

Statement for the Record
United States Department of the Interior
House Committee on Natural Resources Committee
Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests and Public Lands
H.R. 2299, Southern Nevada Limited Transition Area Act
July 15, 2008

Mr. Chairman and members of the Subcommittee, thank you for the opportunity to testify on H.R. 2299, the Southern Nevada Limited Transition Area Act. H.R. 2299 would convey without consideration approximately 502 acres of BLM public lands, defined in the bill as the “transition area,” to the City of Henderson, Nevada, for economic development adjacent to the Henderson Executive Airport. The BLM recognizes the extensive residential growth occurring in the City of Henderson and understands the need for the City to plan land use in such a way that development around the Henderson Executive Airport is compatible with the nature of airport operations. During consideration of similar legislation in the 109th Congress (S. 1056), we raised several concerns. The BLM greatly appreciates the work of the sponsors of the bill to address those concerns, as reflected in the text of H.R. 2299. We support H.R. 2299 as introduced.

H.R. 2299 establishes development areas around the Henderson Executive Airport similar to the Airport Environs Overlay District - otherwise known as the McCarran Airport Cooperative Management Area (CMA) - established by the Southern Nevada Public Lands Management Act (SNPLMA), Public Law 105-263, that ensures compatible development around McCarran Airport. The public lands proposed for conveyance in H.R. 2299 are directly west and south of the Henderson Executive Airport, which is east of Interstate-15 and north of the Sloan Canyon National Conservation Area. These lands are within the disposal boundary established in SNPLMA and have been identified for disposal by the BLM as part of SNPLMA’s land disposal process.

H.R. 2299 directs the City of Henderson to plan and manage the lands for nonresidential development, and requires that any development comport with noise compatibility requirements defined in section 47504 of title 49, United States Code. The bill permits the City of Henderson to sell any portions of the conveyed lands for nonresidential development through a competitive bidding process, but for not less than fair market value, and subject to the noise compatibility requirements. The City of Henderson may also elect to retain parcels for recreation or other public purposes consistent with the Recreation and Public Purposes Act.

The revenue generated from any sales of the lands by the City of Henderson would be distributed consistent with the provisions of Section 4(e)(1) of SNPLMA, which allow for the deposit of 85 percent of the proceeds from land sales into the Special Account; 10 percent paid directly to the Southern Nevada Water Authority; and 5 percent paid directly to the State of Nevada for use in the general education program of the State.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to work with the sponsors of this bill in addressing our various concerns, including modifications relative to the terms and conditions of future land sales by the City of Henderson; the reversionary language; and the revised map. We support H.R. 2299 and efforts to appropriately plan for development around the Henderson Executive Airport.

STATEMENT DANIEL WENK, DEPUTY DIRECTOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BEFORE THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS, SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES, CONCERNING H.R. 5335, A BILL TO AMEND THE NATIONAL TRAILS SYSTEM ACT TO PROVIDE FOR THE INCLUSION OF NEW TRAIL SEGMENTS, LAND COMPONENTS, AND CAMPGROUNDS ASSOCIATED WITH THE TRAIL OF TEARS NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL

July 15, 2008

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. 5335. The bill would amend the National Trails System Act to provide for the inclusion of new trail segments, land and water components, and campgrounds associated with the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail.

The Department supports H.R. 5335 with the amendments described later in this statement. A study of the additional routes and route components was authorized by Public Law 109-378 in December, 2006 and completed and transmitted to Congress on March 5, 2008. The study found that all of the listed additional routes are eligible for designation as part of the existing Trail of Tears National Historic Trail. The study also made minor corrections to historic alignments that were misidentified in the original feasibility study completed in 1986.

H.R. 5335 would amend the National Trails System Act to add the Benge and Bell routes; land components of the designated water routes in Alabama, Arkansas, Oklahoma, and Tennessee; routes from the collection of forts in Alabama, Georgia, North

Carolina, and Tennessee to the emigration depots; and related campgrounds located along the existing Trail of Tears National Historic Trail. The Secretary is not authorized to use eminent domain to acquire lands for the trail. If private property is located within the boundaries of the trail, the bill states that the owners are not required to allow public access to their property, to participate in or be associated with the trail, or to be liable for any person(s) injured on their property relative to use of the trail. The National Park Service (NPS) estimates that it would require an additional \$295,000 per year to adequately provide funding for staff, travel, supplies, and other costs to administer the new routes.

