly concerned about both the ecological effects on the bat species in our caves and also the negative impact this will have on tourism for our state.

I am enclosing some information provided to me by our faculty for your staff to review. If WKU faculty can provide you with additional information or assistance in this effort, please feel free to call upon me.

As always, thank you for all that you do for WKU and for the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

Sincerely,

Gary A. Ransdell

United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Washington, D.C. 20240

In Response Refer To:
FWS/R4/AES/041446

JUL 27 2009

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator McConnell:

Thank you for your letter dated June 9, 2009, on behalf of Dr. Gary Ransdell, President of Western Kentucky University, concerning White-nose Syndrome (WNS) and the effects on bat populations in Kentucky.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) shares Dr. Ransdell's concern about WNS and its potential to spread from Northeastern states to Kentucky and to other areas. Since the disease was first documented in March of 2007, the Service has taken a leadership role in addressing WNS, and we are coordinating research, education, and management activities in partnership with over 50 organizations and universities in addition to state wildlife and public health agencies and other federal agencies to address this most pressing conservation challenge. We appreciate the contributing work of scientists associated with Western Kentucky University.

WNS is associated with a newly-described fungal species which appears to be causing more than 90 percent mortality of hibernating bats in affected caves throughout the Northeast, with close to 100 percent mortality in some caves. Although we lack much of the scientific understanding of bat population ecology and dynamics necessary for a more precise estimate, biologists estimate that between 500,000 and one million bats have died so far during this outbreak of WNS. To date, six bat species have been affected, including the federally endangered Indiana bat. The sudden and widespread mortality associated with WNS has never been observed in any of the more than 1,100 species of bats known to science. The exact cause of mortality of affected bats is not yet understood, but the newly identified fungus is considered a likely contributor.

To date, WNS and the new fungus have not been documented in Kentucky. In March of this year, the Service released an advisory calling for a voluntary moratorium on recreational caving in the nine affected states and in neighboring states, including Kentucky, and we are working with recreational cavers, private landowners, and states to implement this advisory. Although state fish and wildlife agencies have primary jurisdiction over bat species that are not federally-listed, the Service, in addition to coordinating the regional approach to WNS, is working closely with state fish and wildlife agencies in their response. In fact, the Service's Kentucky Field Office (KFO) has worked with the Kentucky Department for Fish and Wildlife Resources (KDFWR) to develop a state WNS Response Plan.

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More specifically, the Service continues to support on-going research efforts to identify the mechanism of WNS and mortality in affected bats; identify and monitor both summer and winter bat populations prior to WNS arrival; develop management and containment options for Federal and State wildlife managers; and lead outreach efforts with the affected public.

We appreciate Western Kentucky University's concern and eagerness to assist the Service with WNS related research and look forward to the opportunity to work closely with its highly qualified staff to effectively slow the progress of this disease and to mitigate its impacts on bat populations and related human and wildlife resources in Kentucky.

Thank you for your interest in this issue. Should you require additional information please feel free to contact me or Mr. Sam D. Hamilton, the Service's Southeast Regional Director, at (404) 679-4000.

Sincerely,

Rowan W. Gould

Acting Director

MITCH McCONNELL
KENTUCKY

361-A RUSSELL SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1702
(202) 224-2541

United States Senate

REPUBLICAN LEADER

COMMITTEES:
AGRICULTURE
APPROPRIATIONS
RULES AND ADMINISTRATION

March 27, 2009

The Honorable Ken Salazar
Secretary of Interior
Department of the Interior
1849 C Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Secretary Salazar:

I write on behalf of Perry County Judge Executive Denny Ray Noble who has contacted me regarding Valley View Ridge in Perry County, Kentucky. Judge Noble believes this area poses a risk to area residents. I would appreciate your review and response to my constituent's questions and concerns.

I have enclosed a copy of his correspondence, for your information. Please direct any inquiries and all relevant information to Allison Thompson in my Washington, D.C. office.

Thank you for your time and assistance. I will look forward to receiving your response.

