

STATEMENT OF KAREN TAYLOR-GOODRICH, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR, VISITOR AND RESOURCE PROTECTION, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BEFORE THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS, FORESTS, AND PUBLIC LANDS OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES CONCERNING H.R. 1143, A BILL TO AUTHORIZE THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR TO LEASE CERTAIN LANDS IN VIRGIN ISLANDS NATIONAL PARK, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

OCTOBER 30, 2007

Mr. Chairman, thank you for the opportunity to provide the Department of the Interior's views on H.R. 1143, a bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to lease certain lands in Virgin Islands National Park, and for other purposes.

The Department supports the general intent of H.R. 1143 and what it seeks to accomplish. However, we would like the opportunity to work with the Subcommittee to clarify the terms and conditions of the lease and when the lease would take effect.

H.R. 1143 would allow the Secretary of the Interior to enter into a lease with the current holder of a retained use estate at Virgin Islands National Park for the Caneel Bay property, which is currently operated as a luxury resort, after the termination of the retained use estate and donation of all improvements to the National Park Service (NPS).

Without H.R. 1143 the NPS does not have the authority to enter into a lease, in accordance with 36 CFR §18, Leasing of Properties in Park Areas, without issuing a Request for Bids or a Request for Proposals. A noncompetitive lease could only be issued under two circumstances – by issuing the lease to a nonprofit organization or unit of government, or by entering into a short-term, 60-day or less lease, neither of which would apply in this case.

Caneel Bay Resort is one of two large resorts on the island of St. John. The resort is located on a 150-acre peninsula on the northwest side of the island of St. John and caters to an upscale clientele that stays an average of 6 nights and 7 days. The resort has approximately 425 to 450 employees and serves as one of the primary economic engines for the U.S. Virgin Islands. A large number of employees travel daily to St. John from their residences on neighboring St. Thomas. The resort is also an Economic Development Center beneficiary and, as such, receives various tax exemptions from the Government of the Virgin Islands.

The resort was established in 1956 by Laurance S. Rockefeller and the Jackson Hole Preserve. In 1983, Jackson Hole Preserve donated the land at Caneel Bay to the United States Government for inclusion within Virgin Islands National Park and reserved the right to continue its operations under a retained use estate. Jackson Hole Preserve did not convey the improvements on the land to the United States at that time. The reserved use estate is scheduled to expire on September 30, 2023. The warranty deed stipulates that when the retained use estate terminates, the owner of the retained use estate must donate the buildings and other improvements to the NPS.

Enactment of H.R. 1143 would allow the current holder of the retained use estate to negotiate a long-term lease with the NPS that could extend the Caneel Bay Resort operation well beyond the year 2023. Such an extension could allow the leaseholder to secure financing and undertake other long-term operational measures that might not be possible under the provisions of the current retained use estate.

The NPS has evaluated various options for the future use and management of the Caneel Bay property. Based upon a value analysis, we determined that the continued future operation of Caneel Bay as a resort under a lease would provide the greatest advantage to the NPS and the U.S. Virgin Islands. A lease could provide economic and administrative benefits to the NPS and the lessee that are not available or not as viable as under a retained use estate or a concession contract, two of the other options that were examined.

Any lease agreement would have to address the continued protection, preservation, and restoration of the property's structures, many of which are more than 50 years old and may be National Register eligible. The lease agreement would also have to determine the fair market value of the property, any constraints on development of property during the term of the lease, and the ability to transfer the lease in the future. Also, when the current retained use estate was finalized there were three small properties that are integral to the operation of the Caneel Bay resort that were not included. We would like to include these properties under the terms of the lease. Finally, H.R. 1143 may need to be amended to clarify the intent of the bill regarding when the current retained use estate would expire and when the new lease would begin. We will be happy to work with the Subcommittee to develop these amendments.

Mr. Chairman, this concludes my prepared remarks. I would be pleased to answer any questions you or other members of the Subcommittee may have.

**STATEMENT OF KAREN TAYLOR-GOODRICH, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR,
VISITOR AND RESOURCE PROTECTION, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE,
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR BEFORE THE HOUSE SUBCOMMITTEE
ON NATIONAL PARKS, FORESTS AND PUBLIC LANDS, COMMITTEE ON
NATURAL RESOURCES, REGARDING H.R. 1286, A BILL TO AMEND THE
NATIONAL TRAILS SYSTEM ACT TO DESIGNATE THE WASHINGTON-
ROCHAMBEAU REVOLUTIONARY ROUTE NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL.**

OCTOBER 30, 2007

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to appear before you to provide the Department of the Interior's views on H.R. 1286, a bill to designate the Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route as a national historic trail.

The Department supports enactment of this bill.

The study report on the Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route has preliminarily concluded that the trail meets the criteria for designation as a national historic trail. The study report received widespread public support during the public comment period, which closed in May 2007. Although we normally prefer to transmit the final study to Congress before taking a formal position on designation, the study's central recommendation is unlikely to change this late in the process. We expect to transmit the study next year.

H.R. 1286 would amend the National Trails System Act to designate the Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route National Historic Trail across nine states and the District of Columbia. The trail would be administered by the Secretary of the Interior in

consultation with other Federal, State, tribal, regional, and local agencies, and the private sector.

The Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route spans over 600 miles from Newport, Rhode Island where French forces under the command of Jean Baptiste Donatien de Viemeur, comte de Rochambeau landed in July 1780, to Yorktown, Virginia where with General George Washington and Continental Army forces, the combined armies forced the surrender of the British Army under General Charles Lord Cornwallis. Historians regard this cooperative endeavor resulting in the Yorktown surrender as one of the most decisive events in bringing the American Revolution to a successful conclusion. It initiated and has had the long-lasting effect of our continued friendship with the people of France.

After wintering in Newport, Rochambeau's army marched through Rhode Island and Connecticut and joined Washington's army in Phillipsburg, New York. Foregoing an idea to attack New York City, the two generals devised a southern march. In August through September, the armies traversed New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, the future District of Columbia, and Virginia, reaching Williamsburg in late September. A French fleet under Admiral DeGrasse blocked the Chesapeake Bay from British entry and the possible escape of British troops at Yorktown. On October 19, 1781, Cornwallis surrendered his forces to those who had suffered the hardships of rebellion and their allies, and ultimately forged the birth of a nation.

In the summer of 1782, Rochambeau's army marched north to Boston and the bulk of his troops sailed to France on Christmas Eve of that year. In this crucial march south and then victoriously north after Yorktown, American and French troops were warmly greeted and celebrated by the populace. In all, nine future states and the future District of Columbia comprised portions of the route and supported the march, providing ports, roads, campsites, officers' lodging, food provisions and supplies.

The extant resources associated with the marches of 1781 and 1782 are well-documented. Comprehensive historical and architectural surveys have identified 750 known resources directly related to the route and many more in adjacent locations. Many resources found along the Revolutionary Route are National Historic Landmarks or sites listed on the National Register of Historic Places. They include campsites and bivouacs; historic road segments and landscapes; numerous buildings used for accommodations of the troops and meetings; archeological resources; tombstones and grave markers; and, abundant plaques, tablets and statues marking the passage of those, both French and American, who marched to secure a nation's beginning.

The proposed trail links units of the National Park System, national heritage areas, and related resources administered by States, local governments and private organizations that commemorate the nation's struggle for independence. As one traverses the Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route, the places that ring of our nation's revolutionary past come into view from Newport to Hartford; Peekskill to Morristown,

Princeton, and Trenton; Philadelphia and Valley Forge to Wilmington and Baltimore; and Mt. Vernon to Williamsburg and Yorktown.

H.R. 1286, if enacted, would provide for administration of the Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route National Historic Trail by the Secretary of the Interior and, in accordance with provisions of the National Trails System Act, provide for the establishment of a trail advisory council. The Secretary would also consult with Federal agencies, State and local governments and private organizations to develop a comprehensive plan for the trail.

Our experience during the course of the study for the trail has indicated that there is widespread support for designation among affected State and local governments and the many private organizations that participated in our public meetings and closely followed the progress of the study. For example, during the study process a new nine-State nonprofit 501(c)(3) partnership group, the National Washington Rochambeau Revolutionary Route Association, was formed to support designation of the trail and education of the public on the Revolutionary War. This group could be a key partner in the preservation and interpretation of the route if the trail is designated. We believe that this trail, if designated, will be characterized by significant continued participation by the many governments and organizations along the route.

This concludes my prepared remarks, Mr. Chairman. I will be happy to answer any questions you or other committee members may have regarding this bill.

**STATEMENT OF KAREN TAYLOR-GOODRICH, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR,
VISITOR AND RESOURCE PROTECTION, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, U.S.
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BEFORE THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON
NATIONAL PARKS, FORESTS AND PUBLIC LANDS OF THE HOUSE
COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES, CONCERNING H.R. 1545, TO
DIRECT THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR TO CONDUCT A BOUNDARY
STUDY TO EVALUATE THE SIGNIFICANCE OF FORT SAN GERONIMO
AND OTHER RELATED RESOURCES IN THE COMMONWEALTH OF
PUERTO RICO AND THE SUITABILITY AND FEASIBILITY OF THEIR
INCLUSION IN THE NATIONAL PARK SYSTEM AS PART OF THE SAN
JUAN NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**

OCTOBER 30, 2007

Mr. Chairman, thank you for the opportunity to provide the Department of the Interior's views on H.R. 1545, a bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a boundary study to evaluate the significance of Fort San Geronimo and other related resources in the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico and the suitability and feasibility of their inclusion in the National Park System as part of the San Juan National Historic Site, and for other purposes.

The Department supports H.R. 1545, with an amendment as stated in this testimony. However, the Department feels that priority should be given to the 35 previously authorized studies for potential units of the National Park System, potential new National Heritage Areas, and potential additions to the National Trails System and National Wild and Scenic River System that have not yet been transmitted to the Congress.

Studies of this type typically take approximately three years to complete after funds are made available. We estimate the cost for this study to be approximately \$250,000.

H.R. 1545 would authorize the Secretary of the Interior (Secretary), in coordination with the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, local governments, and other interested parties, to conduct a boundary study to evaluate the significance of Fort San Geronimo, as well as the suitability and feasibility of including the fort and related resources within the National Park System as a part of San Juan National Historic Site. The study would be required to be completed within one year after funds are made available.

San Juan National Historic Site includes forts San Cristóbal, San Felipe del Morro, and San Juan de la Cruz also called El Cañuelo, plus bastions, powder houses, and three fourths of the city wall. These historic forts were built by Spanish troops beginning in 1539 and they surround the old, colonial portion of San Juan, Puerto Rico.

