HEARING ON H.R. 146, H.R. 182, AND H.R. 601

LEGISLATIVE HEARING

BEFORE THE

SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS, RECREATION, AND PUBLIC LANDS

OF THE

COMMITTEE ON RESOURCES
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH CONGRESS

FIRST SESSION

March 13, 2001

Serial No. 107-4

Printed for the use of the Committee on Resources

Available via the World Wide Web: http://www.access.gpo.gov/congress/house
or
Committee address: http://resourcescommittee.house.gov

U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE

71-154 DTP WASHINGTON : 2001

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HEARING ON H.R. 146, TO AUTHORIZE THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR TO STUDY THE SUITABILITY AND FEASIBILITY OF DESIGNATING THE GREAT FALLS HISTORIC DISTRICT IN PATERSON, NEW JERSEY, AS A UNIT OF THE NATIONAL PARK SYSTEM, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES; H.R. 182, TO AMEND THE WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS ACT TO DESIGNATE A SEGMENT OF THE EIGHTMILE RIVER IN THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT FOR STUDY FOR POTENTIAL ADDITION TO THE NATIONAL WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS SYSTEM, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES; AND H.R. 601, TO ENSURE THE CONTINUED ACCESS OF HUNTERS TO THOSE FEDERAL LANDS INCLUDED WITHIN THE BOUNDARIES OF THE CRATERS OF THE MOON NATIONAL MONUMENT IN THE STATE OF IDAHO PURSUANT TO PRESIDENTIAL PROCLAMATION 7373 OF NOVEMBER 9, 2000, AND TO CONTINUE THE APPLICABILITY OF THE TAYLOR GRAZING ACT TO THE DISPOSITION OF GRAZING FEES ARISING FROM THE USE OF SUCH LANDS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Tuesday, March 13, 2001

House of Representatives

Subcommittee on National Parks, Recreation, and Public Lands

Committee on Resources

Washington, DC

The Subcommittee met, pursuant to call, at 2 p.m., in Room 1324 Longworth House Office Building, Hon. Joel Hefley [Chairman of the Subcommittee] presiding.

STATEMENT OF THE HONORABLE JOEL HEFLEY, A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF COLORADO

The committee will come to order. Good afternoon and welcome to the hearing today. This afternoon, the Subcommittee on National Parks, Recreation, and Public Lands will hear testimony on three bills, H.R. 146, H.R. 182 and H.R. 601.

H.R. 146 was introduced by Congressman Bill Pascrell of New Jersey. This bill would authorize the Secretary of the Interior to study the suitability and feasibility of designating the Great Falls Historic District in Paterson, New Jersey, as a unit of the National Park System.

H.R. 182 was introduced by Congressman Rob Simmons of Connecticut. This bill would amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to designate a segment of Eightmile River in the State of Connecticut for study for potential addition to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

Lastly, H.R. 601 was introduced by Congressman Mike Simpson of Idaho. This bill would ensure that hunters enjoy continued access to Federal lands included within the expanded boundaries of the Craters of the Moon National Monument in the State of Idaho. Last November, the Clinton Administration expanded the monument through a Presidential proclamation from 54,000 acres to add an additional 661,000 acres. The effect of the Administration's action was to close approximately 410,000 acres to hunting.

This bill would reopen the closed areas to hunting. The bill would also provide that the Taylor Grazing Act would control the manner in which grazing fees arising from the use of the land within the expanded boundaries of the monument are distributed.

[The texts of H.R. 146, H.R. 182, and H.R. 601 follow:]

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107TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 146

To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to study the suitability and feasibility of designating the Great Falls Historic District in Paterson, New Jersey, as a unit of the National Park System, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 3, 2001

Mr. PASCRELL introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Resources

---

A BILL

To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to study the suitability and feasibility of designating the Great Falls Historic District in Paterson, New Jersey, as a unit of the National Park System, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Great Falls Historic District Study Act of 2001''.

SEC. 2. NATIONAL PARK SERVICE STUDY REGARDING GREAT FALLS HISTORIC DISTRICT, PATERSON, NEW JERSEY.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) GREAT FALLS HISTORIC DISTRICT.—The term ''Great Falls Historic District'' means the Great Falls Historic District in the city of Paterson, New Jersey, established as an historic district by section 510 of the Omnibus Parks and Public Lands Management Act of 1996 (Public Law 104–333; 110 Stat. 4158; 16 U.S.C. 461 note).

