

JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.
2ND DISTRICT, TENNESSEE

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Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515-4202

October 7, 2013

COMMITTEES:
TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

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AVIATION

NATURAL RESOURCES

SUBCOMMITTEE:

NATIONAL PARKS, FORESTS, AND PUBLIC LANDS

521687

The Honorable Sally Jewell
Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Madame Secretary:

I am writing in regards to the impact that the government shutdown is having on one area of my District. This is an urgent and critical matter because our local economy is being harmed and the ability of local officials to provide essential services is being severely limited.

I have been contacted by the Mayor of Blount County, Tennessee who is trying to find a way to reopen the Foothills Parkway and the Cades Cove loop within the Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

October is one of the busiest times for tourism in East Tennessee with thousands of people coming to the area from all over the Nation to view the fall foliage which will soon be at its peak. The economy of this County is heavily dependent on tourism and these shutdowns are gravely hurting many individuals and small businesses.

Blount County Mayor Ed Mitchell is especially interested in two options to resolve this matter. In one option, the County is willing to pay those employees responsible for Cades Cove and the Foothills Parkway to keep those facilities open.

If that option is not possible, Mayor Mitchell proposes that his County be allowed to provide security and emergency services for the facilities to keep them open.

I am also very concerned about the hardships the closures place on my constituents who rely on the Foothills parkway

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OFFICE OF THE CLERK
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

to access homes that are located on remote private lands located between the Parkway right of way and the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. They are now forced to take long detours to get in and out of their neighborhoods.

I also do not understand why the Parkway must also be closed for local public vehicles such as police, fire and emergency medical services and school busses that rely on the Parkway to access private homes in this remote area. This closure is making it harder for local officials to provide necessary services. I worry how the extended travel times will harm people and homes that require emergency services.

I look forward to working with you to resolve this matter as soon as possible.

With kindest regards, I am

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John J. Duncan, Jr.", written in a cursive style.

JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.
Member of Congress

JJD:sf



United States Department of the Interior



IN REPLY REFER TO:
A36

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

The Honorable John Duncan
Member, U.S. House of Representatives
2207 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-5435

NOV 14 2013

Dear Mr. Duncan:

Your letter, dated October 7, 2013, to Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell regarding your desire to work with the National Park Service (NPS) to reopen Great Smoky Mountains National Park during the federal government partial shutdown has been forwarded in late October to the Southeast Regional Office of the NPS for a response.

Now, of course, the partial shutdown is over and all national park units are open to the public. As you know, we successfully worked with the state of Tennessee and county and municipal governments to have Great Smoky Mountains before the shutdown ended. Thank you for your continued support of the NPS and, in particular, the Smokies.

Sincerely,

Stan Austin
Regional Director
Southeast Region

BILL HUIZENGA
2ND DISTRICT, MICHIGAN

COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-2202

October 1, 2013

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FAX: 616-414-5521

4555 WILSON AVE
SUITE 3
GRANDVILLE, MI 49418
PHONE: 616-570-0917
FAX: 616-570-0934
www.huizenga.house.gov

Jonathan B. Jarvis
Director - National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C St. NW
Washington D.C. 20240

Dear Director Jarvis:

I am deeply concerned by the barriers that have been erected by the National Park Service (NPS) surrounding America's treasured memorials and monuments in Washington D.C. The World War II Memorial, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, and the Korean War Veterans Memorial are all open-air monuments that the public has constant access to regardless of the presence of NPS personnel.

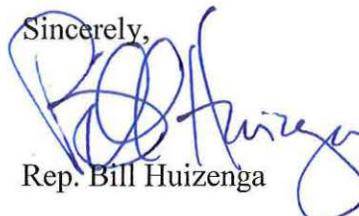
As funding lapsed for the federal government at midnight on October 1, the NPS used taxpayer dollars in the form of time, personnel, and resources to stop American veterans from visiting a memorial that they fought and many of their friends died for. The decision to prevent our veterans from accessing a memorial honoring their service is a regrettable mistake and one that I hope was not politically motivated.

I believe that it is absolutely ridiculous that barriers have been placed on a sidewalk in order to force the closure of an open-air park. Therefore, earlier today, I joined nearly 100 World War II veterans who did not let blockades put in place by the NPS stop them from entering the open-air World War II Memorial.

It is my understanding that the House of Representatives will soon be voting on the Open Our National Parks and Museums Act, a bill that will provide funding to keep America's national parks and memorials open to the public. I urge you to call on the United States Senate and implore them to pass this bill immediately.

I believe that all our American heroes who fought and served our great nation, as well as all American citizens, should be allowed to visit the memorials built to commemorate their sacrifice as well the sacrifice of their loved ones. I hope you honor them and their service by encouraging Congress and the President to reopen our nation's parks, monuments, and memorials.

*Thank you
for your personal
attention!*

Sincerely,

Rep. Bill Huizenga

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515

October 2, 2013

Hon. Jonathan B. Jarvis
Director
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20240-0001

Dear Director Jarvis:

I am writing on behalf of the Glen Echo Park Partnership for Arts & Culture, Inc. ("the Partnership"), a nonprofit organization in my congressional district, regarding the closure of Glen Echo Park due to the federal government shutdown.

The attached letter from the Partnership's Executive Director outlines this matter in detail. As you may know, Glen Echo's programs and facilities are operated by Montgomery County, Maryland and the Partnership. No federal funds are used to pay for programs or staffing, so it is unclear why the Park must be closed. Ms. Boerner's letter describes the significant damages that will be incurred if the closure continues into this weekend.

It is important to note that Fort Mason Center in San Francisco, after which the Partnership and its relationship to Glen Echo Park were modeled, remains open and operating during the shutdown.

I would appreciate your reviewing the attached letter and giving serious consideration to the Park's request for an exemption from closure. Please direct all correspondence to me at the following address:

51 Monroe Street, Suite 507
Rockville, MD 20850
FAX: (301) 424-5992

If you need additional information, please contact Lindsay Camacho in my Rockville office at (301) 424-3501 or by email at lindsay.camacho@mail.house.gov.

Thank you for your assistance with this time-sensitive matter.

Sincerely,



Chris Van Hollen
Member of Congress

Camacho, Lindsay

From: kboerner@glenechopark.org [mailto:kboerner@glenechopark.org]
Sent: Wednesday, October 02, 2013 4:05 PM
To: Camacho, Lindsay; Kleinman, Joan
Cc: Morningstar, Sara; Dise, David E.; Allan Stevens; Michael Bobbitt; Michael Burack
Subject: GLEN ECHO PARK AND GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN
Importance: High

Dear Lindsay & Joan:

Please convey to Congressman Van Hollen that we are very dismayed with the closure of Glen Echo Park – especially in light of how we compare to the entities listed below.

Glen Echo Park's programs and facilities are operated by Montgomery County and by the Glen Echo Park Partnership – no federal funds are used to pay for our programs or staffing. We would like to continue NOT using federal money to operate the programs and continue to deliver services to our constituents.

We highly value the National Park Service staff who work here and their contributions to the Park, but also want to stipulate that our programs operate independent of the NPS involvement, although we are on federal property.

The closure threatens the existence of our presenting groups and artists, threatens the nonprofit that runs the Park and denies programming to thousands of people. It is a self-imposed closure by the National Park Service – one which the NPS could opt not to enforce given the private nature of most of the programming here. I cite the following examples:

Fort Mason (which we were modeled after) is open for business in San Francisco
Ford's Theater is open
Kennedy Center is open
Smithsonian is allowing non-federally funded staff to come in (trust fund salaried)

Given that the rationale for their remaining open is that they do not use federal funds to operate, we feel that same rationale should be applied to Glen Echo Park.

We will lose tens of thousands of dollars this weekend:

Adventure Theater-MTC Performances \$4000 per performance X 5 = \$20,000
Puppet Co. Performances \$3000 per performance X 4 = \$12,000
Wedding Rental \$5,000
Dance Events in ballroom and Bumper Car Pavilion \$22,000 in revenues
Arts Classes – \$8,000 in lost revenues over the weekend

Total revenue to be lost over the two day weekend: \$67,000

The impact on our small organizations will continue to climb as we get into multiples days or weeks of closure. Adventure Theater-MTC has \$7,000 in school field trips planning for next week as an example.

WE URGE CONGRESSMAN VAN HOLLEN TO SEEK AN EXEMPTION FOR GLEN ECHO PARK FROM THE NATIONAL PARKS CLOSURE – we are essentially County and nonprofit operated and do not require federal funds to continue our operations.

I am including my colleagues on this email who operate programs at the Park, our Board President and representatives of Montgomery County.

Glen Echo Park is different from other parks and has a very delicate financial ecosystem – we ask that you take this into consideration and that the NPS be asked to acknowledge that the bulk of operations are paid for with non federal funds.

Thank you.

Regards,

Katey Boerner
Executive Director
Glen Echo Park Partnership for Arts & Culture, Inc.
7300 MacArthur Blvd.
Glen Echo, MD 20812
Tel. 301-634-2225
Fax. 301-634-2260
www.glenechopark.org
kboerner@glenechopark.org



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
National Capital Region
1100 Ohio Drive, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20242

IN REPLY REFER TO:

1.A.1. (NCR-GWMP)

October 30, 2013

Honorable Chris Van Hollen
Member, U.S. House of Representatives
51 Monroe Street, Suite 507
Rockville, Maryland 20850

Dear Mr. Van Hollen:

Thank you for your letter of October 2, 2013, concerning the Glen Echo Park Partnership for Arts and Culture (GEPPAC), regarding the closure of Glen Echo Park during the recent federal government shutdown. It is worth noting, during the federal government shutdown, the Washington Office of the National Park Service (NPS) reviewed all park concessions and cooperators nationally to consider the possibility of allowing operations to continue on a case-by-case basis. The NPS managers at George Washington Memorial Parkway were involved in, but had not completed, this review process when the federal government re-opened.

As you know, Glen Echo Park and the buildings within the boundary are all federally owned as part of the national park system. The current management structure of the park, developed through a cooperative agreement, originally signed between the NPS and Montgomery County, Maryland, in 1999 and updated during 2002, provided for the creation of a designated management entity (GEPPAC) to meet a specific goal of the NPS to provide the public *a multi-use Park centered on the arts and humanities* (2002 Cooperative Agreement, Article 1, Background and Objectives).

The letter from GEPPAC Executive Director, Katey Boerner, does a great job of highlighting the diverse activities that happen in the park. It also makes a general comparison between Glen Echo Park and Fort Mason in San Francisco, which remained open during the shutdown. However, there are distinct differences between Glen Echo Park and Fort Mason. As an example, Fort Mason operates through a lease agreement with Golden Gate National Recreation Area, not a partnership cooperative agreement, as in the case of Glen Echo Park. Many of the provisions in the cooperative agreement between Montgomery County and the NPS are not the same as the leasing agreement between Fort Mason and the NPS. While federal funds are not used to pay for the partnership's programs or their staffing, federal funds are used for specific NPS daily responsibilities highlighted in the cooperative agreement.

These responsibilities include, and are not limited to, grounds maintenance, interpretation of the park as a historic site, law enforcement, resource protection, special use permits and traffic control. These important responsibilities would not have been met if Glen Echo Park and GEPPAC remained open during the federal government shutdown.

Shared boundaries between NPS areas add another level of complexity to the operations at Glen Echo Park. The main parking lot used by visitors to Glen Echo Park is also located within the boundary of Clara Barton National Historic Site. Leaving Glen Echo Park open would have provided visitors unmonitored access to the Clara Barton National Historic Site property at a time when that park area was also closed to public use.

If you have any further questions or need additional information, please feel free to contact me or Superintendent Alex Romero at (703) 289-2500.

Sincerely,



Stephen H. Whitesell
Regional Director

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TODD YOUNG
CHIEF OF STAFF

U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Natural Resources
Washington, DC 20515

October 2, 2013

PETER A. DeFAZIO, OR
RANKING DEMOCRATIC MEMBER
ENI F.H. FALLEOMAVAEGA, AS
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JARED HUFFMAN, CA
RAUL RUIZ, CA
CAROL SHEA-PORTER, NH
ALAN LOWENTHAL, CA
JOE GARCIA, FL
MATTHEW CARTWRIGHT, PA

PENNY DODGE
DEMOCRATIC STAFF DIRECTOR

The Honorable Jonathan Jarvis
Director
National Park Service
1849 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Director Jarvis:

Through this letter, the Committee on Natural Resources (“Committee”) requests that the National Park Service (“Park Service”) take steps as necessary to keep and not destroy documents related to the decision this week to restrict public access to the National World War II Memorial, the Lincoln Memorial, the Korean Veterans Memorial, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial, and other open-air monuments, memorials, and parks in the Washington, D.C., region. The Committee expects to soon send a formal document request as a follow up to this letter.

The Committee is also considering conducting an oversight hearing in the near future to better understand the Park Service’s closures, as well as the resources and staff time used to erect physical barriers to keep out veterans and other members of the American public from visiting these open-air sites. The World War II Memorial and other open-air sites are ordinarily accessible to visitors 24-hours a day, 365 days a year, and are normally staffed by Park Service rangers only from 9:30 am to 11:30 pm, with visitors able to tour the sites throughout the day and night. However, the Park Service has now determined these sites must be closed to all visitors at all times due to the lapse in appropriations.

In response to considerable public outcry against the decision to ban veterans and others from these sites, the Park Service today reversed course and announced it will permit certain veterans groups to visit and exercise their First Amendment rights at the World War II Memorial. It remains unclear whether other veterans groups and members of the public will be allowed to visit and exercise their First Amendment rights at the other open-air memorials and sites across the capital area that are currently closed. It is imperative that the Park Service remove the barriers and allow the American public to resume visiting these open-air memorials, monuments, and parks without further delay.