Several sections of the original Spanish fortification system were not included in San Juan National Historic Site. These sections include the South Wall, Fort San Gerónimo, the Escambrón Battery, the remains of the First Line of Defense, and the Tajamar Battery. Also, a section of the El Morro grounds, referred to as Parcel B, was transferred to the Commonwealth and the park currently manages it, but does not own it.

Fort San Gerónimo is not part of the San Juan National Historic Site and it is the only one of the four forts in the original fortification system that is not included. The U.S. Army transferred title of Fort San Gerónimo and adjacent land to the Navy Department in 1921

and the Navy transferred the Fort to the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico in 1957. The fort is located adjacent to the Caribe Hilton Hotel and it has been used as the site of special functions and events. The Institute of Puerto Rican Culture is the agency with primary jurisdiction over the fort.

We recommend that the bill be amended to direct the Secretary to complete the study within three years after funds are made available. This would make the bill consistent with other, similar study bills.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes my testimony. I would be pleased to answer any questions you or the other members of the subcommittee may have.

STATEMENT OF KAREN TAYLOR-GOODRICH, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR, VISITOR AND RESOURCE PROTECTION, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BEFORE THE HOUSE SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS, FORESTS AND PUBLIC LANDS, COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES, CONCERNING H.R. 1836, TO AMEND THE ACQUISITION AUTHORITY FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF VISITOR AND ADMINISTRATIVE FACILITIES AT WEIR FARM NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE IN THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT.

OCTOBER 30, 2007

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today to present the Department of the Interior's views on H.R. 1836, a bill to amend the Weir Farm National Historic Site Establishment Act of 1990, and for other purposes.

The Department supports H.R. 1836.

H.R. 1836 would amend the Weir Farm National Historic Site Establishment Act of 1990 (as amended by Public Law 105-363) to expand the geographic area in which the park could acquire up to 15 acres to develop visitor and administrative facilities. Public Law 105-363 required that the acquisition be "in close proximity or contiguous to the park." Furthermore, by requiring a planning agreement with the towns of Ridgefield and Wilton, Connecticut before building a facility, Public Law 105-363 appears to authorize land acquisition only within these two towns.

H.R. 1836 would expand the National Park Service's authority so that it can consider the acquisition of property in all of Fairfield County, Connecticut, including a building in nearby Redding, Connecticut, that the park has leased for over 13 years for park curatorial and maintenance functions. This expanded authority would reduce the cost of building support facilities and would address concerns that local towns have expressed about the location of administrative facilities in residential neighborhoods.

Weir Farm National Historic Site was established on October 31, 1990 to preserve the historic structures and landscapes associated with American Impressionist artist Julian Alden Weir. The park's authorizing legislation identifies one of the park's purposes as "to maintain the integrity of a setting that inspired artistic expression." In keeping with this purpose, the park's 1995 General Management Plan determined that all administrative and operational support functions should be located in off-site facilities. In 1998, Public Law 105-363 authorized a boundary expansion of up to 15 acres, and in 2000, the National Park Service purchased nine acres in the town of Ridgefield, Connecticut under this authority.

Public Law 105-363 required the National Park Service to enter into agreement with the towns of Ridgefield and Wilton, Connecticut, prior to building a facility. During discussions, concerns were raised about locating a 10,000 square foot facility in a residential neighborhood. In addition, cost estimates for building a facility on the newly acquired property had increased from \$3.4 million to \$5.9 million.

To address local concerns and rising costs, the National Park Service would like to consider alternative sites, including space at the Georgetown Wire Mill (Mill), a 55-acre brownfield development site listed on the National Register of Historic Places and located less than 2 miles from the park, in the town of Redding, Connecticut. Currently, the park leases 5,000 square feet of curatorial and maintenance space at the Mill. S. 1247 would allow the park to acquire 12,000 square feet of finished space at the Wire Mill in exchange for all or part of the nine acres acquired by the park in Ridgefield, Connecticut. This acquisition would reduce construction,

operating, and maintenance costs for the park. Since the National Park Service would use all or part of the nine acres currently owned to exchange for the space at Georgetown Wire Mill, no acquisition funds are required. If appraisals indicate that the Georgetown Land Corporation (Corporation) building exceeds the value of the National Park Service land, the Corporation has agreed to donate the difference to the National Park Service.

Environmental sustainability would be another benefit of the Mill site. Within the next two years, the Mill is expected to be certified as a Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) village center with residential and commercial services and subsidies for artist housing.

Mr. Chairman, this concludes my testimony. I would be happy to answer any questions you or other members of the subcommittee might have.

STATEMENT OF KAREN TAYLOR-GOODRICH, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR FOR VISITOR AND RESOURCE PROTECTION, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BEFORE THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS, FORESTS, AND PUBLIC LANDS OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES CONCERNING H.R. 3022, A BILL TO DESIGNATE THE JOHN KREBS WILDERNESS IN THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA, TO ADD CERTAIN LAND TO THE SEQUOIA-KINGS CANYON NATIONAL PARK WILDERNESS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

October 30, 2007

Mr. Chairman, thank you for the opportunity to appear before you to present the views of the Department of the Interior on H.R. 3022, a bill to designate the John Krebs Wilderness in the State of California, to add certain land to the Sequoia-Kings Canyon National Park Wilderness, and for other purposes.

