

**STATEMENT OF KATHERINE H. STEVENSON, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, BUSINESS SERVICES, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BEFORE THE HOUSE SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS, FORESTS AND PUBLIC LANDS OF THE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES, CONCERNING H.R. 2986, A BILL TO AMEND THE ACT OF MAY 29, 1930, COMMONLY KNOWN AS THE CAPPER-CRAMTON ACT, TO AUTHORIZE A GRANT PROGRAM TO PRESERVE RESOURCES IN THE NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**

**APRIL 27, 2010**

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Mr. Chairman, thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today to present the Department of the Interior's views on H.R. 2986, a bill to amend the Act of May 29, 1930 (Chapter 354; 46 Stat.482; commonly known as the Capper-Cramton Act), to authorize a grant program to preserve resources in the National Capital Region.

Although the Department supports the goal of H.R. 2986 of assisting state and local governments to acquire land to protect open space and natural resources in the National Capital Region, the Department has concerns that H.R. 2986 could duplicate existing programs. The Department also believes that the objectives of H.R. 2986 could be supported through the Administration's America's Great Outdoors initiative.

H.R. 2986 would authorize the Secretary of the Interior to provide matching grants to state and local governments in Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia, and the District of Columbia for acquiring land within the Washington metropolitan area for a variety of conservation and recreational purposes. The bill would authorize appropriations of \$50 million annually from fiscal year 2010 through fiscal year 2014.

We are sympathetic to the desire of the sponsors of this legislation to find a way to acquire land for resource protection in the National Capital Region. In an area where so many of the Nation's

revered natural, cultural, and historic resources are threatened by developmental pressures and where open space is disappearing at a rapid rate, we agree with the need to increase land protection for all the purposes listed in H.R. 2986. However, the same need for protecting resources in the face of development pressures exists in other metropolitan areas of the United States, too.

The Department administers several grant programs already that provide land acquisition assistance to states and localities for many of the same purposes identified in H.R. 2986. They include the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) State Assistance Program and the American Battlefield Protection Program within the National Park Service, and the North American Wetlands Conservation Act and National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Programs within the Fish & Wildlife Service. These programs provide land acquisition grants across the country, including the areas covered by this bill. These programs also ensure that the land will be used for public purposes in perpetuity, which H.R. 2986 does not provide for. We believe that it would be better to continue to use existing grant programs to provide land protection assistance to all communities rather than to establish a new program for similar purposes but only available to one metropolitan area.

Metropolitan Washington benefits from having a large amount of land protected and made available for public use by the National Park Service, particularly for an urban/suburban area. In the District, these areas include parks and reservations east of Capitol Hill under the jurisdiction of National Capital Parks–East, Rock Creek Park, the White House grounds, and park units and reservations under the jurisdiction of National Mall and Memorial Parks. The George Washington Memorial Parkway spans Arlington and Fairfax Counties in Virginia, and the C&O

Canal traverses Washington, D.C. and several counties in Maryland and West Virginia. The National Capital Region also includes Monocacy National Battlefield and Catocin Mountain Park in Frederick County, Maryland; Prince William Forest Park and Manassas National Battlefield in Prince William County, Virginia; Wolf Trap National Park for the Performing Arts in Fairfax County, Virginia; and Harpers Ferry National Historical Park in Jefferson County, West Virginia. To the extent that resource protection in and around these sites is needed, a more appropriate way to pursue that goal might be to seek funds through the LWCF federal land acquisition program. We note, for example, that the Administration's FY 2011 budget calls for \$6 million in land acquisition funding for Prince William Forest Park and \$640,000 for Catocin Mountain Park.