According to news reports earlier today, a Park Service spokesperson said the White House Office of Management and Budget ordered the Park Service to take such extraordinary steps as blockading public sidewalks and access roads around these memorials, suggesting the outrageous closure decision was made in order to make the current lapse in appropriations as conspicuous and painful to the public as possible.

The Park Service's earlier statements that such closures were necessary to protect the monuments and memorials and were required by law seem especially dubious given these reports and the Park Service's failure to take similar steps previously or at less visible Park Service sites in the capital area. For example, the Park Service did not close the Lincoln Memorial during the lapse in appropriations in 1996 and, in 2011, protestors were allowed to take over and occupy Park Service sites in the District of Columbia, some of which were damaged at considerable taxpayer cost. Here, the Park Service's decision to barricade the open-air memorials from veterans and other Americans flies in the face of common sense, given their interest in visiting memorials that honor their service and sacrifice to the country.

Among the issues of most concern to the Committee are whether the Park Service discussed or considered alternatives to actively excluding the public from these open-air sites, including allowing access to previously scheduled visits by veterans groups; whether direction or guidance came from the Department of the Interior or the Office of Management and Budget to actively restrict public access to these sites; the staff time and costs associated with the transport, erection, and maintenance of the barriers, including whether the barriers are owned or rented by the Park Service; the staff time and costs associated with trash removal from these sites, including any differences between such costs and the costs related to installing and maintaining the barricades; the staff time and costs associated with patrolling and securing these sites prior to and during their closure; the cost to operate these sites during overnight hours; and law enforcement policies and actions concerning trespass on the National Mall and other open-air monuments, memorials and parks throughout the capital region.

It is expected that the Park Service will cooperate with the Committee's oversight by not destroying potentially responsive records and providing records to the Committee upon request.

Sincerely,



Doc Hastings
Chairman,
Committee on Natural Resources



Rob Bishop
Chairman,
Subcommittee on Public Lands
and Environmental Regulation

MRK 10/17/13



Office of Congressman Rob Wittman
First District, Virginia



DATE: 10/3
TO: Superintendent Dan Smith
FAX: 757-898-6346
NUMBER OF PAGES (INCLUDING COVER SHEET) 2

FROM:

- CONGRESSMAN ROB WITTMAN
- MARY SPRINGER
Chief of Staff
- JAMIE JONES MILLER
Deputy Chief of Staff
- BRENT ROBINSON
Senior Legislative Assistant
- ABIGAIL SHILLING
Communications Director
- KEVIN BOSSE
Military Legislative Assistant
- CHRISTIN PARRAS
Scheduler/Office Manager
- DAN PROCHAZKA
Defense Fellow
- GORDON NEAL
Deputy Press Secretary
- BRAD ELLISON
Legislative Assistant
- COURTNEY CARROW
Legislative Assistant
- COLIN SMOLINSKY
Staff Assistant

COMMENTS:

CC: Elaine Hackett, OCA MPS
202-208-5683 (F)

If you have any problems receiving this fax, please call (202) 225-4261
Office of Representative Rob Wittman
2454 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
Fax: (202) 225-4382

ROBERT J. WITTMAN
1ST DISTRICT, VIRGINIA

HOUSE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE

CHAIRMAN, READINESS SUBCOMMITTEE
SEAPOWER AND PROJECTION FORCES
SUBCOMMITTEE

NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

ENERGY AND MINERAL
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FISHERIES, WILDLIFE, OCEANS, AND
INSULAR AFFAIRS SUBCOMMITTEE

CO-CHAIR, CONGRESSIONAL
CHESAPEAKE BAY WATERSHED CAUCUS

CO-CHAIR, CONGRESSIONAL
SHIPBUILDING CAUCUS

Mr. Dan Smith
Superintendent
Colonial National Historic Park
P.O. Box 210
1000 Colonial National Historic Parkway
Yorktown, VA 23690-0210

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-4601
October 3, 2013

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DISTRICT OFFICES:
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PENINSULA OFFICE
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YORKTOWN, VA 23690
(757) 874-6897

MIDDLE PENINSULA OFFICE
508 CHURCH LANE
TAPPANHANNOCK, VA 22560
(804) 443-0668

WWW.WITTMANHOUSE.GOV

Dear Mr. Smith:

It has come to my attention that the National Park Service has ordered concessioners who operate within Colonial National Historic Park property to close their doors and cease business operations during the current lapse in federal appropriations.

It is unfortunate that the National Park Service has taken steps to compel businesses to close their doors during this important tourist season. I assure you that I have and will continue to support efforts to fund the government, with the House of Representatives taking action yesterday to vote to fund the National Park Service and ensure our nation's monuments and parks remain open to the public.

I write to ask that you would treat all tenants within National Park Service property the same by allowing businesses to open and serve their customers, just like I am able to serve my constituents. I appreciate your timely consideration of this matter and please free to contact me for any further needed conversations. Thank you for your service to our nation.

Sincerely,



Robert Wittman
Member of Congress

RJW/br

MARK 10/17/13



Office of Congressman Rob Wittman
First District, Virginia



DATE: 10/8

TO: Elaine Hackett

FAX: 202-208-5683

NUMBER OF PAGES (INCLUDING COVER SHEET) 3

FROM:

CONGRESSMAN ROB WITTMAN

MARY SPRINGER
Chief of Staff

JAMIE JONES MILLER
Deputy Chief of Staff

BRENT ROBINSON
Senior Legislative Assistant

ABIGAIL SHILLING
Communications Director

KEVIN BOSSE
Military Legislative Assistant

CHRISTIN PARRAS
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DAN PROCHAZKA
Defense Fellow

GORDON NEAL
Deputy Press Secretary

BRAD ELLISON
Legislative Assistant

COURTNEY CARROW
Legislative Assistant

COLIN SMOLINSKY
Staff Assistant

COMMENTS:

If you have any problems receiving this fax, please call (202) 225-4261
Office of Representative Rob Wittman
2454 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
Fax: (202) 225-4382

ROBERT J. WITTMAN
1ST DISTRICT, VIRGINIA

HOUSE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE
CHAIRMAN, READINESS SUBCOMMITTEE
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CHESAPEAKE BAY WATERSHED CAUCUS

CO-CHAIR, CONGRESSIONAL
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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-4601
October 8, 2013

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MIDDLE PENINSULA OFFICE
508 CHURCH LANE
TAPPANHANNOCK, VA 22660
(804) 443-0668

WWW.WITTMAN.HOUSE.GOV

Ms. Elaine Hackett
Congressional Liaison
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, NW, Room 7256
Washington, DC 20240-0001

Dear Ms. Hackett:

I am writing to bring to your attention the correspondence of Ms. Elizabeth Kostelny, Executive Director of Preservation Virginia. Director Kostelny has informed me that the National Park Service is denying access to private property at Historic Jamestowne, resulting in significant negative economic impact.

It is unfortunate that the National Park Service has taken steps to compel private operations to close their doors during this important tourist season. I assure you that I have and will continue to support efforts to fund the government, with the House of Representatives taking action recently to vote to fund the National Park Service and ensure our nation's monuments and parks remain open to the public.

I write to ask that you would treat all tenants and private property owners within National Park Service property the same by allowing businesses and non-profits to open and serve their customers, just like I am able to serve my constituents. I appreciate your timely consideration of this matter and please free to contact me for any further needed conversations. Thank you for your service to our nation.

Sincerely,



Robert Wittman
Member of Congress

RJW/br
Enclosure



PRESERVATION VIRGINIA

8 October 2013

The Honorable Rob Wittman
US House of Representatives
2454 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Rep. Wittman:

I am writing to ask your assistance. As you know, Preservation Virginia is a partner with Colonial National at Historic Jamestowne. Our organization has owned 22.5 acres at Historic Jamestowne since 1893. Our private property is surrounded by NPS land. We share the gate entry area.

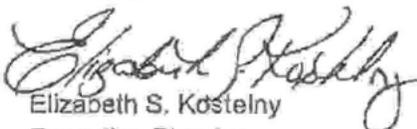
Due to the government shut down, guests are being denied access to our private property. During the 1990 shutdown, we were able to continue operations on our property and collect fees for our site only. This time, we were told that the Director's orders would not allow this flexibility. The shutdown is having serious consequences for our non-profit. Since October 1, we have lost approximately \$48,000 to \$56,000 in revenue (\$5,000 to \$7,000 per day). Additionally, we were not able to bring a group of potential donors to visit the site last week. This adds up to a double hit on both the earned and philanthropic side.

Our attorney believes that the 1956 Agreement, that outlines the rights and relationship between Preservation Virginia and the NPS, provides that public access to our property cannot be denied and that we should be able to remain open to the public. At this time, there is no one to appeal to with the NPS shut down. We are putting a plan into place to open on 9 October. After entering the front gates, guests will be allowed to only visit Preservation Virginia property—the archaeological dig, the 17th century Church Tower and the Voorhees Archaearium. We will put barriers in place to protect entry to the NPS property.

From a Virginia Gazette article, I understand that you are working towards an exemption for the Carrot Tree in Yorktown. Is there any way you can help us as well? I fear that if the shutdown continues or if our plan to re-open our portion of the site to guests is blocked, the continued loss of revenue will require us to furlough staff to necessarily reduce expenses.

Thank you for your consideration and your service to this nation under these difficult circumstances.

Sincerely,


Elizabeth S. Kostelny
Executive Director

PRESERVATION VIRGINIA

204 West Franklin Street • Richmond, Virginia 23220-6012 • 804.648.1889 • (f) 804.775.0802 • www.preservationvirginia.org
Connecting people and resources to ensure the continued vitality of Virginia's historic places.

MRK 10/17/13

Gary C. Peters
MEMBER OF CONGRESS
14TH DISTRICT, MICHIGAN
www.peters.house.gov

COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES
SUBCOMMITTEE ON CAPITAL MARKETS AND
GOVERNMENT-SPONSORED ENTERPRISES
SUBCOMMITTEE ON MONETARY POLICY
AND TRADE
SENIOR WHIP

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Jonathan Jarvis
Director, National Park Service
1849 C Street NW
Washington DC 20240

Director Jarvis:

I write on behalf of a family from my district who recently received a citation from the National Park Service while visiting Bandalier National Monument on October 8th.

It is my understanding that due to the government shutdown, all national parks are closed. While these constituents observed a sign indicating the Monument was closed, there were maps available for use and no notice that walking on the trail was an offense. The various closure and enforcement policies at federal lands in New Mexico have resulted in a confusing situation for those who wish to enjoy these spaces. Closure of amenities and programming was expected, but receiving a citation for hiking on a trail accessible from a public road was not.

These particular constituents traveled over 1,500 miles to see Bandalier National Monument. I trust many other Americans remain in similar situations and on trips that had been planned months in advance. Our national parks and public lands are a national treasure. I am disappointed to see that access to open-air spaces and parks is being denied and punished.

I ask that the Service reconsider citations issued for the sole offense of being on National Park Service land during the government shutdown. While I understand the Service's need to protect public lands and maintain public safety, fines and citations on the record of hikers and outdoor enthusiasts serve only to discourage the use of these national treasures. Those who wish to visit public lands are victims of the shutdown, not criminals.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Gary C. Peters
Member of Congress

DISTRICT OFFICE
400 Monroe Street Suite 290
Detroit, MI 48226
(313) 964-9960
FAX (313) 964-9959

WASHINGTON OFFICE
1609 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
(202) 225-5802
FAX (202) 226-2356

Received: from s-hub2.house.gov (143.228.181.82) by HEOC-HT02.US.House.gov (143.228.151.96) with Microsoft SMTP Server (TLS) id 14.3.146.0; Mon, 14 Oct 2013 12:16:00 -0400

Received: from GRUS.web.us.house.gov (grus.house.gov [143.228.150.176]) by s-hub2.house.gov with ESMTP id r9EGFwvJ008726 for <jordan.wells@mail.house.gov>; Mon, 14 Oct 2013 12:15:59 -0400

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Received: by mail-ie0-f173.google.com with SMTP id u16so5929099iet.32 for <jordan.wells@mail.house.gov>; Mon, 14 Oct 2013 09:15:58 -0700 (PDT)

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Received: by 10.64.227.8 with HTTP; Mon, 14 Oct 2013 09:15:58 -0700 (PDT)

Date: Mon, 14 Oct 2013 12:15:58 -0400

Message-ID: (b) (6)

Subject: Bandelier National Monument Closure Citation

From: (b) (6) (b) (6)

To: <jordan.wells@mail.house.gov>

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X-Mlf-Keywords:

my_name_is, dollars, \$125, 45, money, aggressive, care, enforcement, congressman, selecti

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X-Mlf-Connecting-IP: 209.85.223.173

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MIME-Version: 1.0

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Jordan, my name is (b) (6) and I live in Farmington Hills. I left you a voice mail on October 8 and again today regarding a \$125 citation my

wife received at Bandalier National Monument for trespassing on October 8 while we were on vacation in New Mexico. I am asking Congressman Peters to assist me in removing the citation from my wife's record and preventing us from having to pay the fine.

We were on the road in New Mexico when we came across a hiking trail on the side of the road. There were 7 cars parked in the lot and we decided to take the hike. It was a 45 minute walk through a portion of Bandalier National Monument. The trail had a sign posted that it was closed but there were maps available for use and no indication that walking on the trail was an offense that would be ticketed. When we got back to the parking lot an armed National Park Ranger issued us a citation under C.F.R. 136 (f) with the offense description of "closure". He agreed with us that it was ridiculous but that he was just following orders (he said he was not getting paid to do this). When the party after us came to the lot (they were in their 60s and needed walking sticks to support them) they appeared to be going to their car and he placed his hand on his gun and ran to catch them so that they too could receive a citation. My wife and I were rather stunned by the aggressive tactics here. Hard to imagine that our federal government is treating its citizens as common criminals for taking a walk on OUR land! There was no harm done here, no littering, no defacement of national park lands. Just a few footprints left on the trail. Indeed, we are the people who care most about these parks and want to use them.