The Department supports H.R. 3022 if amended in accordance with this statement. This legislation would designate additional wilderness areas in Sequoia National Park and Kings Canyon National Park, and would name one of the new wilderness areas after John Krebs, a former Member of Congress. While we believe these designations are appropriate, we would like to work with the committee on amendments that would address concerns raised by some of the specific provisions in the bill.

Sequoia National Park, established in 1890, and Kings Canyon National Park, established in 1940, have been administered jointly since 1943. The California Wilderness Act of 1984 designated about 723,000 acres in the two parks, or 84 percent of the land base, as the Sequoia-Kings Canyon Wilderness. H.R. 3022 would designate as wilderness virtually all the remaining land in the two parks that is appropriate for that designation, adding about 114,488 acres. With

this legislation, about 97 percent of the land base of the two parks would be designated as wilderness.

The area that the bill proposes as the John Krebs Wilderness consists of the Hockett Plateau and Mineral King areas of Sequoia National Park, and totals about 69,343 acres. The other area, which would add 45,145 acres to the existing Sequoia-Kings Canyon Wilderness, consists of lands in and around the North Fork of the Kaweah River in Sequoia National Park and the Redwood Canyon/Chimney Rock area of Kings Canyon National Park. The lands other than Mineral King and Chimney Rock underwent formal wilderness studies in the early 1970's and are recommended by the National Park Service for wilderness designation. The Mineral King and Chimney Rock areas underwent wilderness eligibility assessments in 2003 and both were found to have characteristics which support their designation as wilderness.

The Hockett Plateau protects vast rolling forests of lodgepole pine surrounding spectacular sub-alpine meadows, and is a favorite destination for equestrians, backpackers, and anglers. This area, which has been part of Sequoia National Park since the park was established in 1890, includes the route of the old Hockett trail that was one of the first trans-mountain routes in the southern Sierra Nevada and is popular with hikers, fishermen, equestrians and backpackers. The Mineral King portion includes much of Mineral King Valley, a striking and spectacular example of sub-alpine and alpine environments unlike any other in the Sierra Nevada. Together, these areas contain one of the most significant alpine karst regions in the United States. The area is rich in marble geologic formations with over 70 known caves, and includes at least 17 invertebrate cave species present only in these parks.

The North Fork Kaweah area includes extensive lower- and mid-elevation vegetation communities that are rarely represented in Sierra Nevada wilderness areas. The area contains foothill oak woodland, chaparral, and low-elevation hardwood and conifer forest types. The river is an exemplary foothill river with beautiful pools, riparian borders, and is rich in wildlife including western pond turtle, bear, and mountain lion. The Redwood Canyon area includes all or part of eight Giant Sequoia groves including the Redwood Mountain Grove, the largest Giant Sequoia grove inside Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks. The area is also rich in marble geologic formations and includes over 75 known caves, including the longest cave in California with over 21 miles of surveyed passage. Chimney Rock is a scenic granite outcrop that serves as a nesting area for peregrine falcons, and as a popular destination for area rock climbers.

We believe it is appropriate to name the Hockett Plateau and Mineral King area as the John Krebs Wilderness. The National Park Service considers it a high honor to be permanently commemorated in a national park and seeks to reserve this honor for cases where there is a compelling justification for such recognition, as there is here. Mr. John H. Krebs, who immigrated to the United States in 1946 and obtained his citizenship in 1954, served on the planning commission and the board of supervisors for Fresno County through the 1960's and 1970's and in the U.S. House of Representatives from 1975-1979. In 1978, he secured passage of legislation that transferred management of the beautiful Mineral King Valley to the National Park Service. The Valley at that time was slated for development as a downhill ski area, and he led a hard-fought battle to assure the long-term protection of this very special place as a natural area. Mr. Krebs currently resides in Fresno.

We recommend several changes to H.R. 3022 to ensure that the National Park Service is able to manage the lands the bill would designate as wilderness consistent with the Wilderness Act of 1964 and the California Wilderness Act of 1984, as explained below.

First, we recommend that the bill provide for the treatment of roads and development in wilderness that conforms to the standard practice used in other wilderness legislation. That would require revising two of the bill's referenced maps, John Krebs Wilderness Proposal-Hockett Plateau/Mineral King," July 2007, and "John Krebs Wilderness Proposal-Enlargement of Mineral King Area," May 2007, in their depiction of check dams and in the wilderness boundary delineated for Mineral King Road and cabins along the road.

The broader map (July 2007) shows the exclusion of four check dams located in the Hockett Plateau/Mineral King area from wilderness designation. We recommend that the dams be designated as potential wilderness additions rather than be set aside as exclusions. This would allow Southern California Edison, the operator, to continue its hydroelectric power operation as long as it wants. However, in the event that the operator of the dams ceases to operate them in the future, the National Park Service would have the option to convert the area to wilderness through administrative action. The designation of "potential wilderness addition" has been used in the existing Sequoia-Kings Canyon Wilderness and in other wilderness areas in similar cases of non-conforming uses.