(2) SECRETARY.—The term ''Secretary'' means the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Director of the National Park Service.

(b) STUDY.—As soon as practicable after funds are made available to carry out this section, the Secretary shall commence a study regarding the suitability and feasibility of further recognizing the historic and cultural significance of the lands and structures of the Great Falls Historic District through the designation of the Great Falls Historic District as a unit of the National Park System.

(c) STUDY PROCESS AND COMPLETION.—Section 8(c) of Public Law 91–383 (16 U.S.C. 1a–5(c)) shall apply to the study required by this section.

(d) SUBMISSION.—The Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Resources of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate a report describing the results the study.

(e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as are necessary to carry out this section.

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107TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 182

To amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to designate a segment of the Eight Mile River in the State of Connecticut for study for potential addition to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 3, 2001

Mr. SIMMONS (for himself, Mrs. JOHNSON of Connecticut, Mr. SHAYS, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. MALONEY of Connecticut, and Ms. DELAURO) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Resources

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A BILL

To amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to designate a segment of the Eight Mile River in the State of Connecticut for study for potential addition to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Eight Mile River Wild and Scenic River Study Act of 2001''.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

The Congress finds that—

(1) the Eight Mile River in the State of Connecticut possesses important resource values, including wildlife, ecological, and scenic values, and historic sites and a cultural past important to America's heritage;

(2) there is strong support among State and local officials, area residents, and river users for a cooperative wild and scenic river study of the area; and

(3) there is a longstanding interest among State and local officials, area residents, and river users in undertaking a concerted cooperative effort to manage the river in a productive and meaningful way.

SEC. 3. DESIGNATION FOR STUDY.

Section 5(a) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (16 U.S.C. 1276(a)) is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

''(138) EIGHT MILE RIVER, CONNECTICUT.—The segment from its headwaters downstream to its confluence with the Connecticut River.''.

''(18) The study of the Eight Mile River, Connecticut, named in paragraph (138) of subsection (a) shall be completed by the Secretary of the Interior and the re-

port thereon submitted to Congress not later than 3 years after the date of the enactment of this paragraph.''.

SEC. 5. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary to carry out this Act.

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107TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 601

To ensure the continued access of hunters to those Federal lands included within the boundaries of the Craters of the Moon National Monument in the State of Idaho pursuant to Presidential Proclamation 7373 of November 9, 2000, and to continue the applicability of the Taylor Grazing Act to the disposition of grazing fees arising from the use of such lands, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 13, 2001

Mr. SIMPSON introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Resources

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A BILL

To ensure the continued access of hunters to those Federal lands included within the boundaries of the Craters of the Moon National Monument in the State of Idaho pursuant to Presidential Proclamation 7373 of November 9, 2000, and to continue the applicability of the Taylor Grazing Act to the disposition of grazing fees arising from the use of such lands, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

SECTION 1. SPECIAL MANAGEMENT REQUIREMENTS FOR FEDERAL LANDS RECENTLY ADDED TO CRATERS OF THE MOON NATIONAL MONUMENT, IDAHO.

(a) FINDINGS.—The Congress finds the following:

(1) Presidential Proclamation 7373 of November 9, 2000 (65 Fed. Reg. 69221), expanded the boundaries of the Craters of the Moon National Monument in the State of Idaho to include approximately 661,287 additional acres of Federal lands and interests in lands (in this section referred to as the ''expansion area'').

(2) Before the inclusion of the expansion area in the national monument, these Federal lands were open to hunting consistent with the laws of the State of Idaho and grazing consistent with the Act of June 28, 1934 (43 U.S.C. 315 et seq.; commonly known as the Taylor Grazing Act).

(3) The proclamation contained the expressed intent to neither enlarge nor diminish the jurisdiction of the State of Idaho with respect to fish and wildlife management in the expansion area and stated that the laws, regulations, and policies followed by the Bureau of Land Management in issuing and administering grazing permits or leases on lands under its jurisdiction would continue to apply.

(4) However, the proclamation also gave the National Park Service primary management authority over a portion of the expansion area under the same laws and regulations that applied to the national monument before November 9, 2000, and these laws and regulations prohibit hunting and raise concerns regarding the future disposition of grazing fees arising from the use of the expansion area.