Another very frustrating aspect is that there is selective enforcement of the closure regulations. We travelled throughout Northern New Mexico and it was very difficult to tell what was closed and what was not. Some National Forest land was open, some not. DOE land was open but it was difficult to tell where that was. It was very frustrating as, after we received the citation, we were very cautious and never knew exactly what was open and what was not. Nationally, there has been selective enforcement as Acadia National Park Rangers are only ticketing motorists or campers but not hikers. So if we had been in Acadia we would not have been ticketed (the road we were on was a public road, we only entered Bandalier when we started the hike). As you may be aware, the federal government may not selectively enforce the law.

What makes us most upset is the fact that this whole situation is a political chicken game and we, the people that the Congressman works for, are the losers. My wife was terribly upset about the citation. We are law abiding citizens and given the amount of money we send to Washington each year did not appreciate being treated the way we were. It was especially upsetting given that it was reported that very morning that the Congressional gym and pool would be kept open during the crisis so that the legislators could continue to work out each day.

I would appreciate a response from you or Congressman Peters as to what you or the Congressman will do to help me and my wife resolve this situation.

(b) (6)

--047d7b874c928fe4f604e8b5c8df
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<div> </div>
<div>(b) (6) </div>
<div> </div>
</body>
</html>

--047d7b874c928fe4f604e8b5c8df--

United States District Court
Violation Notice

CVB Location Code

PSZ

Violation Number: **P 0387100**
Officer Name (Print): *Khan*
Officer No.: *1435*

P 0387100

YOU ARE CHARGED WITH THE FOLLOWING VIOLATION

Date and Time of Offense (mm/dd/yyyy): *10-9-13 12:00*
Offense Charged: CFR USC State Code
36 CFR 1.5 E

Place of Offense: *Teanrawi*

Offense Description: *closure*

DEFENDANT INFORMATION

Last Name: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
First Name: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
M.I.: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Street Address: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
City: (b) (7)(C), (b) (6)
State: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Zip: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

Adult Juvenile Sex Male Female Hair: *Black* Eyes: *Brown* Height: *5'09"* Weight: *150*

VEHICLE DESCRIPTION

Tag No.: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
State: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Year: *2009*
Make/Model: *Jeep/Avx*
Color: *Blue*

A IF BOX A IS CHECKED, YOU MUST APPEAR IN COURT. SEE INSTRUCTIONS (on back of yellow copy).
 B IF BOX B IS CHECKED, YOU MUST PAY AMOUNT INDICATED BELOW OR APPEAR IN COURT. SEE INSTRUCTIONS (on back of yellow copy).

Forfeiture Amount: *\$ 100*
Processing Fee: *\$ 25*
Total Collateral Due: *\$ 125*

PAY THIS AMOUNT → YOUR COURT DATE: *10/15/13*
(If no court appearance date is shown, you will be notified of your appearance date by mail.)

Court Address: _____
Date (mm/dd/yyyy): _____
Time (h:mm): _____
Adh... [Signature]

My signature signifies that I have received a copy of this violation notice. If I am not an admission of guilt, I promise to appear for the hearing at the time and place instructed or pay the total collateral due.

X Defendant Signature _____
Defendant Copy For Your Records (Yellow) NPS 10-50 (Rev. 7-05)



United States Department of the Interior
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Bandelier National Monument
15 Entrance Road
Los Alamos, New Mexico 87544-9508

BAND
14263



IN REPLY REFER TO:
W3415(BAND)

NOV 21 2013

Congressman Gary C. Peters
1609 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Peters,

During the Government Shutdown of 2013 all National Parks and Monuments were closed to include Bandelier National Monument. Within 24 hours of the shutdown, Bandelier Rangers had posted all public trailheads and roads and placed physical barricades across all trailhead entries including the Tsankawi area that the Shrosbree's entered. As you can see from the attached photo of the Tsankawi trailhead, and noted by Mr. Shrosbree, there was obvious and adequate signage that this area was not open and available to the public.

During the shutdown, Bandelier Rangers contacted over 100 people who had either entered the Monument illegally, had questions regarding the closure, or were looking for areas that were open and available to them for hiking or viewing. Of these 100-plus contacts, 20 were issued violation notices similar to Ms. Shrosbree; 35 received either written or verbal warnings; and the remainder were provided with information and directed to open State and tribal areas. The only Park visitors who received citations were those who knowingly and obviously disregarded the signage and made the choice to take a risk that they would avoid detection.

The decision that "open air" spaces needed to be closed is easily understood for Bandelier. The Monument was established to protect the more than 3,300 ancestral Puebloan cultural sites. Tsankawi is an area that is rife with caveats and has a very large Pueblo ruin on top of the mesa. This area is vulnerable to vandalism primarily in the form of graffiti in the cavates and scavenging of artifacts, and the Monument deters this inappropriate behavior by the use of regular roving patrols. Additionally, there is a public restroom, a fee machine, and fountains that require daily maintenance when in use. With no maintenance or custodial staff on duty during the shutdown, maintaining infrastructure and trash collection is problematic and establishes a range of unacceptable risks to resources and visitors. While Mr. Shrosbree and his wife may well have been exemplary in their behavior on their illegal hike, not everyone has the same respect for our national treasures.

The Ranger who issued Ms. Shrosbree the citation has never been known for being an "aggressive" ranger. Ranger Khan has always treated visitors fairly, and during his three-year tenure at Bandelier, he has never received a complaint until this interaction. Ranger Khan related that both Ms. Shrosbree and Mr. Shrosbree had disregarded the closure and made the decision to hike regardless of obvious signage; a point Mr. Shrosbree freely states in his letter to you. Rather than being aggressive, Ranger Khan used his discretion and showed compassion by offering to only issue a ticket to one of the couple. It was their decision to have Ms. Shrosbree accept the one citation.

As Superintendent, it is my policy and practice to trust and support reasonable decisions made by staff including Law Enforcement Rangers. I did personally investigate this matter and consulted with the Chief Ranger as to if there was any compelling reason such as misconduct by Ranger Khan or a mistake made in issuing the citation. It is my position that this citation is valid and that the Ranger was well within his authority to issue. Furthermore, my assessment is that the Ranger was sympathetic to the situation by only issuing the one citation to the couple.

It is my regret that the Shrosbrees vacation and planned visit to Bandelier was impacted by a closure of the Monument and the National Park Service during the 2013 Government Shutdown.

Respectfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Lott", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

D. Jason Lott
Superintendent

Attachment

FAX

511 Dirksen Senate Office Bldg. Washington, D.C. 20510
Phone: 202-224-2321 • Fax 202-228-5429



From the Office of

JOHN THUNE
United States Senator

SOUTH DAKOTA

DATE: 2013-10-07

NUMBER OF PAGES INCLUDING COVER: 3

TO: Director Jonathon Jarvis

FAX NUMBER: 202-219-0910

FROM: Senator John Thune

RE: Mount Rushmore National Memorial

NOTES:

Please accept this letter from Senator John Thune regarding the closure of the Mount Rushmore National Memorial in the Black Hills of South Dakota.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact either myself (danielle_hanson@thune.senate.gov) or Lynn Tjeerdsma (lynn_tjeerdsma@thune.senate.gov).

Thank you,

Danielle Hanson

Legislative Correspondent | Office of U.S. Senator John Thune
511 Dirksen Senate Office Building | Washington, DC 20510
Office: (202) 224-2321 | Fax: (202) 228-5429

JOHN THUNE
SOUTH DAKOTA

COMMITTEES
AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION & FORESTRY
COMMERCE, SCIENCE & TRANSPORTATION
FINANCE

<http://www.thune.senate.gov>

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4105

October 7, 2013

Jonathan Jarvis
Director, National Park Service
1849 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Director Jarvis:

I am writing concerning Mount Rushmore National Memorial in the Black Hills of South Dakota.

I understand that the State of South Dakota was denied a request for permission to use state personnel and resources to continue certain operations at Mount Rushmore during the current *partial government shutdown because it is a federal facility*. We have also received reports that National Park Service (NPS) personnel closed access to scenic overlooks and Mount Rushmore viewing areas located on property that is under the jurisdiction of the State of South Dakota.

As you may know, the Mount Rushmore Society operates the parking facility at Mount Rushmore National Memorial under a concessions contract with the NPS. The park concessionaire, Xanterra Parks and Resorts, operates both the dining and shopping facilities at Mount Rushmore National Memorial.

Respectful of the federal facility implications of certain portions of the Mount Rushmore National Memorial that the NPS has indicated cannot be handed over to the State of South Dakota, I encourage you to allow the non-federal facilities serviced and operated by the Mount Rushmore Society and Xanterra Parks and Resorts, which specifically include the parking garage and restaurant and gift shop, to resume operations immediately.

If you determine that the NPS cannot allow these privately operated facilities at Mount Rushmore to resume operations, I respectfully request that you provide me with the specific statutory or regulatory authority that prohibits these facilities from reopening even though the partial government has not ended.

I also request specific answers to the following questions:

1. In the days following the start of the partial government shutdown, did NPS personnel place construction cones or other barricades along state highways that blocked access to state-controlled areas commonly used to view Mount Rushmore?
2. If so, who instructed NPS personnel to block access to viewing areas that are not under the jurisdiction of the NPS?
3. Was permission requested from the applicable entity or entities by NPS to place construction cones or barricades in areas that blocked access to land not under the jurisdiction of the NPS?
4. What authority, if any, does the NPS have to block public access to areas that are not under the jurisdiction of the national park system?

Due to the time-sensitive nature of this request, please respond to this letter no later than three business days from the date of this letter, or by Thursday, October 10, 2013.

Thank you for consideration of this request, and please do not hesitate to contact me or my office with any questions.

Sincerely,



JOHN THUNE
United States Senate

DH
10/18

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515



October 9, 2013

Jonathan B. Jarvis
Director - National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C St. NW
Washington D.C. 20240

Dear Director Jarvis:

As you are no doubt aware, the closure of select open-air monuments and park service units during the ongoing partial government shutdown has been a cause of great concern for the public.

In particular, the barricades erected around open-air sites like the World War II, Korean War, and Vietnam War memorials served to inconvenience countless veterans travelling to Washington, D.C. as part of honor flights from around the country.

It is our understanding that specific park closures were determined according to the *Contingency Plan for Operations in the Absence of FY 2014 Appropriations* dated September 26, 2013. The National Park Service section of that plan clearly states that:

All concession operated services and facilities would be closed unless they are deemed essential for health and safety reasons, are needed to support on-going excepted NPS activities or are located in urban areas where full NPS law enforcement coverage is continued due to the inability to control visitor access.

These urban, open-air memorials seem to be precisely the type of exception outlined in the Department's plan and, as such, should remain open to the public.

Due to the continued lack of consistent implementation of this plan, we would like a better understanding of the process that led to these decisions. Please respond to the following questions:

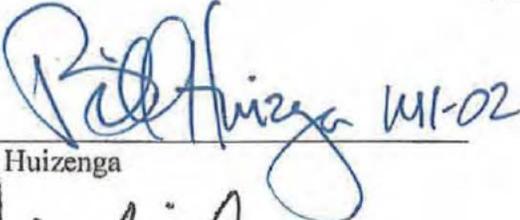
1. Multiple lower profile open-air memorials and areas remain open on the National Mall and around the National Capital Region. What factors were considered when the determination was made to close some areas, while leaving others open?
2. During the partial government shutdown of 1995 and 1996 the currently closed memorials on the National Mall remained open. What were the contributing factors to this change in NPS policy?
3. What is the cost to operate an open-air site such as the World War II Memorial on a typical day? How much is the National Park Service saving per day at that memorial by operating in its current "shutdown" posture?

4. What is the estimated total cost to install barricades and patrol the perimeter of each open-air memorial and area during the shutdown. What is the total cost to breakdown and remove all barricades once normal operations resume?
5. On multiple occasions since the shutdown began, members and staff have counted as many as seven NPS employees on-site at the World War II Memorial. How many NPS staff members are assigned to these memorials during a normal shift?
6. Initially, NPS logo signs were posted at each of the closed memorials indicating that the area was closed due to the government shutdown. On the second day of the shutdown the signs were removed and replaced with new, non-logo signs simply stating that "This site is closed". Why were the original signs replaced and who requested the change? How much did it cost to remove and replace these signs?

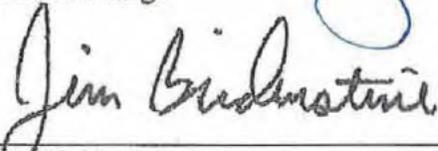
We look forward to your response and stand ready to work with the National Park Service to ensure that the American people aren't unnecessarily burdened during the ongoing federal government shutdown.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this urgent matter.