The Administration is keenly aware of the need to increase funding for land acquisition, both through federal land acquisition programs and state grants. For FY 2011, the President's budget calls for \$106 million for National Park Service land acquisition – a significantly larger amount than has been requested or appropriated for many years. The budget also calls for \$47.2 million for LWCF state grants, a substantial increase over the FY 2010 enacted level of \$37.2 million. The overall FY 2011 request of \$619 million is the first step toward the Administration's goal of providing \$900 million a year – full funding-- for programs funded through the LWCF, and it holds the hope that within a few years we will be able to better address land acquisition needs throughout the United States, including the National Capital Region.

Mr. Chairman, this concludes my prepared remarks. I would be happy to answer any questions that you or any other members of the Subcommittee may have.

**STATEMENT OF KATHERINE H. STEVENSON, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, BUSINESS SERVICES, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BEFORE THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS, RECREATION AND PUBLIC LANDS, HOUSE COMMITTEE ON RESOURCES, CONCERNING H.R. 3967, TO AMEND THE NATIONAL GREAT BLACK AMERICANS COMMEMORATION ACT OF 2004 TO AUTHORIZE APPROPRIATIONS THROUGH 2015.**

**April 27, 2010**

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Mr. Chairman, thank you for the opportunity to appear before your committee to present the views of the Department of the Interior on H.R. 3967, a bill to amend the National Great Black Americans Commemoration Act of 2004 to authorize appropriations through fiscal year 2015.

H.R. 3967 does not appear to provide any role for the Department of the Interior with the National Great Blacks in Wax Museum nor are we aware of any connection this museum has with any national park programs. We therefore, defer to the Department of Justice for its position on this legislation.

H.R. 3967 would extend authorization of appropriations through fiscal year 2015. In 2004, Congress passed the National Great Black Americans Commemoration Act of 2004 (PL 108-238) authorizing the Department of Justice to provide grants to “carry out programs relating to civil rights and juvenile justice through the National Great Blacks in Wax Museum and Justice Learning Center” in Baltimore, Maryland, administered by a non-profit group, the Great Blacks in Wax Museum, Inc.

Mr. Chairman, thank you for the opportunity to comment. This concludes my prepared remarks and I will be happy to answer any questions you or other committee members might have.

**STATEMENT OF KATHERINE H. STEVENSON, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, BUSINESS SERVICES, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BEFORE THE HOUSE SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS, FORESTS AND PUBLIC LANDS, OF THE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES, CONCERNING H.R. 3989, TO AUTHORIZE THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR TO CONDUCT A SPECIAL RESOURCE STUDY TO DETERMINE THE SUITABILITY AND FEASIBILITY OF ADDING THE HEART MOUNTAIN RELOCATION CENTER, IN THE STATE OF WYOMING, AS A UNIT OF THE NATIONAL PARK SYSTEM.**

**APRIL 27, 2010**

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Mr. Chairman and members of the Subcommittee, thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today to present the Department of the Interior's views on H.R. 3989, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study to determine the suitability and feasibility of adding the Heart Mountain Relocation Center, in the State of Wyoming, as a unit of the National Park System.

The Department supports H.R. 3989. However, we feel that priority should be given to the 46 previously authorized studies for potential units of the National Park System, potential new National Heritage Areas, and potential additions to the National Trails System and the National Wild and Scenic River System that have not yet been transmitted to Congress. The Department testified in support of S. 2722, an identical bill, on December 3, 2009.

H.R. 3989 would authorize the Secretary of the Interior (Secretary) to conduct a special resource study to determine the suitability and feasibility of designating the Heart Mountain Relocation Center as a unit of the National Park System. The study would also consider other alternatives for the preservation, protection and interpretation of the site by federal, State, or local governmental entities, or private and nonprofit organizations. The bill also directs the Secretary

to identify any potential impacts to private landowners if the site is designated as a unit of the National Park System and specifies that the Secretary, through the study process, shall consult with interested federal, State, or local governmental entities, federally recognized Indian tribes, private and nonprofit organizations, and owners of private property that may be affected by any designation. Not later than three years after funds are made available, the Secretary is directed to submit the results and recommendations of the study to Congress. We estimate that this study will cost approximately \$240,000.

