

Testimony of Winston B. Relaford, Sr – Harrisneck Land Trust

Winston B. Relaford, Sr

Current Vice Chairman of the Harrisneck Land Trust

Oversight Hearing on the Harrisneck

National Wildlife Refuge before the Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife,

Oceans and Insular Affairs of the Committee on Natural Resources

Of the House of Representatives

I am Winston Relaford the son of Anna Shaw Overstreet, a descendant of the original Harrisneck community. My appearance before this august body today has one goal; and that is to plea to this committee to correct an obvious wrong. I appeal to you today to ensure that history correctly record and reflect a Congress that dared to do the right thing by upholding the constitutional rights of all of its citizens.

What was done to the Harrisneck community in 1942 was an injustice or wrong that must be righted and this committee has within its power to move on behalf of a neglected portion of America's citizenry. Let history show that you stood up today and began the process of making right, an awful wrong. As you ponder the right and wrong, please remember the humanity of it all. You have heard the testimony of an impassioned and embattled people ask of a government to honor them as they honored the government by giving in to demands that turned out to be way too costly. Our forefathers trusted the government because they loved this country and wanted it to succeed against our foreign enemies, but little did they know that the enemy from within posed a far greater threat to their constitutional rights and freedoms than that of a government that betrayed their trust.

In closing, I simply ask on behalf of the families that were displaced so long ago that you return the land back to its rightful owners and they are the descendants of the Harrisneck people. To this committee, may God bless each of you and may God bless the United States of America.