Sincerely,

MITCH McCONNELL
UNITED STATES SENATOR

MM/at

2009 MAR 10 AM 11:01

450940

FEDERAL BUILDING
241 EAST MAIN STREET
ROOM 102
BOWLING GREEN, KY 42101
(270) 781-1673

1885 DIXIE HIGHWAY
SUITE 345
FORT WRIGHT, KY 41011
(859) 578-0188

771 CORPORATE DRIVE
SUITE 108
LEXINGTON, KY 40503
(859) 224-8286

300 SOUTH MAIN
SUITE 310
LONDON, KY 40741
(606) 864-2026

601 WEST BROADWAY
SUITE 630
LOUISVILLE, KY 40202
(502) 582-6304

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2320 BROADWAY
SUITE 100
PADUCAH, KY 42001
(270) 442-4554

Office of the County Judge – Executive
Denny Ray Noble

PERRY COUNTY COURT
PERRY COUNTY, KY.

P.O. Drawer 210
HAZARD, KENTUCKY 41701
(606) 436-4513

March 25, 2009

Office of Surface Mining and Reclamation
2675 Kegency Road
Lexington, Kentucky 40503
Joe Blackburn, Director

Mr. Blackburn,

I am writing this letter to serve as written notice that a serious danger exists on Valley View Ridge in Perry County, Kentucky. This area was designated as an abandoned mines site. Your department was aware of the threat that this abandoned high-wall posed and proceeded to reclaim and remove the large overhanging boulders from a portion of the area. However, during mid operation, the work ceased leaving an immediate threat to the area.

The current condition poses an immediate danger to travelers, residents and pedestrians alike. The huge boulders continue to fall and it is my fear that citizens or property will be lost due to this threat.

As Judge Executive of Perry County I feel it my responsibility to help protect the citizens of this county from danger when I feel that it is imminent.. It is with that in mind that I submit this notice. The attached photos will verify the above statements.

If you have questions or need more information, feel free to contact my office at the above number.

I appreciate your immediate attention to this urgent matter.

cc: Lieutenant Governor, Daniel Mongiardo
U.S. Senator, Mitch McConnell
U.S. Senator, Jim Bunning
Department of Abandoned Mines and Reclamation

Sincerely,

Denny Ray Noble
Perry County Judge Executive

United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF SURFACE MINING
RECLAMATION AND ENFORCEMENT
Washington, D.C. 20240

JUL 29 2009

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator McConnell:

Thank you for your March 27, 2009, letter to the Secretary of the Interior, Ken Salazar, on behalf of your constituent, Mr. Denny Ray Noble. Secretary Salazar has asked me to reply to you as Acting Director for the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSM). I apologize for the delay in responding.

The Chief for the Federal Reclamation Program Division of OSM's Appalachian Region responded to Mr. Noble's March 27, 2009, letter. A copy of that letter is enclosed for your information.

It is my understanding that in 2008, OSM conducted a limited emergency project to remove a "huge chunk of sandstone that was about to crash over a 50 foot highwall." OSM deemed that limited emergency project to be an imminent hazard that necessitated removal of a section of the rock overhang.

One of the factors considered in determining if a site is an eligible emergency project is whether the problem is the result of recent site development work or other actions that are not the result of past mining. If a site falls into either category, it would be ineligible for Abandoned Mine Land (AML) emergency funding.

As I understand, homes near the site were built in 2003, and the current condition of the site appears to be due to the normal weathering process. These circumstances unfortunately render Mr. Noble's site ineligible for AML emergency funding.

I regret we cannot offer a more positive response. If you have further questions, please contact me at (202) 208-4006.

Sincerely,

Glenda H. Owens
Acting Director

Enclosures

United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF SURFACE MINING
RECLAMATION AND ENFORCEMENT
Appalachian Region
Three Parkway Center
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15220
April 6, 2009
(Revised)

Memorandum

To: Federal Reclamation Program Division

From: Vann Weaver, Chief
Federal Reclamation Program Division

Subject: Emergency Project Guidance for Highwalls

As you know, one of the findings required before a complaint can be approved for funding is that the problem is a result of pre-SMCRA mining activity. However, even when the area has been affected by previous mining (spoil placement, abandoned highwall, etc.) if the investigation finds that the problem is a result of recent site development work or other owner related actions then the problem is not actually a result of past mining activity and is found to be ineligible for funding. But what is the appropriate finding where the problem appears to be associated with past mining activity, an emergency does exist and no recent owner related actions are directly the cause of the problem – however, it was the homeowners who placed themselves in harm's way of an obvious hazard?