Located in northwest Wyoming, in the Shoshone River Valley, the Heart Mountain Relocation Center is one of 10 relocation centers established by the U.S. military to incarcerate Japanese Americans during World War II. The Center opened on August 11, 1942, and operated for 39 months, closing on November 10, 1945. At its peak, Heart Mountain contained 10,767 Japanese Americans, nearly all of whom were former residents of California, Oregon, and Washington, and two-thirds of whom were United States citizens.

The site tells the story of a group of American citizens whose constitutional rights were abrogated during a time when our nation was at war. Heart Mountain is also directly associated with one of the largest single draft resistance movements in United States history. To protest the confinement of their families, 315 Japanese Americans from all 10 relocation centers were imprisoned for resisting induction into the military. Heart Mountain had the highest rate of resistance with 85 men imprisoned for their resistance to the draft.

The Heart Mountain Relocation Center originally encompassed 21,521 acres. However, the center's core developed area, which included the residential and administrative areas, contained approximately 740 acres.

Jointly managed by the Bureau of Reclamation and the Heart Mountain, Wyoming Foundation, the current Heart Mountain National Historic Landmark contains 124 acres with the remaining parts of the area privately owned. The Bureau of Reclamation owns and administers 74 acres, which includes the site of the original hospital complex and a portion of the administrative complex. The Heart Mountain, Wyoming Foundation owns 50 acres, which includes the relocation center's military police compound. The Foundation is currently engaged in a significant fundraising campaign to construct an 11,000 square foot Interpretive Learning Center at the site. To date, nearly one-half of the needed funds have been raised.

Although, as a nation, we are not proud of what happened at the Heart Mountain Relocation Center and the other nine detention sites where Japanese Americans were incarcerated during World War II, such sites allow us to learn from our history and remind us of how far we have come. The designation of the Heart Mountain Relocation Center as a National Historic Landmark has brought increased public recognition and awareness of the site. However, this designation does not guarantee additional safeguards or protection of the site. The special resource study process would allow all interested parties to comment on ways to preserve and allow for visitor enjoyment of the Heart Mountain Relocation Center.

Mr. Chairman, this concludes my prepared remarks. I would be happy to answer any questions you or any other members of the subcommittee may have.



**STATEMENT OF KATHERINE H. STEVENSON, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, BUSINESS SERVICES, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR BEFORE THE HOUSE NATURAL RESOURCES SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS, FORESTS, AND PUBLIC LANDS, REGARDING H.R. 4514, TO AUTHORIZE THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR TO CONDUCT A SPECIAL RESOURCE STUDY TO DETERMINE THE SUITABILITY AND FEASIBILITY OF DESIGNATING THE COLONEL CHARLES YOUNG HOME IN XENIA, OHIO, AS A UNIT OF THE NATIONAL PARK SYSTEM.**

**April 27, 2010**

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Mr. Chairman, thank you for the opportunity to appear before you to provide the Department of the Interior's views on H.R. 4514, a bill to authorize a special resource study to determine the suitability and feasibility of designating the Colonel Charles Young Home in Xenia, Ohio, as a unit of the National Park System.

The Department supports enactment of H.R. 4514. However, we believe that priority should be given to the 47 previously authorized studies for potential units of the National Park System, potential new National Heritage Areas, and potential additions to the National Trails System and National Wild and Scenic River System that have not yet been transmitted to the Congress.

H.R. 4514 authorizes a special resource study, in consultation with the Secretary of the Army, to determine the suitability and feasibility of designating the Colonel Charles Young Home as a unit of the National Park System, and to consider other alternatives for preservation and protection of the home and interpretation of the life and accomplishments of Colonel Young for future appreciation by the public. The bill also authorizes consultation and collaboration with the Ohio Historical Society, Central State University, Wilberforce University and other interested Federal, State or local governmental entities, private and nonprofit organizations or individuals in accomplishing the resource study. The home is a National Historic Landmark. We estimate the cost of this study to range from \$200,000 to \$250,000, based on similar types of studies conducted in recent years.