The two maps also show a “cherry-stem” of Mineral King Road, a relatively quiet, 1½ lane-wide road, with a boundary at up to one-half mile (2,640 ft.) from center line of road and from one-quarter to one-half of a mile from cabin developments. The National Park Service and other wilderness land management agencies primarily use a road corridor exclusion area of 100 feet off both sides of the center line of a road for major roads, and from 100 to 200 feet away from existing developments. The standard road corridor exclusion is recognizable on the ground and provides for consistent, effective management. It is also the boundary delineation guidance that Congress provided in committee report language (House Report 98-40) for the Generals Highway, a busy, two-lane-wide paved road, when the Sequoia-Kings Canyon Wilderness was established as part of the California Wilderness Act of 1984.

Second, Section 4(c)(1) of H.R. 3022 states that if nonmotorized access is not available or time is of the essence, nothing in the Act prevents limited motorized access to hydrologic, meteorologic, or climatological devices or facilities. The existing Sequoia-Kings Canyon Wilderness addresses maintenance and access to these types of devices consistent with House Report 98-40. This committee report language states that, “Modifications, relocations, adjustments and maintenance of these devices are therefore acceptable, but it should remain an objective to minimize any adverse impact of these devices upon wilderness resources where possible, especially as improved technology (e.g. miniaturization) and other factors permit.” We recommend that, rather than including the language of Section 4(c)(1), in the bill, the National Park Service be given direction to continue managing maintenance and access to these devices and facilities consistent with the House Report 98-40, allowing current practice to continue throughout both the previously designated wilderness areas and the new wilderness areas designated by this bill.

Third, Section 4(c)(2) states that nothing in the Act precludes the use of helicopters for inspection or surveillance of utility facilities in the vicinity of an area designated as wilderness by this Act. We recommend that this section be struck, as it is unnecessary. The use of helicopters in the vicinity of designated wilderness is permitted currently, when conditions warrant, as a means of access for inspection and maintenance of hydrometeorological facilities, pursuant to the minimum requirement provision of the Wilderness Act and also as provided in House Report 98-40.

Fourth, Section 4(d)(2) states that nonwilderness activities outside of designated wilderness shall not be precluded because they can be seen or heard within the wilderness. We are concerned that this section could affect the National Park Service's ability to protect the designated wilderness. Exempting activities outside wilderness could affect the National Park Service's ability to address noise, pollutants, or other undesirable effects on wilderness that come from outside the parks. We recommend that this section be removed from the bill.

Fifth, Section 4(e) states that nothing in the Act precludes horseback riding in, or the entry of recreational commercial saddle or pack stock into an area that would be designated as wilderness under this bill. The bill as drafted would lead to management conflict by setting different standards for the previously designated wilderness areas and for the new wilderness areas that would be designated by this bill. The parks have long recognized and documented that the use of pack and saddle stock is an appropriate and historically accepted recreational activity in wilderness. The acceptance of this use has been reaffirmed in the parks' 2006 General

Management Plan, which is in the final stages of approval. We recommend that Section 4(e) be removed.

Finally, as technical matters, we recommend that H.R. 3022 be redrafted as an amendment to the California Wilderness Act of 1984 (P.L. 98-425), that the bill refer to the “Sequoia-Kings Canyon Wilderness,” the name of the existing wilderness area given by that act, and that the maps referenced by the bill include map numbers in addition to titles and dates as is standard practice for legislative maps. We would be happy to work with the committee on these revisions.

Mr. Chairman, this concludes my statement. I would be happy to answer any questions that you may have.

**STATEMENT OF KAREN TAYLOR-GOODRICH, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR,
VISITOR AND RESOURCE PROTECTION, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, U.S.
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BEFORE THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON
NATIONAL PARKS, FORESTS AND PUBLIC LANDS OF THE HOUSE
COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES, CONCERNING H.R. 3120, TO
AUTHORIZE THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR TO CONDUCT A
SPECIAL RESOURCE STUDY OF THE STRANAHAN HOUSE IN BROWARD
COUNTY, FLORIDA, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**

OCTOBER 30, 2007

Mr. Chairman, thank you for the opportunity to provide the Department of the Interior's views on H.R. 3120, a bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study of the Stranahan House in Broward County, Florida, and for other purposes.

The Department opposes H.R. 3120. The Stranahan House is a fine example of an early Florida pioneer homestead. As the oldest home in what became Fort Lauderdale, Florida, the house has significance to the early history and development of South Florida.

However, the house shares the same characteristics of many other homes, in Florida and elsewhere, that were some of the first homes built in a particular part of the country.

Also, with no other National Park System units in close proximity to the house, management and operation of the structure by the National Park Service would be costly and in this time of tight budgets and a refocusing on the core mission of the National Park Service, we believe that available funding should be directed toward operation of existing units and completing 35 previously authorized studies.

H.R. 3120 would authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study of the Stranahan House, and adjacent property, in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. The study would be required to be completed within three years after funds are made available.

The Stranahan House was originally built by Frank Stranahan in 1901, as a trading post, in what became Fort Lauderdale, Florida. Built at the location of Stranahan's ferry across the New River on the road to North Miami, the building quickly became a post office, community center, and town hall.

Frank Stranahan became Fort Lauderdale's first postmaster, a banker, and businessman. He married another early resident of the area, Ivy Cromartie and in 1906 the house became their personal residence. Mrs. Stranahan continued to live in the house until her death in 1971. In 1973, the house was listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The house is operated as a museum depicting the 1913-1915 period by the Stranahan House Inc., a private non-profit organization and we believe that management and operation of the house by this organization is appropriate.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes my testimony. I would be pleased to answer any questions you or the other members of the subcommittee may have.