The best example to understand the complexity of the above posed question is to examine the issue of abandoned highwalls. The inherent and obvious dangers of abandoned highwalls were recognized and ultimately regulated with the passage of SMCRA in 1977, and the approval of the Kentucky Regulatory Program in May, 1982. Even subsequent to the passage of these programs the scarcity of level land in eastern Kentucky has driven some to underestimate or ignore the obvious hazards relating to abandoned highwalls in their haste to develop. And, apparently, the individual property owner and/or the development companies incorrectly believe that even if the highwall they build up against should fail sometime in the future OSM or the state will always expend AML monies to stabilize it and protect their investment. As a possible testament to that philosophy, the Appalachia Team has received more highwall complaints in the last year and a half than we had received in the previous six years combined. And the recent influx of these complaints shows no sign of abatement.

Some complaints have resulted in projects with limited abatement measures being taken (debris removal or stabilization of only a small section of the wall). On others we have decided not to proceed because the "emergency" had already passed (i.e. - rock fall had occurred and no additional unstable material was observed at the time of the site visit; or the county or other entity had cleaned up the debris thus re-establishing access.) However, given the inherently

unstable nature of highwalls due to the ongoing weathering processes there is always the possibility of being called back again and again to address the same issue at the same site or that of an adjoining neighbor. Because there is no official guidance on the matter, past evaluations of potential projects rarely, if ever, took into consideration the actions that had been taken, or not taken, by the public in the face of such an obvious hazard. The skyrocketing increases in the number of highwall complaints dictates that such guidance be formulated and implemented. OSM has the discretion to select the projects it will undertake and such guidance will assist OSM in exercising that discretion. Also, while these sites could be considered under the state AML program it is doubtful the state would ever have enough funding to stabilize the miles and miles of abandoned highwalls that exist in this part of Appalachia.

Please apply the following guidance in evaluating potential emergency projects that involve abandoned highwalls and persons who failed to address this readily apparent hazard at the time of the construction of their home, road or other structures. For this exercise it will be assumed that the highwall we are addressing is actually mine related and potentially eligible for funding:

1. Has the highwall been affected by non-mining activity since the cessation of mining operations? If yes, prepare a negative determination indicating that the problem is not directly related to past mining activity. If the answer is no, go to #2
2. Was the structure being impacted (home, road or other structure) placed in its current location prior to May, 1982? If yes, process for potential emergency project. If the answer is no, go to #3.
3. Was the structure placed at a distance from the highwall approximate to the height of the highwall? If no, this is an indication that the owner failed to address obvious site conditions and a negative determination would be processed with inappropriate site development as its basis (however, there may have been other measures taken by the owner at the time of site development – construction of a barrier wall, netting, reverse grading of his property to protect against rolling debris, etc. – that can be evaluated as to appropriate design and anticipated effectiveness.) If your answer to this question is yes, or if the additional measures taken by the homeowner were found to have been a reasonable alternative to just location, then go to #4.
4. Is the current unstable condition of the highwall a result of normal weathering processes such as freeze/thaw or wind/water erosion or is it the result of some recent mine related activity (i.e. – portal collapse, mine subsidence, etc.)? If the former – prepare a negative determination indicating that the problem is the result of natural geomorphic processes and not an unforeseen occurrence directly related to past mining activity. If the answer is the later, then process for potential emergency project.
5. Negative determinations processed on the above guidance would be recommended for referral to the state AML program as a low priority.