Colonel Charles Young was the third African-American to graduate from West Point, and a distinguished African-American officer in the United States Army, commanding troops in combat in the Spanish-American War and the Mexican expedition against Pancho Villa. Colonel Young was one of the first military attaches in the United States, serving in Haiti and Liberia, and a pioneer of techniques in military intelligence. The experience of Colonel Young in the Army between 1884 and 1922 illustrates the changing nature of race relations in the United States during a period spanning from the end of the Civil War to the beginning of the Civil Rights movement.

Colonel Young was a friend and associate of other distinguished African-Americans of the period, including poet Paul Laurence Dunbar from nearby Dayton, Ohio; and as the commander of an Army unit assigned to protect and develop Sequoia National Park and General Grant

National Park in the State of California, Colonel Young is recognized as the first African-American to be the superintendent of a National Park.

Mr. Chairman, this concludes my prepared statement. I would be happy to answer any questions that you or other Committee members may have regarding this bill.

**STATEMENT OF KATHERINE H. STEVENSON, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, BUSINESS SERVICES, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BEFORE THE HOUSE SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS, FORESTS AND PUBLIC LANDS, OF THE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES, CONCERNING H.R. 4686, A BILL TO AUTHORIZE THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR TO STUDY THE SUITABILITY AND FEASIBILITY OF DESIGNATING PREHISTORIC, HISTORIC, AND LIMESTONE FOREST SITES ON THE ISLAND OF ROTA, COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS, AS A UNIT OF THE NATIONAL PARK SYSTEM .**

**APRIL 27, 2010**

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Mr. Chairman, thank you for the opportunity to present the Department of the Interior's testimony regarding H.R. 4686, a bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to study the suitability and feasibility of designating prehistoric, historic, and limestone forest sites on Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, as a unit of the National Park System.

The Department supports H.R. 4686, with an amendment as noted below. However, we feel that priority should be given to the 46 previously authorized studies for potential units of the National Park System, potential new National Heritage Areas, and potential additions to the National Trails System and National Wild and Scenic River System that have not yet been transmitted to Congress.

H.R. 4686 would authorize the Secretary of the Interior to complete a Special Resource Study of sites on the Island of Rota for potential inclusion in the National Park System. The bill requires completion of the study within 18 months of the appropriation of funds. We request that the bill be amended to allow for 3 years for the completion of the study after appropriation. Experience has shown that it is the minimum time required for most studies of this type. We estimate that this study will cost approximately \$250,000 to \$300,000.

Rota, where the indigenous Chamorro and Carolinian people have retained their cultural heritage in its natural environment, is the southernmost island of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI). Spared the population displacement of other colonial islands and largely bypassed during World War II, Rota preserves striking examples of the three thousand-year old Chamorro culture surrounded by the best remaining expanse of this island chain's native limestone forest.

The Mochon Latte Village, the Chugai Pictograph Cave, the Taga Latte Stone Quarry, and the Alaguan Bay Ancient Village prehistoric sites include architectural features unique to the ancient Chamorro culture and represent outstanding examples of the territory's cultural resources. These sites possess a high degree of integrity in location, materials, workmanship and association.

The limestone forests of Rota are the most intact and most extensive examples of primary, native limestone forest remaining on any island in the Mariana Archipelago. The forest provides and sustains habitat for endangered bird species, a threatened species of fruit bat, and numerous species of invertebrates that are proposed for listing as threatened or endangered. Several of these species are endemic to Rota. The significance of this unique biotic community cannot be overstated.