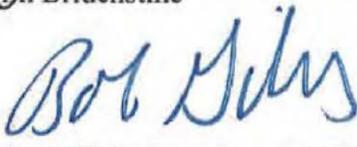
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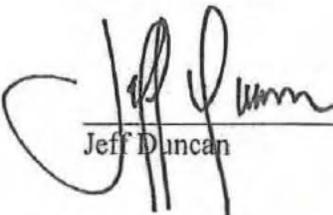

Bill Huizenga

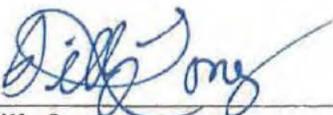

Lynn Jenkins

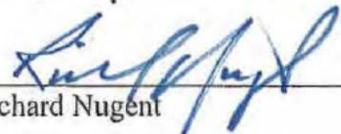

Jim Bridenstine


Stephen Fincher

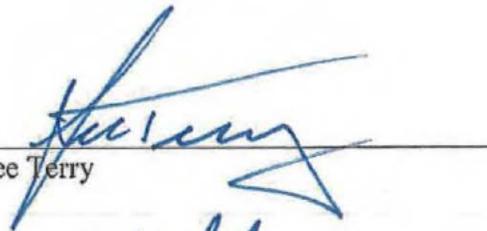

Bob Gibbs


Jeff Duncan


Billy Long


Richard Nugent

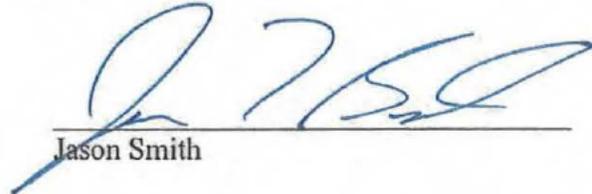

Dan Benishek

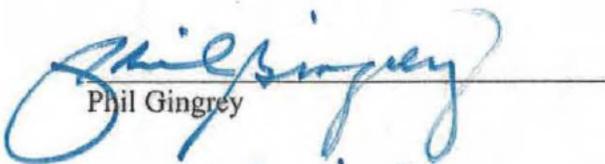

Lee Terry


Kevin Cramer

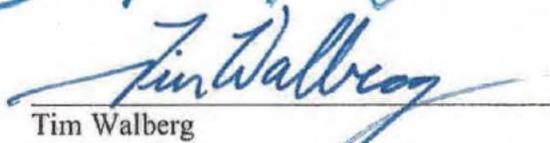

Matt Salmon

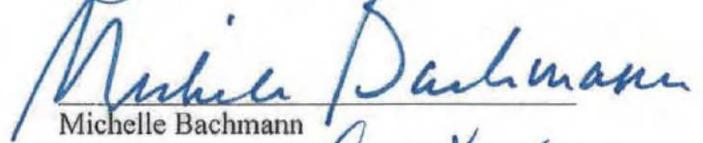

Doug LaMalfa

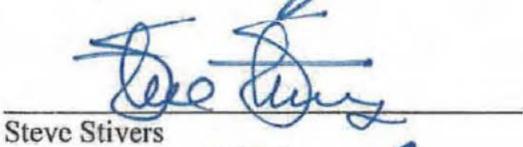

Jason Smith

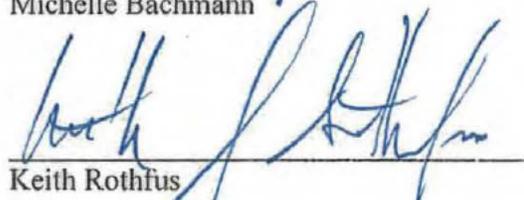

Phil Gingrey

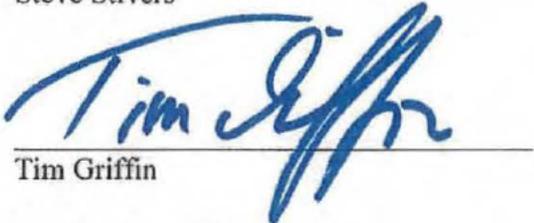

John Campbell

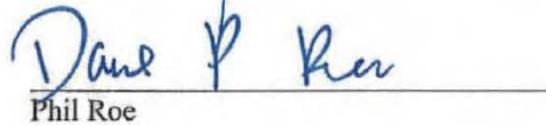

Tim Walberg

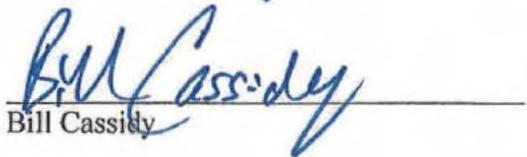

Michelle Bachmann


Steve Stivers

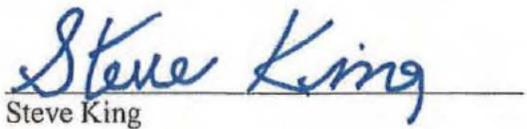

Keith Rothfus


Tim Griffin


Phil Roe


Bill Cassidy


Mark Sanford

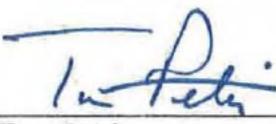

Steve King

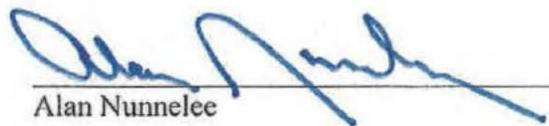

Doug Lamborn

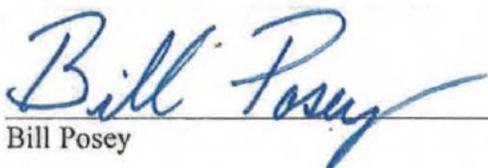

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Aaron Schock

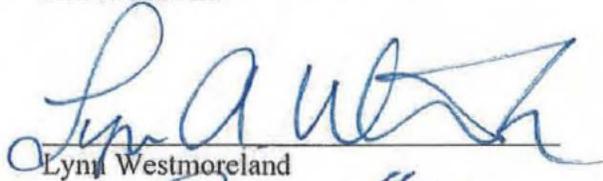

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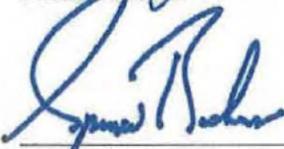

Alan Nunnelee

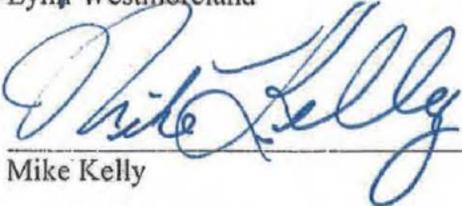

Bill Posey

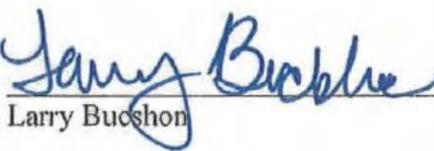

Renee Ellmers

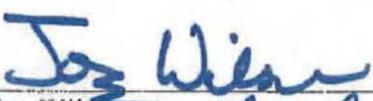

Justin Amash


Lynn Westmoreland


Spencer Bachus


Mike Kelly


Larry Bucshon

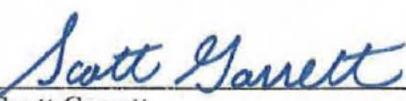

Joe Wilson


Robert Pittenger

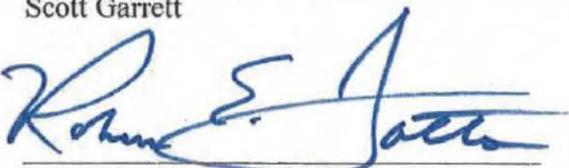

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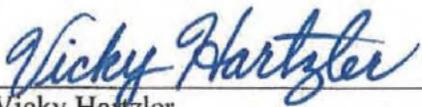

Louie Gohmert


Chuck Fleischmann


Scott Garrett


Bill Flores


Robert Latta

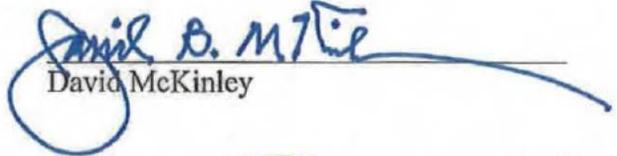

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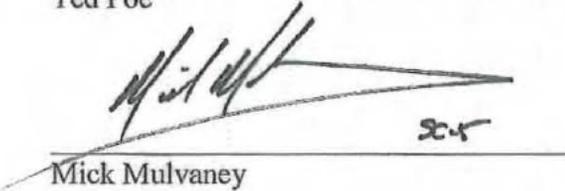

Jackie Walorski


Brad Wenstrup


Trent Franks

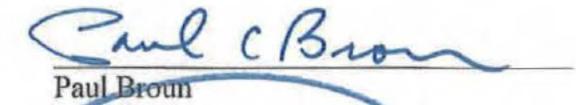

Ted Poe

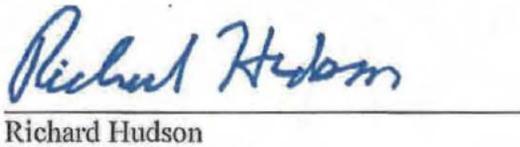

David McKinley

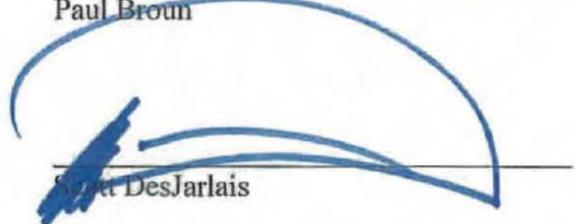

Mick Mulvaney


David Reichert


Tom McClintock

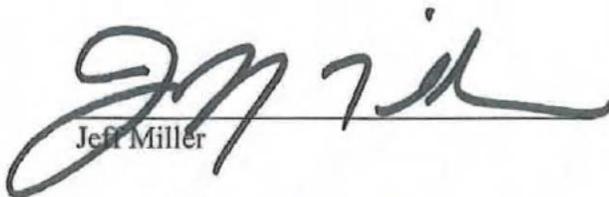

Paul Brown

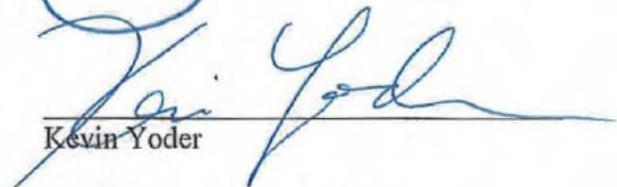

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Scott DesJarlais

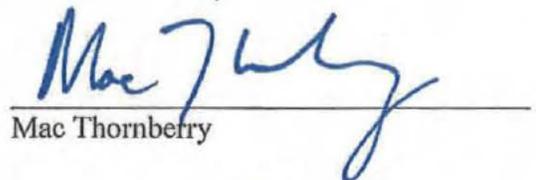

Steve Pearce


Jack Kingston


Jeff Miller


Kevin Yoder

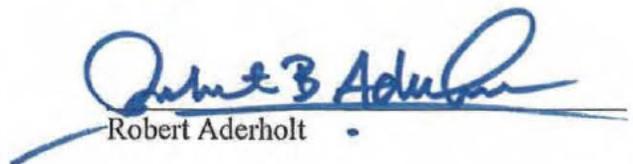

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Mac Thornberry


Steve Chabot

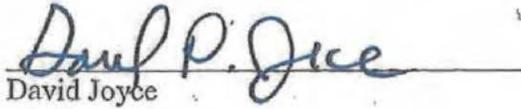

Joseph Pitts


Chris Stewart

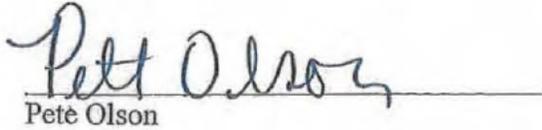

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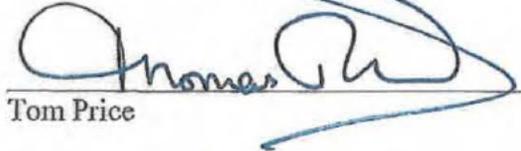

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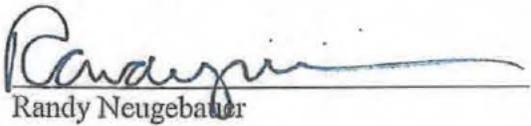

Bob Goodlatte

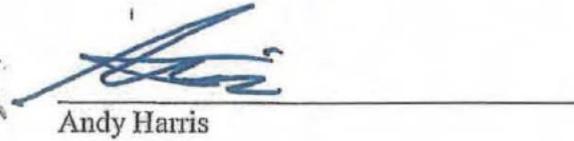

David Joyce


Cynthia Lummis

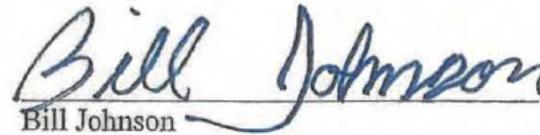

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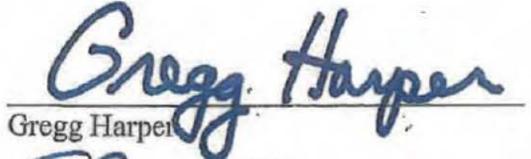

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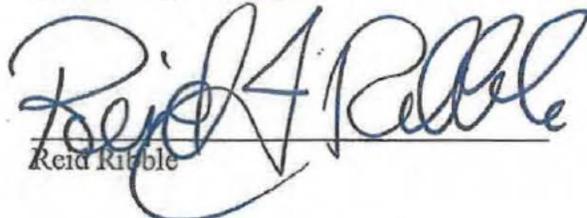

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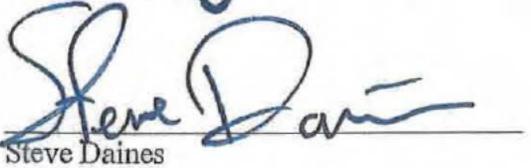

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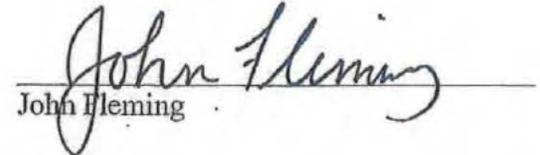