STATEMENT OF KAREN TAYLOR-GOODRICH, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR FOR VISITOR AND RESOURCE PROTECTION, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BEFORE THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS, FORESTS, AND PUBLIC LANDS OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES, CONCERNING H.R. 3265, TO AUTHORIZE THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR TO CONDUCT A SPECIAL RESOURCE STUDY OF THE HARRY S TRUMAN BIRTHPLACE STATE HISTORIC SITE IN LAMAR, MISSOURI

October 30, 2007

Mr. Chairman, thank you for the opportunity to present the views of the Department of the Interior on H.R. 3265, a bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study to determine the suitability and feasibility of including the Harry S Truman Birthplace State Historic Site in Lamar, Missouri, as part of Harry S Truman National Historic Site or as a separate unit of the National Park System.

The Department does not object to the enactment of H.R. 3265. However, we believe that priority should be given to the 35 previously authorized studies for potential units of the National Park System, potential new National Heritage Areas, and potential additions to the National Trails System and National Wild and Scenic River System that have not yet been transmitted to the Congress.

H.R. 3265 authorizes the Secretary to conduct a special resource study of the Harry S Truman Birthplace State Historic Site, which would provide alternatives for the appropriate way to preserve, to protect, and to interpret these sites and resources in consultation with other Federal, State, or local governmental entities, private and nonprofit organizations or any other interested individuals. Those alternatives would examine whether the area could be included as a new unit

of the National Park System, as part of the Harry S Truman National Historic Site, or determine if the Federal government is the most appropriate entity to manage the site. The study also would identify the costs associated with the acquisition, development, interpretation, operation, and maintenance associated with the alternatives. Studies of this type take approximately three years to complete after funds are made available. We estimate the cost to complete the study would be approximately \$250,000 to \$300,000.

President Harry S Truman was born in the small, white frame house in Lamar, Missouri on May 8, 1884. The Truman family lived there until March 3, 1885 and then sold the property and moved to Harrisonville when Harry was approximately 11 months old. The site was purchased by the United Auto Workers of America in 1957 and given to the people of Missouri. The house has been restored and redecorated to reflect the time period when the Trumans occupied the residence. President Truman last visited the site on April 19, 1959, the day the site was dedicated and officially opened to the public. The birthplace is currently a State Historic Site operated and maintained by the Division of Parks and Recreation of the State of Missouri. Besides the house, there is a woodshed, or smokehouse, a hand-dug, 36-foot deep cistern, and a privy in the back on the site. There is also an information station and sales outlet facility at the site.

The Harry S Truman National Historic Site operates two units, the Truman Home in Independence and the Truman Farm Home in Grandview, from the operational center in Independence. The birthplace site in Lamar is approximately 120 miles one way from the national historic site in Independence. Mr. Truman's birth in Lamar is currently being included

in interpretive programs at both the Truman Home and the Truman Farm Home as part of the larger Truman story.

That concludes my testimony. I would be happy to answer any questions you or other members of the subcommittee may have.

STATEMENT OF KAREN TAYLOR-GOODRICH, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR FOR VISITOR AND RESOURCE PROTECTION, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BEFORE THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS, FORESTS, AND PUBLIC LANDS, OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES, CONCERNING H.R. 3616, TO AUTHORIZE THE SECRETARY OF INTERIOR TO CONDUCT A STUDY TO DETERMINE THE SUITABILITY AND FEASIBILITY OF EXTENDING THE LEWIS AND CLARK NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL TO INCLUDE ADDITIONAL SITES ASSOCIATED WITH THE PREPARATION AND RETURN PHASES OF THE EXPEDITION

October 30, 2007

Mr. Chairman and members of the subcommittee, thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today to present the Department of the Interior's views on H.R. 3616, a bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study to determine the suitability and feasibility of extending the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail to include additional sites associated with the preparation and return phases of the expedition.

While the Department has some concerns about the need for the study, we do not object to the enactment of H.R. 3616. However, we believe that priority should be given to the 35 previously authorized studies for potential units of the National Park System, potential new National Heritage Areas, and potential additions to the National Trails System and National Wild and Scenic River System that have not yet been transmitted to the Congress.

H.R. 3616 would authorize a study to determine whether the routes followed by Meriwether Lewis and William Clark, whether independently or together, in the preparation phase of the expedition starting at Monticello, located near Charlottesville, Virginia, and traveling to Wood River, Illinois, and in the return phase of the expedition from Saint Louis, Missouri, to

Washington, D.C., would meet the suitability and feasibility criteria for extending the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail to include these routes and their associated sites. These sites and routes are commonly referred to as the “Eastern Legacy.” These routes include designated Lewis and Clark sites in Virginia, the District of Columbia, Maryland, Delaware, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Ohio, Kentucky, Tennessee, Indiana, Missouri, and Illinois. The study also would analyze the potential impact that the inclusion of the Eastern Legacy would have on those sites, as well as on the tourist visitation to the western half of the trail. The bill would require the Secretary of the Interior to complete the study and provide its conclusions and recommendations within two years from the date funds are first made available for that purpose. We estimate the cost to complete the study would be approximately \$250,000 to \$300,000.

