United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL CAPITAL MEMORIAL ADVISORY COMMISSION
1100 Ohio Drive, S.W., Room 220
Washington, D.C. 20242

IN REPLY REFER TO:

A20 (NCR-LPD)

DEC 20 2012

Honorable Doc Hastings, Chairman,
House of Representatives
Committee on Natural Resources
1324 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I am pleased to report to you the findings of the National Capital Memorial Advisory Commission (Commission) which met on November 7, 2012, to review H.R. 6077, a bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior to designate a trail in Glover Archbold Park as the Rachel Carson Nature Trail. The Commission was established under the Commemorative Works Act of 1986 (40 U.S.C. 89, et. seq.)(CWA). This letter is intended to fulfill the requirements of Section 8903(d) of that Act, which states that the Congress shall solicit the views of the Commission in considering legislation authorizing commemorative works within the District of Columbia and its environs.

District of Columbia Delegate Eleanor Holmes Norton appeared before the Commission to speak in support of the proposal.

Several members voiced concerns that H.R. 6077 was prescriptive in regard to the design of commemorative elements. Noting that specific design elements would be required to be included along the proposed trail, the Commission felt that legislation authorizing a commemorative work should be silent regarding the design of a future proposal, and allow the design process prescribed by the CWA to take place.

The Commission also noted that the site-specific direction in H.R. 6077 was inconsistent with the CWA. The Commission noted that CWA Section 8905 would require that the site selection process be conducted by the Secretary, the Commission, the National Capital Planning Commission and the Commission of Fine Arts, and would encourage the location of the trail in surroundings relevant to Rachel Carson. The Commission recommended that including site-specific requirements would be unnecessarily restrictive because the CWA's site selection process provides adequate assurance that the trail may be located in a location relevant to Rachel Carson's work.

Members of the Commission also noted that Montgomery County plans to complete the Rachel Carson Greenway, a 25-mile trails system to include the Rachel Carson Trail and that the Rachel

Carson Conservation Area, established near the former Montgomery County resident's Silver Spring home, provides a trails experience in close proximity to the District of Columbia and a historical connection to Rachel Carson. Some members commented that H.R. 6077's trail designation to Rachel Carson would be redundant and confusing, while others felt that the state and regional facilities were not of national significance as a trail established within a national park would be.

The Commission and Ms. Norton noted that information that documents Rachel Carson's work in Glover Archbold Park was not provided to the Commission and were advised that Ms. Norton's staff would continue their efforts to locate records describing research or observations conducted by Rachel Carson in Glover Archbold Park.

I would be pleased to answer any questions or to provide further information if you so desire. I and my staff are available to assist you and can be reached at (202) 619-7027.

Sincerely,

Peter May, Chairman
National Capital Memorial Advisory Commission

Enclosure

cc:
Honorable Rob Bishop, Chairman
House of Representatives Committee on Natural Resources
Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests and Public Lands
1324 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Honorable Raul M. Grijalva, Ranking Minority Member
House of Representatives Committee on Natural Resources
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Honorable Eleanor Holmes Norton
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