Mike Conaway

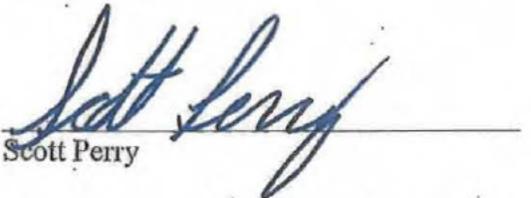

Bill Johnson


Gregg Harper

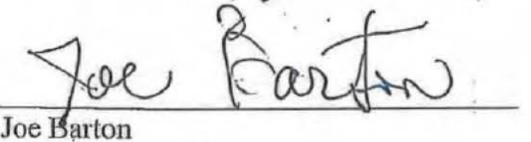

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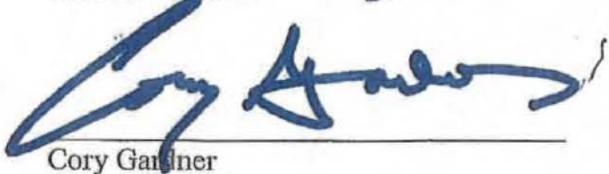

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John Fleming

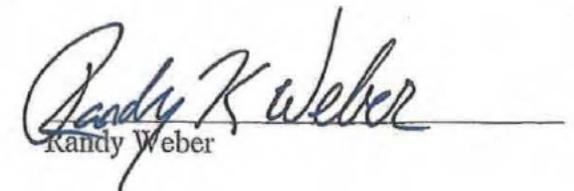

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Marlin Stutzman

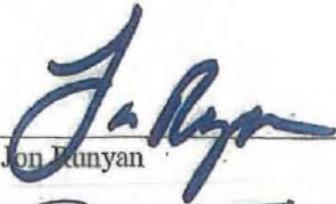

Joe Barton


Cory Gardner

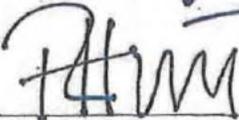

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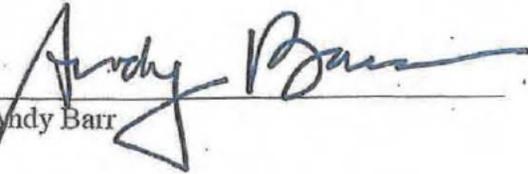

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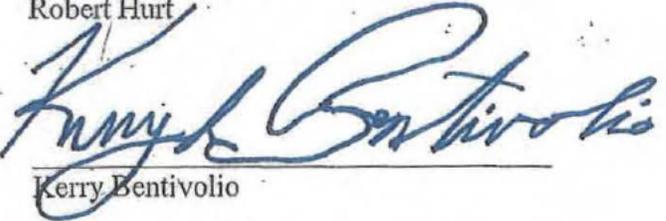

Rodney Davis


Jon Runyan


Mark Meadows


Robert Hurt


Andy Barr


Kerry Bentivolio

cc: Department of the Interior Secretary Sally Jewell

DH
10/23

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

October 9, 2013



Mr. Jonathan Jarvis, Director
US National Park Service
1849 C St NW, Room 7256
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Director Jarvis,

The National Park Service's (NPS) stated mission is to "preserve unimpaired the natural and cultural resources and values of the National Park System for the enjoyment, education, and inspiration of this and future generations." The NPS has a long-standing tradition of ignoring politics, and ensuring that all Americans may access their treasured landscapes. We applaud this long-established role for the NPS, and hope it will continue in the future.

We write today, however, with great concern that the NPS is violating this non-partisan tradition, and blatantly politicizing who gets access to public facilities during the government shutdown. The NPS is permitting certain political activities by special interests friendly to the White House on public lands, but ensuring that ordinary citizens are denied entry to NPS facilities in Washington, DC and throughout the country. Recently, it has come to our attention that the NPS permitted immigration activists to conduct a rally on the National Mall yesterday, but stopped others from accessing the land that they own.¹ The set up of a stage and sound equipment on the National Mall began at least one day in advance of the rally. Is it NPS policy that only those exercising their First Amendment rights in a mass demonstration may access our public lands at certain arbitrary times? Please include the specific criteria, if any, that the NPS uses to determine who is and who is not exercising their right to free speech.

The Administration has publicly blamed the government shutdown for the closure of the National Mall, even though it is open-air. The World War II Memorial is normally opened 24-hours a day with no staff supervising, and yet, you chose to lock out World War II veterans from their memorial last week. Actions taken by the NPS over the past eight days prove that the politics of the government shutdown are the paramount concern, rather than the implementation of policies that benefit the people during this interim period.

Additionally, we have seen reports of armed Park Service personnel forcing senior citizens to stop photographing wildlife at Yellowstone National Park, and then locking them in their hotel.² These same seniors were then ordered to leave Yellowstone without even stopping at privately owned restrooms throughout the park. Another news story highlighted a jogger in Valley Forge National Historical Park who was given a \$100 fine for running on the Park's publicly owned

¹ <http://blogs.wsj.com/washwire/2013/10/08/immigration-rally-goes-forward-on-mall/>

² <http://www.eagletribune.com/local/x1442580353/Gestapo-tactics-meet-senior-citizens-at-Yellowstone>

trails.³ Even worse, homeowners at the Lake Mead National Recreation Area have been forced to leave their houses because they sit on federal land.⁴ The NPS is also preventing tourists in South Dakota from simply pulling to the side of the road to take pictures of Mount Rushmore.⁵ It costs far more to place barricades and armed police around monuments and private residences than to leave these spaces open. The new precedent set by the NPS is harmful, fiscally irresponsible, and violates its non-partisan tradition.

Public lands are owned by all the people. They have a right to their continued use. Using taxpayer funded spaces as a means to advance the White House's favored interests, while closing off admission to ordinary Americans not engaged in political activities, is morally reprehensible. This behavior exemplifies what is wrong with Washington. The people of this country deserve better than political appointees dictating who wins and who loses in a government shutdown based on partisan beliefs.

We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Steve Pearce
Member of Congress



Cynthia Lummis
Member of Congress



Paul Gosar
Member of Congress



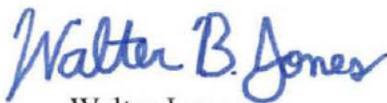
Mark Amodei
Member of Congress



Scott Tipton
Member of Congress



Paul Broun
Member of Congress



Walter Jones
Member of Congress

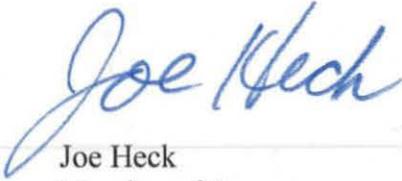


Cory Gardner
Member of Congress

³ http://www.yorkdispatch.com/breaking/ci_24260900/100-fine-running-at-valley-forge-amid-shutdown

⁴ <http://www.ktnv.com/news/local/226557661.html?ic=Smart>

⁵ <http://siouxfallsbusinessjournal.argusleader.com/article/20131004/UPDATES/310040047/S-D-officials-object-feds-barring-visitors-from-highway-viewing-areas-near-Mount-Rushmore>



Joe Heck
Member of Congress



Doug Lamborn
Member of Congress



Kevin Cramer
Member of Congress



Chris Stewart
Member of Congress



Tom McClintock
Member of Congress



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20240

JAN 31 2014

The Honorable Steve Pearce
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Pearce:

Thank you for your October 9, 2013, letter regarding access to National Park Service (NPS) sites during the recent government shutdown.

The National Park Service has a long history of operating the National Park System to the nearly 100 percent satisfaction of our visitors. Other than the two federal government shutdowns in the winter of 1995, the NPS has met its mission to “preserve unimpaired the natural and cultural resources and values of the National Park System for the enjoyment, education, and inspiration of this and future generations,” continuously for almost 100 years. It goes against the nature of the organization to close our national parks: managing the organization during a government shutdown is not an activity with which we have much experience.

As the most recent Federal budget deadline approached, NPS developed a comprehensive plan to shut down in order to ensure compliance with the Antideficiency Act. The plan was based on guidance from the Office of Management and Budget, the Department of the Interior, and the NPS’ records and organizational memory from 1995. Under the provisions of the Antideficiency Act, in the absence of an appropriation NPS is able to undertake only activities, primarily related to emergencies which the Act explains as “the term ‘emergencies involving the safety of human life or the protection of property’ does not include ongoing, regular functions of government the suspension of which would not imminently threaten the safety of human life or the protection of property.”

Office of Management and Budget Circular A-11, Section 124, “Agency Operations in the Absence of Appropriations,” defined the process for maintaining agencies’ plans for orderly shutdown in the event of the absence of appropriations. According to this guidance, “Federal officers may not incur any obligations that cannot lawfully be funded from prior appropriations unless such obligations are otherwise authorized by law,” and, “Federal officers may incur obligations as necessary for orderly termination of an agency’s functions, but funds may not be disbursed.” Circular A-11 states further that all shutdown activities “must contribute to an orderly shutdown of the agency and give primary consideration to protecting life and safeguarding Government property and records.”

We were confident in our shutdown procedures, but recognized that even the most detailed plan would require thousands of decisions at the regional and local levels. There was little precedent for NPS leaders to consider; closing national parks in the winter when visitation is low, as was the case in 1995, is far less complex than closing them in the fall, during a high visitation period. As the deadline loomed, we remained hopeful that, as in several recent instances, an agreement would be reached to avoid a shutdown.

On October 1, 2013, all units of the National Park System were closed to public visitation and use, subject to the conditions and exceptions described in the Director's Closure Determination and Notice (Closure Notice), pursuant to 36 C.F.R. § 1.5. That national closure determination was necessitated by a lapse in funds appropriated by the United States Congress for the operation of the National Park System.

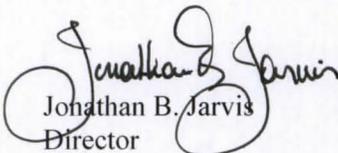
Across the country, thousands of decisions had to be made simultaneously about how to implement the Closure Notice at NPS sites in a manner consistent with the Antideficiency Act. Leaders at every level of the National Park Service had to make decisions with little precedent or information, such as the potential duration of the shutdown or broader impacts of certain decisions. This closure did not apply to through roads in parks that provided primary access between points located outside of the parks, such as Rock Creek Parkway. Consistent with regulations and the terms of the applicable permits, contracts and agreements, the Closure Notice suspended all permits to ensure that a violation of the Antideficiency Act would not occur. With the national closure in place, the NPS had some opportunities to examine specific issues that had arisen and determined whether modification or clarification of the national closure was appropriate where there would be no expenditure of federal funds in violation of the Antideficiency Act.

The Closure Notice also did not affect First Amendment activities at the National Mall and Memorial Parks and at Independence National Historical Park in Philadelphia. Because the National Mall and Independence National Historical Park are traditional and long-standing venues for hundreds of First Amendment activities each year, we anticipated that there was the potential for First Amendment activities during the shutdown and we retained enough NPS staff to permit these activities while continuing to maintain the public property and public safety.

I will ensure that the NPS leaders document the decisions we made and the lessons we learned during this shutdown. This process will improve the National Park Service's ability to manage a shutdown due to a lapse in appropriation, should it occur in the future.

Identical letters are being sent to other members who cosigned your letter.

Sincerely,


Jonathan B. Jarvis
Director

THOMAS J. ROONEY
17TH DISTRICT, FLORIDA

DEPUTY WHIP

221 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515

(202) 225-5792

<http://rooney.house.gov>

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0917

October 21, 2013

Ms. Heather Sibbison
U.S. Dept. of the Interior
Office Of Congressional Affairs
1849 C St NW
Washington, DC 20240-0002

Dear Ms. Sibbison:

I am writing on behalf of my constituent, Mr. Gerald Wickline, who would like to submit a formal complaint about a National Park Service employee. According to Mr. Wickline, he was physically assaulted by park police at the Lincoln Memorial on October 13, 2013.

I would appreciate your reviewing the enclosed documentation. Please direct your response to Courtney Burgess in my Riverview District Office.

Thank you very much for your assistance. If you need additional information, please let my office know and we will be happy to comply.

Sincerely,



Thomas J. Rooney
Member of Congress



Congressman Thomas Rooney 17th Congressional District of FL

11345 Big Bend Road, Riverview, Florida 33579
Phone: (813)677-8646 Fax: (813) 677-8698
www.rooney.house.gov

Privacy Statement

THE PRIVACY ACT OF 1974 REQUIRES THAT WRITTEN CONSENT BE OBTAINED FROM A CONSTITUENT BEFORE INFORMATION MAY BE DISCLOSED FROM RECORDS WITHIN A FEDERAL AGENCY. TO PERMIT ME TO ACT ON YOUR BEHALF, I WILL NEED YOUR STATEMENT CITING THE PROBLEM AND YOUR SIGNATURE FOLLOWING THE STATEMENT. IF YOU ARE INQUIRING ON BEHALF OF SOMEONE ELSE, IT WILL BE NECESSARY FOR THAT PERSON TO SIGN THE STATEMENT.