A network of 26 scenic and historic trails has been created since the enactment of the National Trails System Act in 1968. These trails provide for outdoor recreation needs, providing enjoyment and appreciation, which in turn, promotes good health and well-being. They traverse resources that connect us to history and provide an important opportunity for local communities to become involved in a national effort by encouraging public access and citizen involvement.

In 1987, Congress designated the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail. The trail encompassed the primary water route and northern land route used during the forced removal of the Cherokee Nation from its homelands in the southeast to Indian Territory (present day Oklahoma). The trail is administered by the NPS.

The Indian Removal Act of 1830 mandated the removal of all Indian tribes from east of the Mississippi River to lands west of Arkansas and Missouri. Of the Five Civilized Tribes, the Cherokee were perhaps the most successful at resisting the act's implementation. But their fate was sealed in 1838 when the U.S. government was determined to complete the removal. The roundup began in May, as thousands of Cherokee families were brought by force to nearby military forts or camps, and subsequently marched to the principal emigration depots at Ross's Landing or Fort Cass in Tennessee, or Fort Payne in Alabama. From there, they either travelled overland or rode river steamboats, flatboats, and keelboats to Indian Territory. By the spring of 1839, nearly the entire Cherokee Nation, comprising some 16,000 individuals from all levels of society, had been removed west.

The 1992 Comprehensive Management and Use Plan for the Trail of Tears NHT identified the need to study two additional major routes of Cherokee Removal, the Bell and Bengie Routes in the states of Tennessee, Alabama, Missouri, Arkansas, and Oklahoma as possible additions to the existing trail. Subsequently, the Cherokee Nation, the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, the Trail of Tears Association, and other trail supporters have urged the NPS to include additional important routes of Cherokee removal in Georgia, North Carolina, Alabama, Tennessee, and Oklahoma. These routes lead from the many removal forts established by the military during the roundup of the Cherokee to the major embarkation sites from which the Cherokee people left on their tragic journey to Indian Territory. The roundup of the Cherokee is a major part of the story of the Trail of Tears, and it is not adequately represented by the current trail. H.R.

5335 would include all of the known routes used by the Cherokee from the round up camps in the Old Cherokee Nation to their new homes in Oklahoma during the forced removal of 1838 and 1839.

Historic trails cross public and private lands, and the intent of the National Trails System Act is one of respecting private property rights. In so doing, the development of strong partnerships is critical to administering and managing the historic trails and achieving preservation of trail resources and interpretation of the trail to the public. Landowners are under no obligation to allow the public onto their land. Those that choose to cooperate in the development of a national historic trail can determine the level of visitor access they are willing to allow. The Trail of Tears National Historic Trail demonstrates the results of this type of effort.

The Department recognizes the importance of telling the story of the Trail of Tears. These additional Cherokee routes and trail components are nationally significant and meet the criteria of the National Trails System Act. Their designation would provide a comprehensive commemoration to the story of the entire tragic event that became known as the “Trail of Tears” and complete the trail designation.

The Department recommends two amendments to the bill: (1) to include the name and date of the study in the section authorizing the additions to the Trail of Tears, and (2) to place the private property rights language in a separate section of the bill instead of making this language as an amendment to the National Trails System Act.

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 DANIEL N. WENK, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BEFORE THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS, FORESTS AND PUBLIC LANDS OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES, CONCERNING H.R. 5853, A BILL TO EXPAND THE BOUNDARY OF THE MINUTE MAN NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK IN THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS TO INCLUDE BARRETT'S FARM, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

JULY 15, 2008

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. 5853, a bill to expand the boundary of the Minute Man National Historical Park to include the home and surrounding farmland of Colonel James Barrett and the area around the Joshua Brooks House.