There have been many discussions in recent years between scholars and interested individuals concerning whether the Eastern Legacy sites and routes merit inclusion in the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail. However, the issue of whether this area is suitable and feasible as an administrative unit of the National Trails System has not been addressed. H.R. 3616 would provide that authority.

Discussions in the past against extending the trail to include the Eastern Legacy are focused primarily on the common historical understanding of where the expedition itself began.

President Jefferson’s instructions to Captain Meriwether Lewis clearly imply that the expedition began with the ascent of the Missouri River. The actual transfer of title to and power over the Louisiana Territory from France to the United States was not effective until March 10, 1804. Prior to that date, the Spanish Lt. Governor of Upper Louisiana refused the expedition’s request

to proceed up the Missouri; so it is clear that the journey of exploration could not begin until after that date. The journals of the expedition by Captains Lewis and Clark are the official chronicles of the project. On May 14, 1804, the day the expedition left Camp Wood and began its ascent of the Missouri River, Captain Clark wrote in his journal “The mouth of the River Dubois is to be considered as the point of departure.” In his journal, Captain Lewis stated that he had informed President Jefferson, by letter, of the departure; this, too, would seem to imply that the expedition began that day.

Some believe that important locations in the Eastern Legacy are already recognized by the trail as certified sites and that they do not need to be connected to the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail. There is also some concern that extending the trail will somehow dilute the attention to and importance of the existing official trail.

Others point out that the expedition did not simply spring forth from Wood River, Illinois on May 14, 1804, but involved years of preparation at other locations. These include the ruminations of westward expansion and manifest destiny by Thomas Jefferson at Monticello in Virginia, the acquisition of firearms at Harpers Ferry, West Virginia, Lewis’ training in medicine and scientific observation in Philadelphia, and taking delivery of the keel boat in Pennsylvania and struggling through low water to bring the boat down the Ohio River.

Although the field expedition ended in September 1806 with the Corps of Discovery’s return to Saint Louis, there were still important tasks to undertake such as reporting to the White House to brief the President on the findings of the expedition. Some say that Lewis’ death was

attributable in large part to the expedition and that his grave on the Natchez Trace should be a part of the trail. As intended by President Jefferson, the expedition and manifest destiny had far reaching impacts and ramifications beyond the West to American society as a whole, and he certainly considered that his dream of a nation from “sea to shining sea” had been fulfilled, despite the failure to find the mythical “Northwest Passage.”

A suitability and feasibility study would take into account the reasons for adding the Eastern Legacy by various interested agencies, organizations, and individuals and evaluate the merits of including the additional routes and sites in the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail.

Mr. Chairman, this concludes my prepared testimony. I would be pleased to answer any questions you or other members of the subcommittee may have.

STATEMENT OF KAREN TAYLOR-GOODRICH, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR, VISITOR AND RESOURCE PROTECTION, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BEFORE THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS, FORESTS, AND PUBLIC LANDS OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES, CONCERNING H.R. 3821, TO AUTHORIZE THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR TO CONDUCT A SPECIAL RESOURCE STUDY OF SITES AND RESOURCES AT MATEWAN, WEST VIRGINIA, ASSOCIATED WITH THE BATTLE OF MATEWAN TO DETERMINE THE SUITABILITY AND FEASIBILITY OF DESIGNATING CERTAIN HISTORIC AREAS AS A UNIT OF THE NATIONAL PARK SYSTEM.

October 30, 2007

Mr. Chairman, thank you for the opportunity to present the views of the Department of the Interior on H.R. 3821, a bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study of sites associated with the “Battle of Matewan” in Matewan, West Virginia.

The Department supports H.R. 3821. While the Department supports the authorization of this study, we also believe that any funding requested should be directed first toward completing previously authorized studies.

H.R. 3821 directs the Secretary to conduct a special resource study in accordance with the National Park System General Authorities Act to determine the suitability and feasibility of designating these resources in West Virginia as a unit of the National Park System and to determine the methods and means for protection and interpretation by the Federal Government or other governmental or non-governmental entities. The bill also requires the Secretary to submit a report to Congress no later than 3 years after the date on which funds are made available to carry out this study.

The Matewan Historic District was designated a National Historic Landmark in February 1997. The District and its surrounding coal mines were the sites of a seminal event in the history of organized labor fostered by attempts of coal miners in the southern Appalachians to join the United Mine Workers of America in 1920.

Nowhere was the effort at unionization more intense than in Matewan, where the local sheriff, Sid Hatfield, and the town's mayor Cabel Testerman, openly protected the miners attempts to hold organizational meetings in the town. On May 19, 1920, thirteen detectives including Thomas Felts, President of Baldwin-Felts Coal Company, and two of his brothers, entered Matewan to evict unionized miners and their families from homes in the Stone Mountain Mine camp. Sheriff Hatfield and a group of miners went to the Stone Mountain camp and tried to stop the evictions, but the detectives and mine owner continued forcing miners and their families from the homes. Later that afternoon in Matewan, Hatfield and a number of armed miners attempted to arrest the mine owner. A shot was fired and a battle ensued. Lasting only a minute, the mine owner, the mayor, seven detectives and two miners were dead or dying at the end of the confrontation. Hatfield, unhurt, became a hero to miners throughout the nation. West Virginia's governor sent in 50 members of the State Police to take control of the town. In July 1921, while unarmed, Sheriff Hatfield was shot and killed at a county courthouse by Baldwin-Felts' detectives. His death sparked an armed rebellion by coal miners all over West Virginia resulting in the "Battle of Blair Mountain" in Logan County.