Date: 10-17-2013

Dear Congressman Rooney:

I would appreciate your assistance with the following:

I WAS PHYSICALLY ASSAULTED BY PARK POLICE AT THE LINCOLN MEMORIAL ON OCT 17 2013. AFTER THE BARRICADES CAME DOWN, I WAS ENJOYING THE VIEW OF THE MALL FROM THE STEPS. AN ARMED PARK POLICEMAN SHOVED ME DOWN THE STEPS. I STEPPED BACK UP AND MENTIONED MY FIRST AMENDMENT RIGHT TO FREE ASSEMBLY. HE SHOVED ME DOWN THE STEPS AGAIN. I ASKED HIM IN A LOUD CLEAR VOICE NOT TO ASSAULT ME AGAIN, AT WHICH POINT ABOUT FIFTY BROTHER VETERANS MOVED TO MY ASSISTANCE. ~~FIFTEEN~~ AT THIS POINT A CONGRESSMAN FROM MICHIGAN SHOWED UP AND ASSURED US THE

TOOVER

Please Print:

Name: (b) (6) Phone Number: (b) (6)
Address: (b) (6)
Social Security or other Claim Number: (b) (6)
Signature: (b) (6)

BARRICADES WOULD STAY DOWN. LATER IN THE DAY I RETURNED TO THE MALL AND FOUND THE BARRICADES HAD BEEN ERECTED ONCE MORE. I CONFRONTED THE OFFICER THAT ASSAULTED AND ASKED, IN A LOUD CLEAR VOICE, IF HE WAS PROUD TO HAVE PUSHED A 71 YEAR OLD VETERAN DOWN THE STEPS. NO ANSWER. I REPEATEDLY ASKED FOR AN APOLOGY. HIS RESPONSE WAS A TIGHT SHAK OF HIS HEAD TO EACH REQUEST.

FINALLY, THE CAPTAIN OF THE GUARD AND I HAD A CONVERSATION ABOUT THE INCIDENT WHERE HE TOOK NOTES, MY CONTACT INFORMATION, AND THE OFFICER'S NAME. I DID NOT INTEND CONFRONTATION. THE PARK POLICE SAID THEIR ACTIONS WERE FOR PUBLIC SAFETY, WHAT ABOUT MY SAFETY.



Congressman Thomas J. Rooney
17th Congressional District of Florida

11345 Big Bend Road
Riverview, Florida 33579
Phone: (813)677-8646 Fax: (813) 677-8698

FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

Date: 10/21/2013 Number of Pages: 4 (Including Cover Sheet)

Sent To: Department of the Interior, Office of Congressional and Legislative Affairs re: National Park Service

Fax Number: 202-208-5533

Sent From:

Erin Welch

Courtney Burgess

Subject:

Thank you!



IN REPLY REFER TO:

United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE UNITED STATES PARK POLICE

Headquarters
1100 Ohio Drive, SW
Washington, D.C. 20024

NOV 12 2013

The Honorable Thomas Rooney
11345 Big Bend Road
Riverview, Florida 33579

Dear Congressman Rooney:

This is the United States Park Police response to your recent inquiry of October 21, 2013, which was received in this office on October 29, 2013, concerning your constituent, (b) (6), who has made a formal complaint against a member of the United States Park Police concerning an incident which occurred on October 13, 2013.

I have directed an immediate investigation into these allegations. A copy of (b) (6) complaint has been forwarded to our Office of Professional Responsibility to ensure that this matter is thoroughly investigated. An interim letter has been sent to (b) (6) to inform him of our investigation. At the conclusion of the investigation, both you and (b) (6) will receive correspondence regarding the disposition.

Thank you for bringing this matter to my attention. The United States Park Police remain committed to providing service and protection to the public, including the investigation of allegations made against our employees. These investigations are critical to the integrity of our government and the law enforcement profession.

If I can be of assistance to you in the meantime, please contact me at 202.619.7350.

Sincerely,

Teresa C. Chambers
United States Park Police

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-4004



October 11, 2013

Mr. Jonathan Jarvis
Director
National Park Service
1849 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Mr. Jarvis:

I am concerned about recent reports of the National Park Service's (NPS) selective enforcement of policy and regulations in the name of the First Amendment. Reminiscent of last year's lack of enforcement of camping in McPherson Square, the NPS justified special accommodations for a rally on the National Mall attended by Democratic Members of Congress based on First Amendment interpretations.¹ However, World War II veterans faced government barriers when attempting to visit a memorial commemorating their service.² I request that you send the legal analysis on which the NPS relied to deem this disparate treatment necessary.

In response to the government shutdown the NPS took unprecedented measures, closing open-air monuments, cancelling all special events permits, and padlocking playgrounds. Barricading citizens from public land freely accessible any other day is not required in the event of a shutdown.³ More troubling, however, is the NPS's choice to become an arbiter of what is constitutionally permissible speech rather than applying a content neutral policy and regulations equally and fairly to everyone.

Last year during the hearing entitled "McPherson Square: Who Made the Decision to Allow Indefinite Camping in the Park?" I clearly expressed my concern

¹ Alan Gomez, *Immigration Rally Allowed on Mall Despite Shutdown*, *USA Today* (Oct. 8, 2013), available at <http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/politics/2013/10/08/government-shutdown-immigration-rally/2942257/>.

² Allison Prang, *Veterans Storm WWII Memorial*, *WSJ* (Oct. 1, 2013), available at <http://blogs.wsj.com/washwire/2013/10/01/veterans-storm-wwii-memorial/>.

³ CRS report RL34680, *Shutdown of the Federal Government: Causes, Processes, and Effects*, (Sept. 25, 2013).

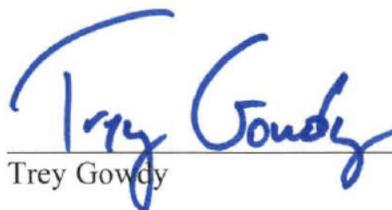
The Honorable Jonathan Jarvis

October 11, 2013

Page 2

regarding disparate enforcement by NPS in the name of the First Amendment. This statement applies as much now as it did then: "At the bottom of it all is the issue of fair and equal application of the law because from this vantage point, it appears that there are at least two very different sets of rules."⁴

Sincerely,



Trey Gowdy

⁴ *McPherson Square: Who made the decision to allow indefinite camping in the park? Hearing Before the S.Comm on Health Care, District of Columbia, Census and the National Archives, 112th Cong. (2012)* (statement of Trey Gowdy, Chairman).



United States Department of the Interior

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

IN REPLY REFER TO:

The Honorable Trey Gowdy
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Gowdy:

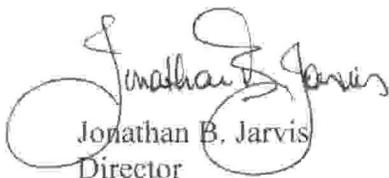
Thank you for your letter dated October 11, 2013, concerning First Amendment activities on the National Mall during the recent government shutdown. You wanted to know why there was disparate treatment of the veterans visiting the World War II Memorial and the participants in an immigration rally but, in fact, both groups were given the opportunity to exercise their First Amendment rights.

From October 1 through 16, 2013, the primary memorials on the National Mall were closed to general visitation due to the federal government shutdown. With the lapse in Congressional appropriations, the National Park Service (NPS) furloughed more than 300 employees of the National Mall and Memorial Parks (NAMA) who operate and maintain these memorials. While the NPS needed to limit public access to the memorials due to the lack of personnel needed when large numbers of visitors are present, we continued to provide opportunities for individuals and groups to exercise their First Amendment rights. Honor Flight veterans and their families and others were allowed to enter the memorials, despite the barricades, to exercise those rights.

Participants of the "CASA" immigration rally also had the right to exercise their First Amendment rights during the shutdown. They applied for and received a permit for First Amendment activities through the NAMA permit office. The CASA rally took place on the National Mall near 12th Street NW, in an area that was not barricaded since it was not the location of a major memorial.

The NPS takes a neutral position on the content associated with requests for First Amendment activities. We do not discriminate against or deny the right of assembly, provided that all permit conditions are met. The NPS is proud of our role in administering many of the sites that have been used by generations of Americans from all backgrounds to express their First Amendment rights. I appreciate your interest in First Amendment activities in the District of Columbia and I hope this helps to clarify the NPS's role in this matter.

Sincerely,


Jonathan B. Jarvis
Director

ANN KIRKPATRICK
1ST DISTRICT, ARIZONA

VETERANS' AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
SUBCOMMITTEES

RAISING MEMBER, OVERSIGHT AND INVESTIGATIONS
ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE
COMMITTEE
SUBCOMMITTEES

HIGHWAYS AND TRANSIT
WATER RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0301

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WASHINGTON, DC 20515
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FLAGSTAFF, AZ 86001

211 NORTH FLORENCE STREET #1
CASA GRANDE, AZ 85122

11555 WEST CIVIC CENTER DRIVE #104A
MARANA, AZ 85653

550 NORTH 9TH PLACE
SHOW LOW, AZ 85901

1406 EAST ASH
GLOBE, AZ 85501

October 22, 2013

Secretary Sally Jewell
Department of Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Secretary Jewell,

I am writing to express my gratitude to the Department of Interior for working diligently with the State of Arizona to reopen the Grand Canyon National Park throughout the government shutdown. As you may know, the Grand Canyon is a major economic driver in my district, attracting about 5 million visitors from around the world and generating \$467 million annually into our local economy.

I am pleased that my colleagues and I were able to reach a bipartisan agreement to reopen the government and resume paying our bills. In Sec. 116 of the Continuing Resolution legislation (H.R. 2775), states and other grantees that used their own funds to carry out a federal program or activity during the shutdown should be eligible for reimbursements. The State of Arizona contributed \$465,000 to reopen the Grand Canyon for five days, and I feel strongly that Arizona should be federally reimbursed for these costs.

I am asking that your office provide me with information on the process for reimbursing the State of Arizona and for resolving this matter expeditiously. This is a top priority for me and for the people of Arizona – especially those in the Northern Arizona communities of Flagstaff, Tusayan and Williams.

I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



ANN KIRKPATRICK

Member of Congress

EXERCISE OF THE
OFFICE OF THE
LEGISLATIVE SECRETARIAT

2013 OCT 22 PM 1:02

RECEIVED

527923



Howarth, Robert <robert_howarth@ios.doi.gov>

Fwd: Inquiry for Sec. Jewell

↑ message

Neimeyer, Sarah <sarah_neimeyer@ios.doi.gov>

Tue, Oct 22, 2013 at 12:51 PM

To: Fay Iudicello <fay_iudicello@ios.doi.gov>, Robert Howarth <robert_howarth@ios.doi.gov>, Christopher Salotti <chris_salotti@ios.doi.gov>, "Uriarte, Carlos" <carlos_uriarte@ios.doi.gov>, Donald Hellmann <don_hellmann@nps.gov>

Letter to SRJ.

—— Forwarded message ——

From: **Montoya, Ken** <Ken.Montoya@mail.house.gov>

Date: Tue, Oct 22, 2013 at 11:50 AM

Subject: Inquiry for Sec. Jewell

To: "Neimeyer, Sarah" <sarah_neimeyer@ios.doi.gov>

Attached is the letter about reimbursement process for Arizona.

Ken Montoya | Legislative Director

Office of Congresswoman Ann Kirkpatrick (AZ-01)

330 Cannon House Office Building | Washington D.C. | 202-225-3361

Connect with Rep. Kirkpatrick: Facebook | Twitter | E-newsletter

—
Sarah C. Neimeyer, Director
Office of Congressional and Legislative Affairs
Office of the Secretary
Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20240

Office - (202) 208-5557

Fax - (202) 208-5533

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361K



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20240

JAN 31 2014

The Honorable Bill Huizenga
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C 20515

Dear Mr. Huizenga:

Thank you for your letter dated October 9, 2013, seeking information related to the activities of the National Park Service (NPS) during the federal government shutdown due to a lapse in appropriations.

On October 1, 2013, the NPS, along with all other bureaus and offices of the Department of the Interior, began to implement a shutdown of our activities due to a lapse in appropriations. Under the Closure Determination and Notice (Closure Notice) I issued that day, the NPS closed and secured national park facilities and grounds and suspended all activities. Under the provisions of the federal Antideficiency Act, in the absence of an appropriation from Congress, the NPS is limited to expending federal funds on a specific set of activities related solely to the protection of life and property. Accordingly, the NPS closed all 401 national parks across the country and furloughed more than 20,000 employees. Approximately 3,000 employees were exempted from the furlough to perform the limited activities permissible under the Antideficiency Act.

During the shutdown, thousands of decisions had to be made simultaneously across the country about how to implement the Closure Notice at NPS sites in a manner consistent with the Antideficiency Act. As issues arose, leaders at every level of the NPS had to use their best judgment with little precedent or information, such as the potential duration of the shutdown or the broader impacts of their decisions. Once the shutdown started, the NPS started the process of evaluating whether any modifications or clarifications of the Closure Notice could be made consistent with the Antideficiency Act to reduce the impact of the shutdown on the American people.

During the shutdown, questions were raised about the implementation of the shutdown with respect to the monuments and memorials under the NPS's care on the National Mall, which is located in the unit of the National Park System known as the National Mall and Memorial Parks. As with all units of the National Park System nationwide, Congress has charged the NPS with the preservation and protection of this park unit's natural, historic, and cultural resources for the benefit of future generations. The NPS is committed to this mandate whether a particular park unit or area within a unit is administratively open or closed to the public. The decision to erect barriers around the open-air monuments and memorials on the National Mall was made to ensure the preservation and protection of these national treasures, consistent with the requirements of the Antideficiency Act.

On a normal day, approximately 300 NPS employees are on duty at the National Mall and Memorial Parks. The rangers are on site to provide eyes and ears for the U.S. Park Police and ensure the safekeeping of our national treasures, enhance the visitor experience by sharing some history about the memorials, keep the grounds and restrooms clean, maintain the landscape and fountains, and oversee special events that happen almost daily. All but a dozen of these employees were furloughed during the government shutdown. Even though U.S. Park Police commissioned officers were exempted from the furlough, the limited staff resources during the shutdown dictated that securing these icons was the necessary and prudent step to ensure the protection of life and property on the National Mall.