Rota's residents and legislative delegation have demonstrated an extraordinary commitment to the protection of the island's environment. In 2004, Senator Diego M. Songao, Chairman of the Rota Legislative Delegation of the Fourteenth Commonwealth Legislature, formally requested planning assistance from the National Park Service (NPS) to identify and evaluate alternatives to protect Rota's natural and cultural resources and make them available for public use, specifically mentioning the potential for establishing a park or conservation area, and preparation of a report that would identify any threats to those resources and alternatives for their protection and management.

In response to this request, NPS completed a reconnaissance survey of Rota's natural and cultural resources in September of 2005. The reconnaissance survey found that the natural and cultural resources of the island of Rota are significant to island residents, the CNMI, and the entire nation and merit protection. It also made a preliminary finding that these resources are likely to be suitable and feasible for inclusion in the park system.

Presently, the people of Rota and their political leaders find themselves at a crossroads regarding the uses to which their lands are being put. Major land use changes are continuing to take place in the form of residential and agricultural lots being subdivided out of the island's public lands and transferred into private ownership.

At this time, none of Rota's resources are guaranteed protection for future generations. Congressional authorization to conduct a Special Resource Study will provide a public process to determine the suitability and feasibility of designating prehistoric, historic, and limestone forest sites on Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, as a unit of the National Park System. The National Park Service would be pleased to actively engage organizations, residents and others in discussions of how best to preserve Rota's significant cultural and natural resources.

Mr. Chairman, this concludes my statement. I would be pleased to answer questions that you or other members of the committee might have.

**STATEMENT OF KATHERINE H. STEVENSON, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, BUSINESS SERVICES, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES, SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS, FORESTS AND PUBLIC LANDS CONCERNING H.R. 4773, TO AUTHORIZE THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR TO LEASE CERTAIN LANDS WITHIN FORT PULASKI NATIONAL MONUMENT, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**

**APRIL 27, 2010**

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Mr. Chairman and members of the subcommittee, thank you for the opportunity to present the views of the Department of the Interior on H.R. 4773, a bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to lease certain lands within Fort Pulaski National Monument, and for other purposes.

The Department supports H.R. 4773 with an amendment described later in this statement. This legislation would allow the Savannah Bar Pilots Association to lease the land on Cockspur Island within Fort Pulaski National Monument that the association has used continuously since 1940.

In 1940, the National Park Service authorized by special use permit exclusive use of National Park Service land and improvements to the Savannah Bar Pilots to operate a vessel piloting business. The National Park Service has issued a series of permit renewals during the ensuing 70 years. However, in recent years, the National Park Service has been advised by the Department's Solicitor's Office that the association's use of this land should be on based on more certain legal authority than the special use permitting process. The National Park Service believes that a non-competitive lease, which would be authorized by H.R. 4773, would be the best option in this unique circumstance to enable the Savannah Bar Pilots to continue traditional operations from their Fort Pulaski location. The Bar Pilots serve a function that is vital to the state's deepwater ports and inland barge terminals, including directing ship traffic and assisting in navigation in the Savannah Harbor.

There are no other known locations from which Savannah Bar Pilots can operate more efficiently than their current location. Deep water accessibility and the relatively short distance to embarking and disembarking ships in Savannah Harbor render the current Cockspur Island site the ideal location for continued operations. The Savannah Bar Pilots have been operating at the current location with virtually no adverse impact on park resources, on the visitor experience, or on park operations. Fort Pulaski National Monument derives revenue from the current special use permit and would continue to do so from a lease. The Savannah Bar Pilots enjoy local support from both the City of Savannah and the Georgia Port Authority.

We recommend that the bill be amended to provide for a lease term of up to five years, rather than ten years, in order to allow for more frequent review of the lease's terms and conditions. A shorter period would help protect the government's interests and assure that use of the leased land remains consistent with the established purposes of Fort Pulaski National Monument. We would be happy to work with the committee to provide appropriate language for this amendment.

Mr. Chairman, this concludes my prepared remarks. I would be pleased to answer any questions you or any members of the subcommittee may have.