The Department supports the enactment of this bill. In testimony before the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee Subcommittee on National Parks on April 23, 2008, the Administration also supported enactment of S. 2513, a similar bill.

In December 2006, Congress directed the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study to evaluate the significance of the Colonel James Barrett Farm and to assess the suitability and feasibility of including the farm in the National Park System as part of the Minute Man National Historical Park. The National Park Service consulted affected property owners, state and local governments, preservation organizations, and the public, and incorporated their views into the findings of the study. The boundary study and environmental assessment, transmitted to Congress in March 2008, concluded that the

expansion of the boundary of the park to include the home and surrounding farmland of Colonel James Barrett and the area around the Joshua Brooks House, met the criteria for boundary expansions and that inclusion within the boundary was important to ensure the protection of nationally significant resources and values. There is extensive public support for the boundary expansion.

H.R. 5853 would permit the inclusion of 67 acres of land within the boundary of the Minute Man National Historical Park, thus adding significant properties to the park that might be cooperatively managed or acquired from willing sellers. The potential boundary expansions were found to meet all National Park Service criteria including the ability to protect significant resources, enhance opportunities for public enjoyment, and improve management capabilities.

The most significant property proposed for inclusion within the revised boundary is the Colonel James Barrett Farm, located at 448 Barrett's Mill Road, Concord, Massachusetts, two miles from the town center and from Minute Man National Historical Park. It includes the home and surrounding farmland of Colonel James Barrett (1710-1779), Revolutionary War patriot and one of the leading figures in the events leading up to the British march on Concord in April 1775. The Barrett Farmhouse and a total of 10 parcels on 64 acres of land that has been farmed continuously since the 18th century would be included in the expanded boundary.

The farm was a major hiding place for the colonists' stores of arms and ammunition. British troops headed there on April 19, 1775 but found nothing, the residents having been alerted by Paul Revere in time to secrete muskets, canons and powder in the fields. The Battles of Lexington and Concord occurred later that day, marking the start of the Revolutionary War. Minute Man National Historical Park encompasses 967 acres and includes the North Bridge, site of "the shot heard round the world," and the historic Battle Road, where the British both advanced and retreated. Barrett's farm was the impetus for the British advance and the vigorous work of Colonel Barrett and his militia was a key reason for the British retreat.

Considered for inclusion when Minute Man National Historical Park was established in 1959, the farm was then in private ownership and not available for acquisition. The farmhouse is now owned by Save Our Heritage, Inc. a local nonprofit organization, which seeks to preserve it for public use and enjoyment. The group has been working closely with the Town of Concord and has expended over \$2 million to acquire the farmhouse and in addition, has raised \$770,000 to provide urgently needed stabilization of the building. Much of the surrounding acreage is owned by the Town and is managed as agricultural conservation land, thus preserving the historic agrarian landscape. Owners of the three private parcels have been consulted and have no objection to the boundary change.

The other property included in the proposed boundary expansion abuts the historic Joshua Brooks House, which is owned by the National Park Service. Located at 37 North Great

Road (Battle Road), this 3-acre parcel is partially inside the park boundary. Expanding the boundary would ensure protection of the viewshed around the Joshua Brooks House, a key spot on the Battle Road, by permitting acquisition of the property in fee or through a less-than-fee purchase such as a conservation easement.

The estimated increase in annual operations, maintenance and interpretation costs resulting from the acquisition of lands authorized with this proposed boundary expansion would be approximately \$65,000.

Of the 67 acres authorized in this boundary expansion, the only land that is envisioned to be acquired by the National Park Service is the 4.5 acres that include the farmhouse and the adjacent farmland. The approximate cost to acquire the 4.5 acres would be \$2.1 million. Funding for these costs would be subject to NPS priorities and availability of appropriations. For the remaining 62.5 acres, most of the land (55+ acres) within the potential boundary expansion at Barrett's Farm is owned by the Town of Concord or the Concord School Committee. The park is only authorized to acquire land from a government entity by donation. The rest of the acreage could be protected through conservation easements or management agreements.