As in other emergency complaint investigations a myriad of site specific conditions usually exist that will be beyond the guidance outlined above. However, I believe this effort constitutes the starting point from which can evolve a more uniform, and fair, evaluation process for the ever increasing number of highwall related complaints. Finally, no changes

to AML-4 will be required in that this guidance falls within the Directives requirement for the establishment of "in-house" procedures to reflect the most efficient use of personnel and organizational structure.

United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF SURFACE MINING
RECLAMATION AND ENFORCEMENT
Appalachian Region
Three Parkway Center
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15220

APR 7 2009

Mr. Denny Ray Noble
Perry County Judge Executive
P.O. Drawer 210
Hazard, Kentucky 41701

Dear Mr. Noble:

Thank you for your letter dated March 25, 2009, to Lexington Field Office Director Joe Blackburn, outlining your concerns regarding the hazards posed by exposed and deteriorating highwalls left over from past coal mining activities. As Chief of the Federal Reclamation Program Division (FRPD), Director Blackburn has asked me to respond to you.

The Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 (SMCRA) allows for the discretionary expenditure of funds by the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSM) from the Abandoned Mine Land (AML) Emergency Program for problems directly related to past coal mining activity. The FRPD administers the AML emergency program within the state of Kentucky. While selection of potentially eligible sites is evaluated on a case-by-case basis, dangerous situations that have been caused or exacerbated by landowner-induced activities or the failure of individuals to address obvious pre-SMCRA hazards at the time of site development, are not considered eligible for funding under the Emergency Program. Also, because findings of this nature are based on actions a prudent person would not have taken, the site is recommended to be referred to the state AML program as a low priority.

As noted above, OSM has the discretion to select the projects it will undertake, and as a means to assist OSM in exercising that discretion, the FRPD recently developed guidance in the evaluation of dangerous highwalls as potential emergency projects. The guidance requires the evaluation of the actions taken or not taken by the homeowner in addressing the obvious hazards associated with pre-SMCRA highwalls at the time of site development. This guidance was implemented on March 16, 2009. Enclosed is a copy of the guidance document for your review (the document was revised for clarity on April 6, 2009).

As you have correctly noted, OSM conducted an emergency project along Valley View Ridge in 2008 that involved limited abatement work along a portion of the exposed pre-SMCRA highwall that exists in that area. OSM has, in fact, performed emergency project work on highwall complaints (albeit a relatively small number) over the past number of years throughout Appalachia. These, however, were conducted prior to the implementation of the guidance document that I have provided. As of March 16, 2009, all complaints involving pre-SMCRA

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highwalls will be evaluated against the criteria contained in that document. The most recent situation on Valley View Ridge in Perry County was received subsequent to that date and, after evaluation, failed to meet the criteria for consideration as an emergency project. Therefore, based on the above noted findings, we regret that OSM will be unable to assist in addressing this problem.

If you desire additional information on this matter, please contact Stephen Rathbun, Appalachia Team Leader, at 606-324-2828.

Sincerely,

Vann Weaver

Vann Weaver, Chief
Federal Reclamation Program Division

Enclosure

cc: Joe Blackburn
Stephen Rathbun

United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF SURFACE MINING
RECLAMATION AND ENFORCEMENT
Washington, D.C. 20240

JUL 29 2009

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator McConnell:

Thank you for your March 27, 2009, letter to the Secretary of the Interior, Ken Salazar, on behalf of your constituent, Mr. Denny Ray Noble. Secretary Salazar has asked me to reply to you as Acting Director for the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSM). I apologize for the delay in responding.

The Chief for the Federal Reclamation Program Division of OSM's Appalachian Region responded to Mr. Noble's March 27, 2009, letter. A copy of that letter is enclosed for your information.

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As I understand, homes near the site were built in 2003, and the current condition of the site appears to be due to the normal weathering process. These circumstances unfortunately render Mr. Noble's site ineligible for AML emergency funding.

