

The Honorable Ed Pastor

Testimony to the
Resources Subcommittee on National Parks,
Recreation, and Public Lands
Tumacacori National Historical Park Boundary Revision Act
H.R. 2234

November 13, 2001

Mr. Chairman, Madam Ranking Member, Members of the Subcommittee:

I appreciate the opportunity to come before you to discuss the Tumacacori National Historic Park Boundary Revision Act, H.R. 2234. I introduced the bill in June of this year in an effort to ensure that the complete historical importance of the Tumacacori National Historic Park is recognized.

H.R. 2234 would authorize the expansion of the Park by approximately 310 acres of adjacent private property. It is my understanding the property owners are willing to sell and most of the acreage has already been listed.

To offer the Subcommittee a small bit of Southwest history, Tumacacori is one of the chain of missions established by the Spanish in the *Pimeria Alta*, or land of the Upper Pima Indians, from Sonora, Mexico to San Xavier del Bac near Tucson, Arizona. After the establishment by Father Kino of the Mission San Cayetano de Tumacacori in 1691, a Jesuit church was built in the 1750's on the east side of the Santa Cruz River and the mission was renamed San Jose de Tumacacori.

The present church sitting on the site was completed in 1822 by the Franciscans and in 1908, President Theodore Roosevelt set aside nine acres immediately around the church as the Tumacacori National Monument. Subsequent to that designation, boundary changes have enlarged the Monument, and in 1990 the detached missions of Guevavi and Calabazas were added and the Monument became a National Historical Park.

The Park's General Management Plan called for the acquisition of additional lands so Park support facilities could be built away from the historic scene and to obtain the rest of the Mission orchard.

Two large properties now border the Park. A 90 acre ranch lies to the south and east. This ranch contains the remains of the historic orchard and other Mission related cultivated lands. To the north and east, 220 acres of undeveloped lands contain remains of the Mission fields and sites that show numerous artifacts such as pottery, lithics, and fire hearths.

The expansion of the Park's boundary would allow the Park Service to further enhance the visitor experience

at Tumacacori, replant the orchard and add a living history program, and develop more of the Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail that now exists on private land between Tumacacori and the town of Tubac.

Last month, we passed the Department of Interior Appropriations Act which included almost a million dollars to construct administration and maintenance facilities at this Park, removing these functions from the viewed historical areas. This is an important first step taken by this Congress toward preserving the history of this monumental place and this meaningful time. I ask that you take the next step by increasing the boundaries of the Park.

Mr. Chairman, as this Subcommittee knows and appreciates, preserving our history and heritage is crucial if we are to continue to grow as a civilization. This small Mission is a small part of that history, but it is a large part of the development of our civilization.

I appreciate you holding these hearings, and I look forward to working with you and the Subcommittee, and Chairman Hansen and Ranking Member Rahall toward its expedited consideration. Thank you.

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