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 DANIEL N. WENK, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, 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. 6176, TO AUTHORIZE THE EXPANSION OF THE FORT DAVIS NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE IN FORT DAVIS, TEXAS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

JULY 15, 2008

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. 6176, a bill to authorize the expansion of the Fort Davis National Historic Site in Fort Davis, Texas, and for other purposes.

The Department supports H.R. 6176.

H.R. 6176 would amend Public Law 87-213 to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to acquire, from willing sellers, approximately 55 acres adjacent to Fort Davis National Historic Site (park), and upon acquisition, adjust the park boundary to include these lands within the park and to administer the acquired lands in accordance with all applicable laws. The bill would also increase the acreage ceiling for the park and repeal the appropriations language found in Public Law 87-213.

The lands added to the boundary would be donated, purchased from willing sellers, or a combination. We estimate the land acquisition costs, including closing and other associated costs, to be \$580,000 or less, depending on how much of the land is acquired

through donations. With the exception of boundary identification signs, no additional costs are anticipated to manage or administer the lands proposed for addition.

The land that is proposed to be added to Fort Davis National Historic Site by H.R. 6176 consists of three parcels that total approximately 55 acres. Approximately seven acres are in the process of being donated to the Conservation Fund and significant fundraising efforts are already underway on the part of the Conservation Fund and the Friends of Fort Davis National Historic Site. The Conservation Fund is scheduled to acquire all three parcels by the end of 2008 and has expressed an interest in transferring them to the National Park Service as quickly as donations or appropriations permit.

Named for then Secretary of War Jefferson Davis, Fort Davis National Historic Site is regarded as one of the best preserved forts in the American Southwest. From 1854 to 1891, Fort Davis was strategically located to protect emigrants, mail coaches, and freight wagons. Today, visitors are able to see twenty-four roofed buildings and over 100 ruins and foundations including woodwork, paint, stone work, and adobe architecture. Fort Davis is also important in understanding the presence of African Americans in the West and in the frontier military because the 24th and 25th U.S. Infantry and the 9th and 10th U.S. Cavalry, the all-black "Buffalo Soldier" regiments established after the Civil War, were stationed at the post.

The land that is proposed for addition to the park is located on the southwestern boundary of the park on a prominent bluff. Acquiring this land will ensure that the viewshed for

about one half of the park will appear very similar to the background that surrounded the fort in the mid to late-1800s.

This acquisition will also benefit the adjacent Davis Mountains State Park. The land proposed to be added to Fort Davis National Historic Site by H.R. 6176 is land that is visible from Davis Mountains State Park's Skyline Drive, one of that park's significant attractions. Because of this, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department strongly supports the passage of this bill.

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

STATEMENT OF DANIEL N. WENK, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BEFORE THE HOUSE SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS, FORESTS, AND PUBLIC LANDS ON H.R. 6305, A BILL TO CLARIFY THE AUTHORITIES FOR THE USE OF CERTAIN NATIONAL PARK SERVICE PROPERTIES WITHIN GOLDEN GATE NATIONAL PARKS AND SAN FRANCISCO MARITIME NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Mr. Chairman, thank you for the opportunity to appear before you to present the views of the Department of the Interior on H.R. 6305, a bill to clarify the authorities for the use of certain National Park Service properties within Golden Gate National Parks and San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park, and for other purposes.

The Department has no objection to H.R. 6305 if amended in accordance with the four recommendations in this testimony, which address the naming of the park, the location of the William Penn Mott Visitor Center, interpretative and education functions performed in the park, and the provision of law enforcement at the Presidio.

Golden Gate National Recreation Area was established in 1972 as a unit of the National Park System. The boundary for the park included two previously authorized units of the system – Muir Woods National Monument and Fort Point National Historic Site and two areas that are now separately administered – San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park and Area B of the Presidio, administered by the Presidio Trust.

Section 1 of H.R. 6305, an Administration proposal in the 108th and 109th Congresses, addresses longstanding authority at Golden Gate NRA to spend revenue generated from certain properties for the maintenance of park property. This section would enable the

National Park Service to more effectively manage these properties by ensuring that the revenue from those properties could be used for multi-year rehabilitation and maintenance projects. This legislation also would separate intermingled authorities of Golden Gate National Recreation Area and San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park and, therefore, ensure that each park has its own property-use and admission-fee authorities. It also would provide a modest boundary adjustment between the two areas.