The Battle of Blair Mountain in August 1921 is considered the largest organized armed uprising in the history of the American labor movement and ultimately resulted in many of the laws that

protect labor's right to organize today. Up to 15,000 coal miners gathered in Logan County, West Virginia and stood against state and federal troops. Up to 30 persons on both sides died on August 25th. On September 2nd, the United States Army Air Service dropped pipe and tear gas bombs to dissuade labor organizers from further action. In the history of this nation it was the first and only time that the United States Government ordered military aircraft used against its citizens.

Resources related to this period are still extant in the Town of Matewan and its surrounding areas. The National Park Service assisted the Matewan Revitalization Task Force to develop a strategic plan for the area's resources in 1990. Matewan's nationally significant resources are now included in the congressionally designated National Coal Heritage Area.

Mr. Chairman this concludes my testimony and I would be pleased to answer any questions you or the other members of the subcommittee may have.

**STATEMENT OF KAREN TAYLOR-GOODRICH, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR,
VISITOR AND RESOURCE PROTECTION, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE,
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BEFORE THE HOUSE SUBCOMMITTEE
ON NATIONAL PARKS, FORESTS AND PUBLIC LANDS, COMMITTEE ON
NATURAL RESOURCES, CONCERNING H.R. 415, TO AMEND THE WILD
AND SCENIC RIVERS ACT TO DESIGNATE SEGMENTS OF THE TAUNTON
RIVER IN THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS AS A
COMPONENT OF THE NATIONAL WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS SYSTEM,
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**

OCTOBER 30, 2007

Mr. Chairman, thank you for the opportunity to appear before your committee today to discuss the views of the Department of the Interior on H.R. 415, a bill to amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act by designating a segment of the Taunton River as a component of the Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

The Department is currently completing the study authorized by Public Law 106-318 to determine the eligibility and suitability of the Taunton River for inclusion in the Wild and Scenic Rivers System. The public and agency comment period for the draft report and environmental assessment recently closed on September 17 and the National Park Service is working on the public response document. We request that the committee defer action on the bill until the study is complete. In addition, if this bill moves forward, we would like to work with the committee to make this bill more consistent with other wild and scenic river designation bills that have been enacted by Congress.

H.R. 415 would designate the entire 40-mile mainstem of the Taunton River as a component of the Wild and Scenic Rivers System. This corresponds to “Alternative B:

Full Designation” as described in the draft report, and is identified in the draft as the environmentally preferred alternative. This alternative is also supported by the town meeting and city council votes of all ten communities abutting the Taunton River, as documented in the draft report and the companion document developed during the study, the *Taunton River Stewardship Plan*, dated July 2005.

The draft report concludes that the Taunton River meets the eligibility requirements of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act by virtue of its free-flowing condition and presence of one or more outstandingly remarkable resource values. The 40-mile Taunton River is the longest undammed coastal river in New England. This unique character, including the lack of a head-of-tide dam, is directly related to outstandingly remarkable values identified during the study, including fish, ecology and biological diversity, and recreation. As such, the Taunton River represents a natural fit with Wild and Scenic River Act purposes of recognizing and protecting special free-flowing rivers and the values they support.

The Taunton River is recognized as the most significant river in Massachusetts for anadromous fish species, including alewife, blueback herring, American shad, hickory shad, gizzard shad and rainbow smelt, a direct result of the free-flowing character of the river which allows these and other species unfettered access to spawning tributaries. Similarly, the broader ecology of the river is unusually diverse and intact, supporting 31 distinct wildlife habitats, globally rare plant species, regionally significant freshwater and brackish tidal marshes, and many rare species of birds and amphibians. A Nature

Conservancy study has concluded that the Taunton River represents one of the most unique, diverse, and intact ecosystems in the North Atlantic Ecoregion, from Delaware to Maine. Recreationally, the 40-mile Taunton River offers outstanding flatwater paddling, and, in the lower river, additional opportunities for broader recreational uses including power boating and sailing.

The study authorized by Public Law 106-318 has been conducted in partnership with the local communities of the Taunton River, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and other local river interests based upon the Partnership Wild and Scenic River model. This model recognizes and anticipates a limited federal role stemming from the lack of federal land ownership. Successful planning and management under these circumstances requires the fundamental support and involvement of state and local interests. This common basis of support and involvement for the Taunton River is outlined in the *Taunton River Stewardship Plan* (July, 2005). This plan and the strong support it has received through the extensive public involvement of the study, is the principal basis for the draft report's conclusion that the Taunton River can be effectively managed and protected as a component of the Wild and Scenic Rivers System, and thereby meets the criteria for Wild and Scenic River suitability.

The management scheme proposed in the stewardship plan is similar to ones that have proven effective on other Partnership Wild and Scenic Rivers, including the Sudbury, Concord, and Assabet Rivers also in Massachusetts. To clarify this management intent, and to conform with established legislative models, we would like to work with the

committee on several amendments to the bill. It is particularly important in this regard to establish the *Taunton River Stewardship Plan* as the basis for management of the designated Wild and Scenic River segment.

Mr. Chairman, this concludes my prepared remarks, and I would be happy to answer any questions you or other committee members may have regarding this bill.