



Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

BARBARA CUBIN

WYOMING—AT LARGE

Testimony
of
The Honorable Barbara Cubin
Representative for All Wyoming

Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests and Public Lands:
Legislative Hearing on H.R. 189, H.R. 359, and H.R. 1080

March 29, 2007

Thank you Mr. Chairman for including in this hearing today H.R. 1080, the “Grand Teton National Park Extension Act of 2007.” I appreciate the Committee’s attention to this important legislation to responsibly improve and protect one of the most pristine national parks in our nation.

To begin, let me be clear that H.R. 1080 does not authorize the purchase of private lands. H.R. 1080 does not authorize a land exchange. What this bill does do is allow the Secretary of the Interior to accept the donation of just under 50 acres of land adjacent to the Grand Teton National Park from willing, private donors.

As my colleagues on this committee are aware, I am, and have always been, an outspoken advocate for the rights of private landowners. In fact, I have worked with many of you to ensure that the federal government does not meddle in how a private landowner wants to use or manage his or her own lands. This bill is consistent with that long-held philosophy, as it is the desire of these landowners to protect this small but important acreage for future generations.

This land is adjacent to the east boundary of Grand Teton National Park. It not only provides valuable grassland and sagebrush habitat for a wide variety of local wildlife, but also offers unobstructed views of the Teton Range across the Jackson Hole valley. These lands are already a part of the natural ecosystem of the park. If these 50 acres remain in private hands, however, it is not unrealistic to imagine a large subdivision or private estate being built there in the future.

As you will hear shortly from the National Park Service witness, there will be no additional management costs associated with the donation of these 50 acres. Rather, such management will simply be absorbed into the park’s usual activities. The fair market value of the land being donated has been assessed at \$19.8 million. I think it is safe to say this is a pretty good deal for the American taxpayer.

WASHINGTON OFFICE:
1114 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-2311
FAX: (202) 225-3057

WYOMING OFFICES:
100 EAST B STREET
SUITE 4003
P.O. Box 44003
CASPER, WY 82602-5014
(307) 261-6595
FAX: (307) 261-6597

2120 CAPITOL AVENUE
SUITE 2015
CHEYENNE, WY 82001
(307) 772-2595
FAX: (307) 772-2597

2515 FOOTHILL BOULEVARD
SUITE 204
ROCK SPRINGS, WY 82901
(307) 362-4095
FAX: (307) 362-4097

H.R. 1080 is supported by the National Park Service, conservation groups across Wyoming, and local residents of the Jackson community. In fact, I have heard of no opposition whatsoever to this legislation. An identical measure was passed by unanimous consent in the Senate late last year, but the House adjourned just two days later, giving us no opportunity to act upon the bill. Companion legislation has been introduced in the Senate again this Congress and that bill has already been reported favorably by the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. Today, we continue that momentum.

With that in mind, I thank you, Mr. Chairman, for the attention of your committee and I look forward to working with you to shepherd this bill through the legislative process.