Since 1978, Golden Gate NRA has had authority to retain revenue from the use of the Haslett Warehouse, the Cliff House properties and Louis' Restaurant, which the National Park Service owns. Under this authority, the park may use the revenues for certain infrastructure expenses, "provided that surplus funds, if any, will be deposited into the Treasury of the United States." This provision has been interpreted to mean that funds that are not spent within the fiscal year in which they are collected cannot be spent by the park. Without the ability to retain revenues over a longer period of time, the park cannot use the funds for projects that cost more than the park receives in one year. This legislation would allow revenue to remain available until expended, giving the park the authority to enter into long-term rehabilitation and maintenance contracts.

The authority granted to Golden Gate NRA to provide for leasing and the use of other properties within the park was extended to San Francisco Maritime NHP when that park was established in 1988 as a separate unit from lands within Golden Gate NRA.

However, the authority for using the revenues generated by these leases and other uses was provided by a reference to the Golden Gate NRA law. Instead of relying on this

reference, H.R. 6305 would explicitly include in the law that established the San Francisco Maritime NHP, the authority to use the revenues generated by these leases and other uses within the park.

H.R. 6305 also would make it clear that any revenue generated from the use of properties at both parks would be available as in current law – for administration, maintenance, repair, and related expenses of the properties under a management contract or lease as well as the vessels, piers, and other historic assets within the park. Thus, the revenues generated by these properties would be used to reduce the deferred maintenance backlog at the parks, rather than for broader park purposes.

In addition, H.R. 6305 would transfer the authority for retaining revenue from admission fees to the ships owned by San Francisco Maritime NHP from the law governing Golden Gate NRA to the law governing San Francisco Maritime NHP. And, it would adjust the boundary between the two parks by moving San Francisco's Municipal Pier from Golden Gate NRA to San Francisco Maritime NHP. This boundary adjustment, along with the division of legislative authority for administering leased properties and admission fees, would complete the separation of the two park units that began with the formal establishment of San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park in 1988.

We recommend a technical correction to this section and the title of the bill to reference the correct name of San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park, and would like to work with the committee to ensure that fee authorities at San Francisco Maritime

National Historical Park are consistent with the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act.

Section 2 of H.R. 6305 addresses a name change for Golden Gate NRA. Golden Gate NRA, like Gateway NRA adjacent to New York City and Santa Monica Mountains NRA near Los Angeles and the other unique NRAs, was established to provide open space and recreational and educational opportunities such as hang-gliding and windsurfing for nearby urban populations. While the natural and cultural resources of all units in the National Park System are protected in a similar manner, the public has the highest expectation of resource stewardship at units designated as National Parks. Activities that are acceptable at National Recreation Areas, such as large music concerts, large sporting events, and the private development of public lands by major corporations might raise concern if they were to occur at Yosemite or Yellowstone National Parks. Future activities at Golden Gate National Park likely will receive greater scrutiny because of their possible precedent-setting nature for other National Parks.

We believe the designation “National Recreation Area” is as appropriate today as it was when Golden Gate National Recreation Area was first authorized. Should the committee decide to move forward with H.R. 6305, we recommend that section 2 be revised to eliminate the confusion of designating both one park and a group of parks with the same name. Section 2 of H.R. 6305 changes the name of a single national recreation area to “Golden Gate National Parks” – a collective name that includes several distinct and separately administered units of the National Park System as well as the Presidio, administered by the Presidio Trust. We recommend simplifying the legislation to achieve

the same purpose by revising the name of Golden Gate National Recreation Area to Golden Gate National Park.

We would then recommend including in the same section of the park's law, a separate provision stating that Golden Gate National Park, Muir Woods National Monument, Ft. Point National Historic Site, and the Presidio, each of which have their own governing laws, shall collectively be known as the Golden Gate National Parks. Finally, we would recommend the Secretary be given the authority to use this collective name for public relations and other administrative purposes, similar to how we use the name and reference similar groupings of park resources such as the National Parks of New York Harbor, or Redwood National and State Parks.