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Glenda H. Owens
Acting Director

Enclosures

United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF SURFACE MINING
RECLAMATION AND ENFORCEMENT
Appalachian Region
Three Parkway Center
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15220
April 6, 2009
(Revised)

Memorandum

To: Federal Reclamation Program Division

From: Vann Weaver, Chief
Federal Reclamation Program Division

Subject: Emergency Project Guidance for Highwalls

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United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF SURFACE MINING
RECLAMATION AND ENFORCEMENT
Appalachian Region
Three Parkway Center
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15220

APR 7 2009

Mr. Denny Ray Noble
Perry County Judge Executive
P.O. Drawer 210
Hazard, Kentucky 41701

Dear Mr. Noble:

Thank you for your letter dated March 25, 2009, to Lexington Field Office Director Joe Blackburn, outlining your concerns regarding the hazards posed by exposed and deteriorating highwalls left over from past coal mining activities. As Chief of the Federal Reclamation Program Division (FRPD), Director Blackburn has asked me to respond to you.

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highwalls will be evaluated against the criteria contained in that document. The most recent situation on Valley View Ridge in Perry County was received subsequent to that date and, after evaluation, failed to meet the criteria for consideration as an emergency project. Therefore, based on the above noted findings, we regret that OSM will be unable to assist in addressing this problem.

If you desire additional information on this matter, please contact Stephen Rathbun, Appalachia Team Leader, at 606-324-2828.

Sincerely,

Vann Weaver

Vann Weaver, Chief
Federal Reclamation Program Division

Enclosure

cc: Joe Blackburn
Stephen Rathbun

MITCH McCONNELL
KENTUCKY

361-A RUSSELL SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1702
(202) 224-2541

United States Senate

REPUBLICAN LEADER

COMMITTEES:
AGRICULTURE
APPROPRIATIONS
RULES AND ADMINISTRATION

January 22, 2009

The Honorable Ken Salazar
Secretary of Interior
Department of the Interior
1849 C Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Secretary Salazar:

I write to express my support for the application submitted by the City of Prestonsburg, Kentucky for funding under the Save America's Treasures Grant (CFDA# 15.929).

The City of Prestonsburg seeks additional funds to complete restorative work to the West Prestonsburg Bridge that was constructed in 1930. I am told this bridge serves as not only a major thoroughfare in Floyd County, Kentucky, but also remains one of the last "Rainbow Arch" bridges in the United States. Immediate funds are needed to repair and preserve this historic piece of local pride. Restoring the West Prestonsburg Bridge will not only ensure the physical stability of the bridge, but will also ensure safe travel and economic stability in the area.

I hope you will realize the importance of this current project and give appropriate consideration to the application.

Thank you for your time and assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

MITCH McCONNELL
UNITED STATES SENATOR

MM/jmt

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2009 FEB -2 PM 1:19
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(502) 582-6304

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2320 BROADWAY
SUITE 100
PADUCAH, KY 42001
(270) 442-4554

H30(2256)

Honorable Mitch McConnell
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator McConnell:

Thank you for your letter of January 22, 2009, to Secretary Ken Salazar, supporting the City of Prestonburg, Kentucky, for a Federal Save America's Treasures grant to preserve the West Prestonburg Bridge. I have been asked to reply.

The Save America's Treasures (SAT) grant program provides funding for the preservation of nationally significant historic properties and museum collections. Applications for Fiscal Year 2009 funding will be made available in March. Please encourage your constituent to visit the National Park Service's Historic Preservation Grants Division website, at http://www.nps.gov/history/hps/treasures/index.htm, to download the application and program guidelines. The application deadline will be in May 2009.

Thank you for your interest in the programs of the National Park Service.

Sincerely,

Janet Snyder Matthews, Ph.D.
Associate Director, Cultural Resources

bcc: 2605-Lowery
2200-Reading File
2256-Tucker
FNP:HTucker:gjh:202-354-2067:2/12/09:SAT Controlled/McConnell-Prestonburg
BASIC FILE RETAINED IN 2256

JERRY MORAN
FIRST DISTRICT
KANSAS

COMMITTEE ON
AGRICULTURE

RANKING MEMBER
SUBCOMMITTEE ON GENERAL FARM
COMMODITIES AND RISK MANAGEMENT

COMMITTEE ON
TRANSPORTATION AND
INFRASTRUCTURE

COMMITTEE ON
VETERANS' AFFAIRS

SIGN UP FOR EMAIL UPDATES:
WWW.JERRYMORAN.HOUSE.GOV

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC

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WASHINGTON, DC 20515-1601
(202) 225-2715
FAX (202) 225-5124