In managing these closures, the NPS sought to balance our legal requirements under the Antideficiency Act with the needs of our veterans who often visit the war memorials on the National Mall. Throughout the shutdown my team worked diligently to try to ensure that veterans, Honor Flight groups, and their families were not turned away from visiting our war memorials. The NPS is proud of the special relationship we share with America's veterans, and I am proud that we were able to develop a legal basis for accommodating these visits during the government shutdown.

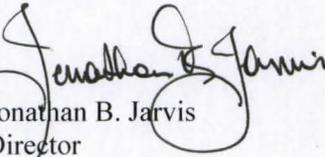
As you noted, the Contingency Plan for Operations in the Absence of FY 2014 Appropriations states that, "All concession operated services and facilities would be closed unless they are deemed essential for health and safety reasons, are needed to support on-going excepted NPS activities or are located in urban areas where full NPS law enforcement coverage is continued due to the inability to control visitor access." This statement clearly refers to concessioner-operated services and facilities. The very first sentence in the NPS section states that, "In the event of a lapse in appropriations, NPS would close and secure all park facilities."

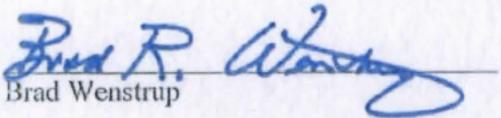
This closure did not apply to through roads in parks that provided primary access between points located outside of the parks, such as Rock Creek Parkway. Consistent with regulations and the terms of the applicable permits, contracts, and agreements, the Closure Notice suspended all permits to ensure that a violation of the Antideficiency Act would not occur. With the national closure in place, the NPS had some opportunities to examine specific issues that had arisen and determine whether modification or clarification of the national closure was appropriate where there would be no expenditure of federal funds in violation of the Antideficiency Act.

I will ensure that NPS leaders document the decisions we made and the lessons we learned during this shutdown. This process will improve the NPS's ability to manage a shutdown due to a lapse in appropriations, should one occur in the future.

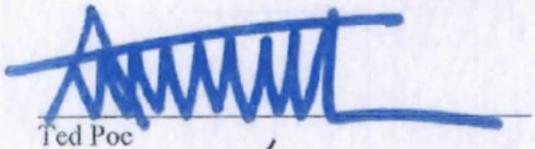
Identical letters are being sent to the other members who co-signed your letter.

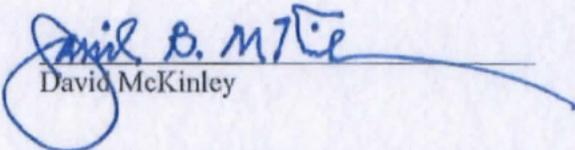
Sincerely,

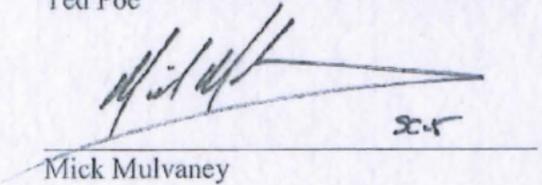

Jonathan B. Jarvis
Director


Brad Wenstrup

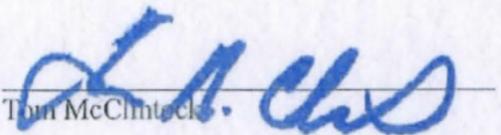

Trent Franks

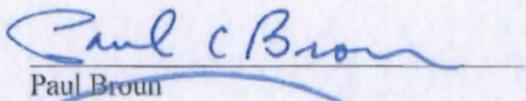

Ted Poe

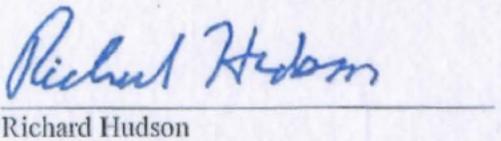

David McKinley

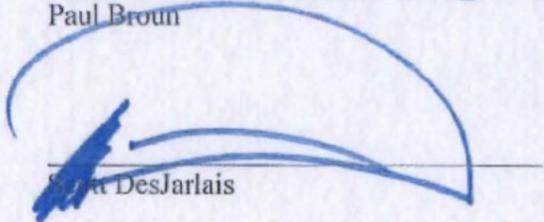

Mick Mulvaney

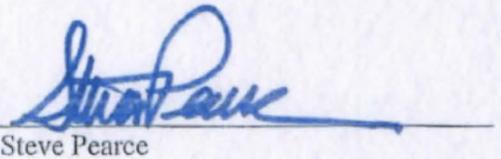

David Reichert

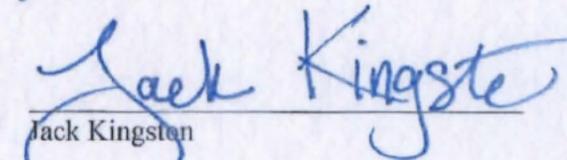

Tom McClintock

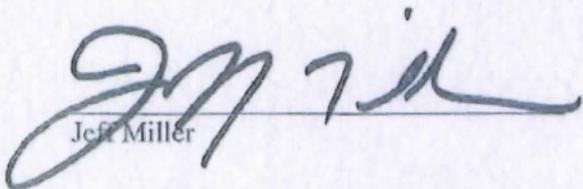

Paul Brown

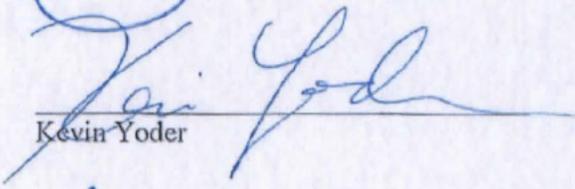

Richard Hudson


Scott DesJarlais

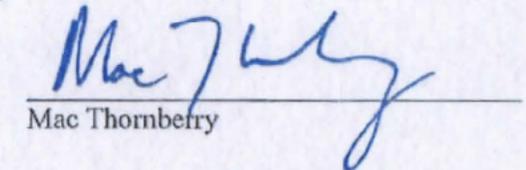

Steve Pearce

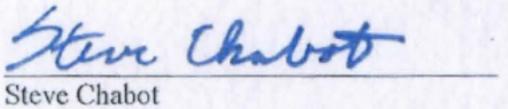

Jack Kingston

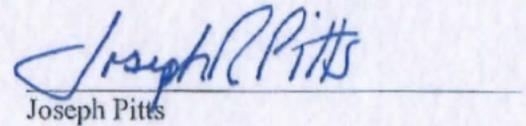

Jeff Miller

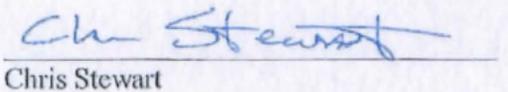

Kevin Yoder

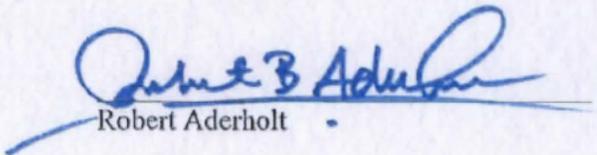

Tom Cotton

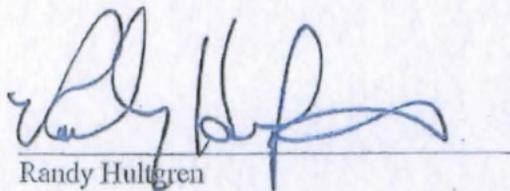

Mac Thornberry


Steve Chabot

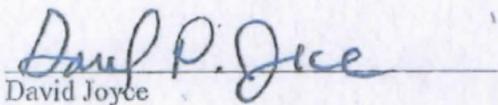

Joseph Pitts

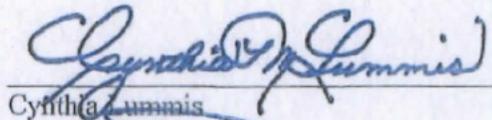

Chris Stewart

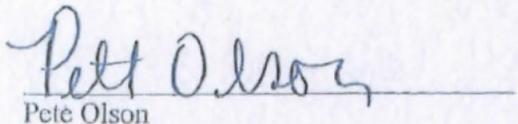

Robert Aderholt

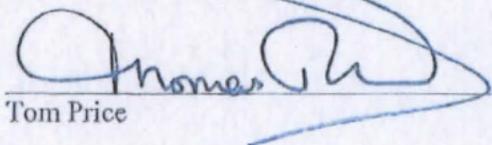

Randy Hultgren

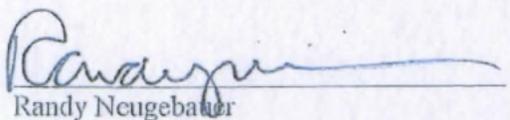

Bob Goodlatte

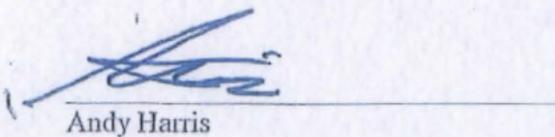

David Joyce

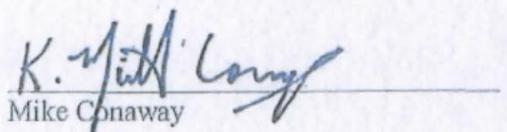

Cynthia Lummis

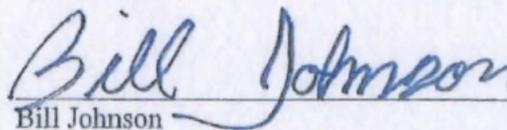

Pete Olson

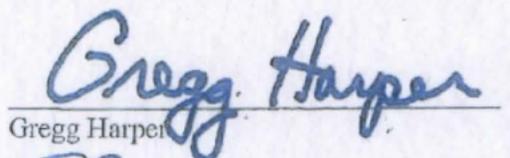

Tom Price

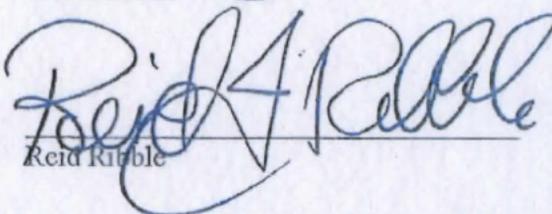

Randy Neugebauer

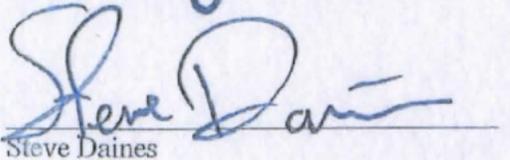

Andy Harris

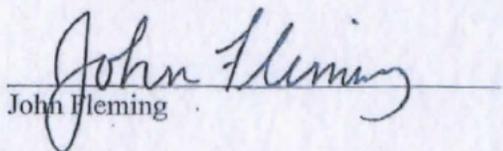

Mike Conaway

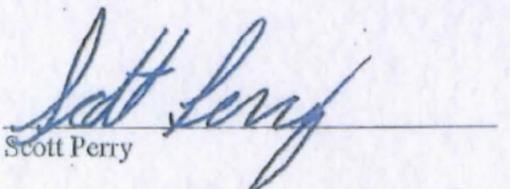

Bill Johnson

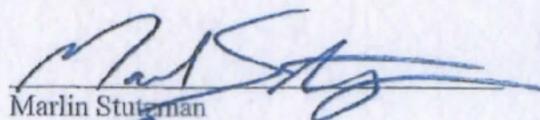

Gregg Harper

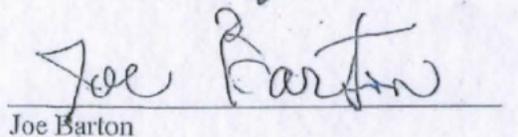

Reid Ribble

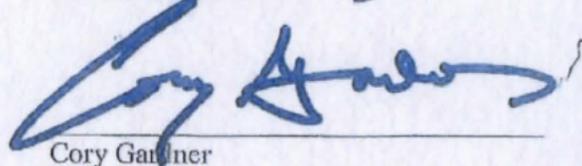

Steve Daines

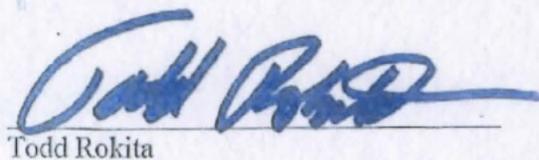

John Fleming

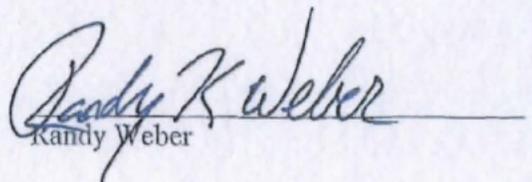

Scott Perry

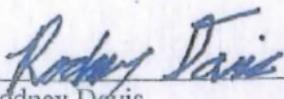

Marlin Stutzman

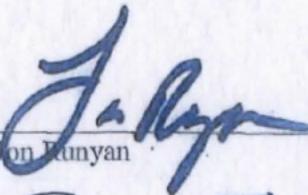

Joe Barton

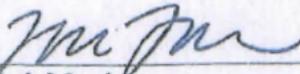

Cory Gardner

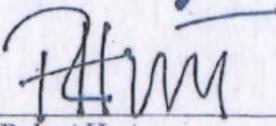

Todd Rokita

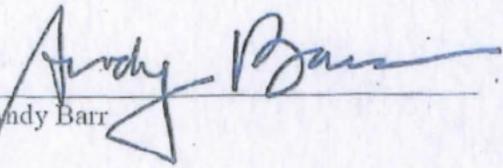

Randy Weber

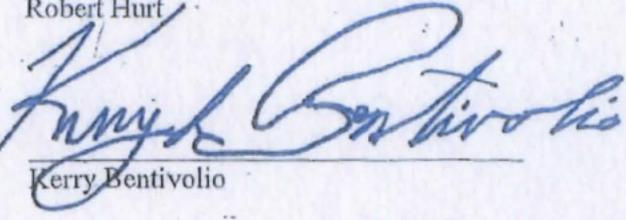

Rodney Davis


Jon Runyan


Mark Meadows


Robert Hurt


Andy Barr


Kerry Bentivolio

cc: Department of the Interior Secretary Sally Jewell

ANN KIRKPATRICK
1ST DISTRICT, ARIZONA

VETERANS' AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0301

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550 NORTH 9TH PLACE
SHOW LOW, AZ 85901
1400 EAST ASH
GLOBE, AZ 85501

DA
10/19

October 3, 2013

Director Jon Jarvis
USDOI National Park Service
49 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Director Jarvis,

I am writing in regards to the Arizona Game and Fish Department's offer to provide manpower and services at Lees Ferry in exchange for allowing access to the Colorado River during the shutdown of the federal government.

