

Representative Dave Camp
Statement for the Record
House Committee on Natural Resources
Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests and Public Lands
Hearing on H.R. 41, H.R. 113, H.R. 490, H.R. 608, H.R. 977, H.R. 1126, H.R. 1413 and H.R. 2050
October 25, 2011

Mr. Chairman, I am pleased you are holding this hearing today and appreciate the opportunity to submit my comments for the record.

My statement today is in support of legislation Rep. Bill Huizenga (R-MI) and I introduced that will implement a new General Management Plan for Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore. Since 2003, I have been proud to represent the District that includes the Sleeping Bear Dunes, a true national treasure. In fact, earlier this year the television show *Good Morning America* conducted a national poll in which Americans voted Sleeping Bear Dunes “The Most Beautiful Place in America.”

H.R. 977 is the culmination of years of work to craft and implement a new General Management Plan. In 2002, the National Park Service began an attempt to revise the park’s management plan, pursuing the most restrictive set of policies available including cutting off public access to the beach. The public resoundingly rejected the proposed plan, which did not address their input and concerns. As a result, the Park Service eventually withdrew it.

In 2006, the effort to update the management plan for Sleeping Bear Dunes resumed, but this time it was done the right way. The public, local stakeholders and the National Park Service came together and produced a compromise General Management Plan that adequately balances preservation with public use. This management plan ensures that this national treasure will be enjoyed by generations of Americans to come by preserving access to its beaches on land and watercraft, maintaining hunting and fishing rights, and protecting the most vulnerable aspects of the ecosystem.

While stakeholder and public agreement has been reached, the plan must still be passed into law. Last Congress, I was pleased to work with Mr. Huizenga’s predecessor, Rep. Pete Hoekstra, and with Senators Levin and Stabenow to craft legislation to codify the General Management Plan into law. Mr. Huizenga has taken great leadership on this issue and, if the Committee sees fit to approve our bill, I am confident he will be able to finally see this new management plan across the finish line.

To conclude, I once again thank the subcommittee for the opportunity to submit my comments, and urge the swift passage of the bill.