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1200 MAIN STREET
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HAYS, KS 67601-0249
(785) 628-6401
FAX (785) 628-3201

ONE NORTH MAIN
SUITE 525
P.O. BOX 1128
HUTCHINSON, KS 67504-1128
(620) 665-6135
FAX (620) 665-6300

110 WEST IRON
SUITE 803
P.O. BOX 766
SALINA, KS 67402-0766
(785) 309-6575
FAX (785) 827-0867

February 5, 2009

Mr. Daniel Wenk
Acting Director
National Park Service
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Mr. Wenk:

I am writing to request the assistance of the National Park Service's drafting service in writing legislation authorizing a feasibility study to determine whether the Smoky Hill Trail qualifies for designation as an historic, scenic or recreation trail under the National Trails System Act (P.L. 90-543 as amended through P.L. 110-229). As a strong proponent of protecting the rights of private property owners, I also ask that the legislation include provisions recognizing and protecting these rights and avoid the authorization of eminent domain proceedings.

Thank you for your assistance in this project. Please contact Jason Wiens, in my Washington, D.C., office if more information is needed to begin drafting the legislation authorizing a feasibility study.

Very truly yours,

Jerry Moran

Jerry Moran

JM:jw

JERRY MORAN
FIRST DISTRICT
KANSAS

COMMITTEE ON
AGRICULTURE

RANKING MEMBER
SUBCOMMITTEE ON GENERAL FARM
COMMODITIES AND RISK MANAGEMENT

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SIGN UP FOR E-MAIL UPDATES:
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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC

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(202) 225-2715
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DISTRICT OFFICES
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FAX (620) 665-6366

110 WEST IRON
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SALINA, KS 67402-0706
(785) 309-0572
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February 5, 2009

Mr. Daniel Wenk
Acting Director
National Park Service
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Mr. Wenk:

I am writing to request the assistance of the National Park Service's drafting service in writing legislation authorizing a feasibility study to determine whether the Smoky Hill Trail qualifies for designation as an historic, scenic or recreation trail under the National Trails System Act (P.L. 90-543 as amended through P.L. 110-229). As a strong proponent of protecting the rights of private property owners, I also ask that the legislation include provisions recognizing and protecting these rights and avoid the authorization of eminent domain proceedings.

Thank you for your assistance in this project. Please contact Jason Wiens, in my Washington, D.C., office if more information is needed to begin drafting the legislation authorizing a feasibility study.

Very truly yours,

Jerry Moran

Jerry Moran

JM:jw

United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

IN REPLY REFER TO:

FEB 19 2009

H30(2256)

Honorable Mitch McConnell
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator McConnell:

Thank you for your letter of January 22, 2009, to Secretary Ken Salazar, supporting the City of Prestonburg, Kentucky, for a Federal Save America's Treasures grant to preserve the West Prestonburg Bridge. I have been asked to reply.

The Save America's Treasures (SAT) grant program provides funding for the preservation of nationally significant historic properties and museum collections. Applications for Fiscal Year 2009 funding will be made available in March. Please encourage your constituent to visit the National Park Service's Historic Preservation Grants Division website, at http://www.nps.gov/history/hps/treasures/index.htm, to download the application and program guidelines. The application deadline will be in May 2009.

Thank you for your interest in the programs of the National Park Service.

Sincerely,

Jan Matthews

Janet Snyder Matthews, Ph.D.
Associate Director, Cultural Resources

H30(2256)

FEB 1 9 2009

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United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

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Thank you for your interest in the programs of the National Park Service.

Sincerely,

/s/ Janet Snyder Matthews

Janet Snyder Matthews, Ph.D.
Associate Director, Cultural Resources

bcc: 2605-Lowery
2200-Reading File 2256-Tucker
FNP:HTucker:gjh:202-354-2067:2/12/09:SAT Controlled/McConnell-Prestonburg
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