The closure of Glen Canyon National Recreation Area, caused by the shutdown of the federal government, is placing an inappropriate restriction on the public, keeping them from recreating on their public lands. Additionally, the financial effects of this closure are potentially devastating to the local economies and communities surrounding Glen Canyon National Recreation Area. Local businesses are being forced to turn away the visitors to Arizona who are the economic lifeblood of many of our small communities.

On October 1, the Arizona Game and Fish Commission met in a public session and voted to extend an offer to the National Park Service in which Game and Fish would establish a presence sufficient to maintain security on federal property and to federal assets at Lees Ferry for up to 30 days in exchange for allowing access through Lees Ferry to the Colorado River for fishing and hunting activities during the federal government shutdown.

I encourage you to contact the Game and Fish Department directly and begin the process of reestablishing access to the Colorado River for the public and accordingly restoring economic wellbeing to the local community.

Sincerely,



The Honorable Ann Kirkpatrick
U.S. Representative, Arizona District One



PAUL A. GOSAR, D.D.S.
FOURTH DISTRICT, ARIZONA

504 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515
(202) 225-2315

122 N. CORTEZ STREET, SUITE #104
PRESCOTT, AZ 86301
(928) 445-1683

270 E. HUNT HIGHWAY, SUITE #12
SAN TAN VALLEY, AZ 85143
(480) 882-2697

220 N. 4TH STREET
KINGMAN, AZ 86401
(928) 445-1683

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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0301

October 3, 2013

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT
AND GOVERNMENT REFORM

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HEALTH CARE AND ENTITLEMENTS

NATIONAL SECURITY

ECONOMIC GROWTH, JOB CREATION,
AND REGULATORY AFFAIRS

COMMITTEE ON
NATURAL RESOURCES

SUBCOMMITTEES

ENERGY AND MINERALS

INDIAN AND ALASKA NATIVE AFFAIRS
WATER AND POWER

DH
10/18



The Honorable Jonathan B. Jarvis
Director, National Park Service
The Department of Interior
1849 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Director Jarvis,

According to news reports published today, a National Park Service (NPS) spokesperson said that the White House Office of Management and Budget (OPM) had ordered your agency to take extraordinary steps, such as blockading public sidewalks and access roads to the national parks, national monuments, and other conservation and historical properties managed by the agency. That spokesperson suggested that these decisions were made in order to make the current lapse in appropriations as conspicuous and painful to the public as possible.

As part of that directive, it is my understanding that the NPS has blocked off the most popular input to the Colorado River, Lees Ferry. As a result, hundreds of would-be river rafters, fly fishermen and tourists are being turned away at the road downriver of the Glen Canyon Dam. This blockade ultimately results in an unnecessary loss of economic activity in Northern Arizona

I am writing to express my outrage with the National Park Service's politically motivated actions and urge you to instruct NPS employees to take all actions allowable under the law to alleviate any inconveniences to the general public.

This evening, the United State House of Representatives passed legislation, *H.J. Res. 70 – Open Our National Parks and Museum Act*, by a large bipartisan margin (252 to 173). It is my hope that the United States Senate will immediately take up this legislation, send it to the President, and immediately end the National Park Service's unnecessary restrictions on Lees Ferry and all of the national parks, national monuments, and other conservation and historical properties managed by the agency.

Unfortunately, Senate Majority Leader Reid has publicly stated he does not support this bill and President Barack Obama has explicably threatened to veto the bill. Given the President's and Leader Reid's refusal compromise and end the shut down, it is critical other arrangement are made to ensure sites like Lees Ferry remains operational.

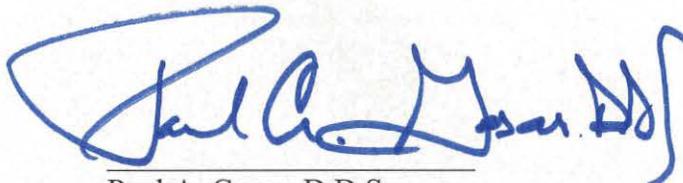
To that means, it is my understanding that the Arizona Game and Fish Commission met in a special public session on October 1st to discuss the challenges the federal government's shutdown policies are placing on lands and waters where lawful and hunting and fishing occur. At that session, the

Commission voted to extend an offer to the NPS for the Arizona Game and Fish Department to provide manpower and services to establish a presence sufficient to maintain security and restore access to the Lees Ferry area. This is a generous and common sense offer. It minimizes the public harm – a goal the agency should share.

The federal government relies on our game and fish department for a variety of support work and services throughout the year. They have proven for years that they are a reliable partner that effectively and efficiently manage public recreation on federal and state lands across our state. In fact, state and county law enforcement make up nearly 90 percent of the enforcement capability on federal land. I urge the National Park Service to take up the Commission's offer, ensuring fishing and hunting activities on the Colorado River continue during the federal government shutdown.

On behalf of the citizens in my district, I would like to thank you for your prompt consideration of this request. As always, we ask that this matter be handled in strict accordance with the existing agency rules, regulations, and ethical guidelines. Please do not hesitate to contact my Washington, D.C. or San Tan Valley, Arizona offices with any questions.

Sincerely,



Paul A. Gosar, D.D.S
Member of Congress

RANDY NEUGEBAUER

19TH DISTRICT, TEXAS

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DH
10/18

October 17, 2013

The Honorable Jonathan B. Jarvis
Director, National Park Service
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Director Jarvis,

Earlier this month, I visited the World War II Memorial and was disappointed to find that it was fenced off. While I was pleased to see that the memorial was being opened for Honor Flight veterans, I was upset when I saw individual veterans being barred from entering. I was caught up in the emotion of that moment; seeing our veterans denied access to the memorial built in their honor, and I expressed my frustration to a Park Ranger working at the memorial. I meant no disrespect to the Ranger on duty, but my tone was inappropriate. I regret how I handled that situation, and I would like to offer you my apologies.

While I do feel strongly about allowing our veterans access to the national memorials, I'm sorry for the way I spoke, not only because I put the Ranger on duty in an uncomfortable position, but also because my remarks were not an accurate reflection of the regard I have for the Park Service.

As an avid outdoorsman, I enjoy spending time in nature. So I appreciate all that you do to help preserve and maintain our country's open spaces. Thanks to the National Park Service, generations of Americans can enjoy our country's greatest natural wonders. Places like Yellowstone, Shenandoah, and the Grand Canyon remind us that the grandeur of America lies not only with our people, but also in the land we live on.

Public service is a calling, and I have the highest respect for all who choose a career that serves this country. The work isn't easy, and while we all love our country, we may not always agree on the best path forward. Debate and dissent is crucial to our democracy, but it should be done in a respectful manner. While that was my intent, I realize that it wasn't the outcome.

I had hoped to apologize directly to the Ranger I spoke to that day, but I respect her wish to remain anonymous. I hope you will accept my apology in her stead.

With sincere regards,


Randy Neugebauer





United States Department of the Interior

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

DEC 19 2013

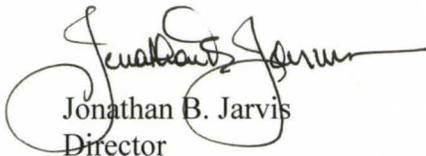
Honorable Randy Neugebauer
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Neugebauer:

Thank you for your letter of October 17, 2013, regarding your visit to the World War II Memorial and your concern for the National Park Service. We appreciate your apology. Your letter was shared with our ranger on the National Mall.

We are grateful for the support you mentioned in the letter. We hope you and your staff have a few moments over the holiday recess to enjoy one of the 401 amazing national park sites in this country.

Sincerely,



Jonathan B. Jarvis
Director

JAMES P. MORAN
8TH DISTRICT OF VIRGINIA

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October 3, 2013

The Honorable Jonathan P. Jarvis
Director
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington DC 20240

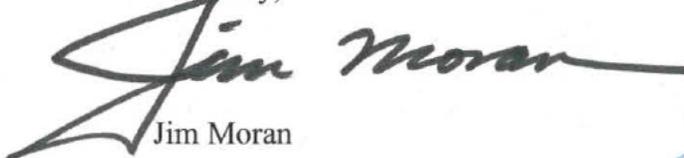
Dear Director Jarvis:

I was heartened to watch a National Park Service ranger maintain her composure and dignity when confronted by an angry Member of Congress who had the gall to fault her for doing her job. She courageously stood her ground and refused to bow to his intimidating and hypocritical actions.

No one in the Park Service should ever be ashamed for doing his or her job. And I know you are as proud of the men and women of the National Park Service as I am. Like their counterparts throughout the federal work force, they continue to serve our nation despite the uncertainty of being paid. They are the true heroes of this federal shutdown.

When this shutdown is viewed through the lense of history the fault will fall squarely on Congress and its outrageous abdication of responsibility. Please be assured that the bullying tactics will ultimately fail, and Congress will complete its work on the federal budget. I, and many of my colleagues, will do everything we can to reopen our government and fund it at a responsible level as soon as possible.

Sincerely,


Jim Moran



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U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Natural Resources
Washington, DC 20515

October 2, 2013

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PENNY DODGE
DEMOCRATIC STAFF DIRECTOR

DH
10/18

The Honorable Jonathan Jarvis
Director
National Park Service
1849 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Director Jarvis:

Through this letter, the Committee on Natural Resources ("Committee") requests that the National Park Service ("Park Service") take steps as necessary to keep and not destroy documents related to the decision this week to restrict public access to the National World War II Memorial, the Lincoln Memorial, the Korean Veterans Memorial, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial, and other open-air monuments, memorials, and parks in the Washington, D.C., region. The Committee expects to soon send a formal document request as a follow up to this letter.

The Committee is also considering conducting an oversight hearing in the near future to better understand the Park Service's closures, as well as the resources and staff time used to erect physical barriers to keep out veterans and other members of the American public from visiting these open-air sites. The World War II Memorial and other open-air sites are ordinarily accessible to visitors 24-hours a day, 365 days a year, and are normally staffed by Park Service rangers only from 9:30 am to 11:30 pm, with visitors able to tour the sites throughout the day and night. However, the Park Service has now determined these sites must be closed to all visitors at all times due to the lapse in appropriations.

In response to considerable public outcry against the decision to ban veterans and others from these sites, the Park Service today reversed course and announced it will permit certain veterans groups to visit and exercise their First Amendment rights at the World War II Memorial. It remains unclear whether other veterans groups and members of the public will be allowed to visit and exercise their First Amendment rights at the other open-air memorials and sites across the capital area that are currently closed. It is imperative that the Park Service remove the barriers and allow the American public to resume visiting these open-air memorials, monuments, and parks without further delay.

According to news reports earlier today, a Park Service spokesperson said the White House Office of Management and Budget ordered the Park Service to take such extraordinary steps as blockading public sidewalks and access roads around these memorials, suggesting the outrageous closure decision was made in order to make the current lapse in appropriations as conspicuous and painful to the public as possible.

The Park Service's earlier statements that such closures were necessary to protect the monuments and memorials and were required by law seem especially dubious given these reports and the Park Service's failure to take similar steps previously or at less visible Park Service sites in the capital area. For example, the Park Service did not close the Lincoln Memorial during the lapse in appropriations in 1996 and in 2011, protestors were allowed to take over and occupy Park Service sites in the District of Columbia, some of which were damaged at considerable taxpayer cost. Here, the Park Service's decision to barricade the open-air memorials from veterans and other Americans flies in the face of common sense, given their interest in visiting memorials that honor their service and sacrifice to the country.

Among the issues of most concern to the Committee are whether the Park Service discussed or considered alternatives to actively excluding the public from these open-air sites, including allowing access to previously scheduled visits by veterans groups; whether direction or guidance came from the Department of the Interior or the Office of Management and Budget to actively restrict public access to these sites; the staff time and costs associated with the transport, erection, and maintenance of the barriers, including whether the barriers are owned or rented by the Park Service; the staff time and costs associated with trash removal from these sites, including any differences between such costs and the costs related to installing and maintaining the barricades; the staff time and costs associated with patrolling and securing these sites prior to and during their closure; the cost to operate these sites during overnight hours; and law enforcement policies and actions concerning trespass on the National Mall and other open-air monuments, memorials and parks throughout the capital region.

It is expected that the Park Service will cooperate with the Committee's oversight by not destroying potentially responsive records and providing records to the Committee upon request.

Sincerely,



Doc Hastings
Chairman,
Committee on Natural Resources



Rob Bishop
Chairman,
Subcommittee on Public Lands
and Environmental Regulation