



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Washington, DC 20240

The Honorable Joe Manchin III
Chairman, Committee on Energy
and Natural Resources
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I hereby transmit the enclosed *New Philadelphia Special Resource Study*. The study was completed by the National Park Service pursuant to Public Law (P.L.) 113-291 (the Carl Levin and Howard P. “Buck” McKeon National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015), which directed the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study (SRS) of the archeological site and surrounding land associated with the New Philadelphia Townsite near Barry, Illinois. The New Philadelphia Townsite is the first town known to be platted and registered by an African American, and it was one of the few integrated 19th-century rural communities in Illinois.

On December 29, 2022, President Joe Biden signed P.L. 117-328 (the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023) designating the New Philadelphia National Historic Site as part of the national park system. I am transmitting the SRS to Congress to complete the SRS process and meet the requirement of P.L. 113-291. Although passage of this law made this study’s conclusions obsolete, this document contains useful information for the National Park Service’s establishment and development of the new national park unit.

Thank you for your interest in the National Park Service. A similar letter is being sent to the Honorable John Barrasso, Ranking Member, Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, United States Senate; the Honorable Bruce Westerman, Chairman, Committee on Natural Resources, U.S. House of Representatives; and the Honorable Raúl Grijalva, Ranking Member, Committee on Natural Resources, U.S. House of Representatives.

The affected members of the Illinois delegation will also receive a copy of the report and this letter.

Sincerely,

Shannon A. Estenoz
Assistant Secretary
for Fish and Wildlife and Parks

Enclosure

cc: The Honorable Richard Durbin
The Honorable Tammy Duckworth
The Honorable Darin LaHood



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Chairman, Committee on Natural Resources
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