

**Opening Statement  
Chairman Raúl M. Grijalva  
Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests and Public Lands  
Legislative Hearing on  
H.R. 1376 and H.R. 1121**

**April 23, 2009**

**The Subcommittee will come to order.**

**Today the Subcommittee will hear testimony on two pieces of legislation. H.R. 1376, introduced by our colleague Chet Edwards, will establish a new National Monument to protect the burial site of a large number of mammoths near Waco, Texas.**

**Researchers have concluded that the site contains the remains of several herds of mammoths which appear to have died together in one or more floods some 68,000 years ago. This site offers “a unique opportunity to understand and interpret the behavior and ecology of an extinct species,” according to the National Park Service.**

**The 107<sup>th</sup> Congress authorized a study of the site and H.R. 1376 implements the results of that study. Specifically, the bill provides that the 109-acre site be managed under a cooperative agreement among the NPS, the City of Waco, and Baylor University; and today, we have the city manager of Waco here to talk to us about this proposal.**

**H.R. 1121 will resolve a long standing management issue involving the Blue Ridge Parkway and the Town of Blowing Rock, North Carolina through a land exchange which protects the town water supply while adding desired forest habitat to the Parkway.**

**I am pleased to work with Ms. Foxx and the other members of the North Carolina delegation from both sides of the aisle to consider this legislation which benefits both the town of Blowing Rock and furthers the mission of the Blue Ridge Parkway as a unit of the National Park System.**

**With that, let me turn to Mr. Bishop for any opening comments he may have.**