Section 3 of H.R. 6305 addresses the location of the William Penn Mott Visitor Center and the creation of an educational mission for the Presidio Trust. The section also addresses the funding of the U.S. Park Police unit at the Presidio, the Presidio reversionary clause, Government Accountability Office reports, and the Fort Scott Task Force.

Section 3 (a) expands the role of the Presidio Trust in the area of interpretive services, visitor orientation, and educational programs. Many park partners provide this fundamental activity in parks throughout the National Park System and we welcome the Trust's assistance in providing these services and programs. However, we believe the National Park Service should retain overall responsibility for the oversight of these

programs and services and that all programs should be conducted in accordance with National Park Service Standards for interpretation and education.

The William Penn Mott Visitor Center operated by the National Park Service in Building 102 was established by the Presidio Trust authorizing law. Building 102 is one of the handsome, stately, brick buildings along Montgomery Avenue on the main parade grounds and originally served as the public face to the National Recreation Area for a growing number of visitors to the new unit at the Presidio. It was closed for seismic retrofitting in August, 2001, but the need for a National Park Visitor Center at the Presidio remains acute.

Visitors can now stop by a temporary center maintained in the old Officers' Club. However, the National Park Service strongly believes that a permanent visitor presence should be maintained on the main parade ground or a similar high-visibility space. Until a final determination of that space can be made, we strongly recommend an amendment to Section 3 (b)(1) to require that the National Park Service retain jurisdiction over those portions of the building 102 unless or until such time as the National Park Service and the Trust mutually agree to a different building.

Section 3 (c) and (d) address the funding of the U.S. Park Police, which is required by law to serve as the law enforcement entity at this exclusive jurisdiction facility. Under the current law, U.S. Park Police activities at the Presidio are paid for by an appropriation to the Trust. This amount was originally capped at \$3 million, but that cap was removed

in amendments to the law in 2000. Current costs for these law enforcement activities have surpassed the \$3 million level. Costs for law enforcement by the Park Police above the amount provided in the Trust's annual appropriation from Congress must be covered by the Trust.

The intent of the amendments proposed in section 3 of H.R. 6305 regarding appropriations for the U.S. Park Police is unclear. The Department of the Interior would object to any provision that would result in the law enforcement costs at the Presidio being borne by the National Park Service and Golden Gate National Recreation Area. Such an outcome would be a breach of the legislative goal of self-sufficiency for the Presidio. We further note that the additional activities and facilities proposed under the Presidio Trust Management Plan Main Post Update Draft Supplemental EIS will increase the law enforcement needs at the Presidio to handle various large events and other activities assumed in the plan. We would like to work with the committee on clarifying this section to address the many issues it raises and to make clear where the funds will come from to support the U.S. Park Police unit providing law enforcement services for the Presidio.

Section 3(c) also would strike the reversionary provision of the Presidio law that requires the transfer to the General Services Administration of all property under the control of the Trust if the goals of the Trust's plan are not reached within 15 years. The reversionary provision also requires the deletion of the lands from the boundary of the national park. The National Park Service continues to believe these lands are nationally significant

resources that should remain part of the National Park System as envisioned in the 1970s when the Presidio was first contemplated as national park land.

Finally, Sections 3 (e) and (f) address Government Accountability Office oversight and the establishment of a Fort Scott Advisory Task Force. We believe the continued oversight of the Government Accountability Office for the Presidio Trust is warranted as it is for all national park units and all federally funded programs. However, we would like to clarify with the committee the timeframes for the study.

While we support the creation of the Fort Scott Advisory Task Force, we recommend that this section be amended to ensure that the National Park Service's interests are represented on the task force since this area of the Presidio remains part of the national park.

We would be glad to work with the committee on language for each of the amendments discussed above as well as a couple of minor technical amendments.

Mr. Chairman, this concludes my statement. I would be happy to answer any questions that you may have.