(b) CONTINUED ACCESS FOR HUNTING.—Those portions of the expansion area that were open for hunting before the issuance of Presidential Proclamation 7373 of November 9, 2000, shall remain open to hunting under the jurisdiction and laws of the State of Idaho notwithstanding the addition of the expansion area to the Craters of the Moon National Monument.

(c) DISPOSITION OF GRAZING FEES.—The Act of June 28, 1934 (43 U.S.C. 315 et seq.; commonly known as the Taylor Grazing Act), shall continue to apply to the disposition of grazing fees arising from the use of the expansion area notwithstanding the addition of the expansion area to the Craters of the Moon National Monument.

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Mr. HEFLEY. I would like to thank all of our witnesses for being here today to testify on these bills, and since I have no ranking member, we are going to go directly to the first panel.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Hefley follows:]

Statement of The Honorable Joel Hefley, Chairman, Subcommittee on National Parks, Recreation and Public Lands, on H.R. 146, H.R. 182 and H.R. 601

Good afternoon and welcome to the hearing today. This afternoon, the Subcommittee on National Parks, Recreation and Public Lands will hear testimony on three bills H.R. 146, H.R. 182 and H.R. 601.

H.R. 146 was introduced by Congressman Bill Pascrell of New Jersey. This bill would authorize the Secretary of the Interior to study the suitability and feasibility of designating the Great Falls Historic District in Paterson, New Jersey, as a unit of the National Park System.

H.R. 182 was introduced by Congressman Rob Simmons of Connecticut. This bill would amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to designate a segment of the Eightmile River in the State of Connecticut for study for potential addition to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

Last, H.R. 601 was introduced by Congressman Mike Simpson of Idaho. This bill would ensure that hunters enjoy continued access to Federal lands included within the expanded boundaries of the Craters of the Moon National Monument in the State of Idaho. Last November, the Clinton Administration expanded the monument through a Presidential Proclamation from 54,000 acres to add an additional 661,000 acres. The effect of the Administration's action was to close approximately 410,000 acres to hunting. This bill would reopen the closed areas to hunting. The bill would also provide that the Taylor Grazing Act would control the manner in which grazing fees arising from the use of the land within the expanded boundaries of the monument are distributed.

I'd like to thank all of our witnesses for being here today to testify on these bills and now turn the time remaining over to the Ranking Member, Ms. Christensen.

[The prepared statements of Senator Corzine and Senator Torricelli follow:]

Statement of The Honorable Jon S. Corzine, U.S. Senator, State of New Jersey on H.R. 146

Mr. Chairman, thank you for this opportunity to submit written testimony in support of this bill, which authorizes the National Park Service to assess the potential for incorporating the Great Falls Historic District in Paterson, New Jersey, as a unit of our National Park System. I am a co-sponsor of the Act with Senator Robert Torricelli in the Senate and Congressman Bill Pascrell in the House. Please enter this testimony into the record.

In 1976, when Congress designated the Great Falls area as a National Historic District, it recognized Paterson's singular history as the cradle of American industry and invention. Planned by Alexander Hamilton, Paterson has played a unique role in the story of working people in this country. American industry and American labor are rooted here. This is the home of technological and social innovation in the United States, and this legislation will determine the best way to create living history out of this special resource.

The study we are requesting is a logical extension of the commitment Congress has already made to restoring the Great Falls and making it accessible to all our citizens. It builds on the 1976 designation and the Federal Urban History Initiative (UHI) that my predecessor, Senator Frank Lautenberg, authored in 1991.

The City of Paterson and the National Park Service have a long history of working together to implement the kind of restoration, envisioned in those earlier initiatives, that will let history live on in our generation and the generations to follow. I am confident your Committee will concur that authorization of the Great Falls Historic District Study Act of 2001 is essential to enhancing the heritage that built our country and sustains it to this day.

Again, Mr. Chairman, thank you for the opportunity to submit this written testimony.

Statement of The Honorable Robert G. Torricelli, U.S. Senator, State of New Jersey, on H.R. 146

Thank you Chairman Hansen, Ranking Member Rahall, and members of the Resources Committee (Committee) for the opportunity to testify before the Committee on H.R. 146, legislation introduced by Congressman Bill Pascrell to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to study the suitability and feasibility of designating the Great Falls Historic District in Paterson, New Jersey, as a unit of the National Park System (NPS).

I have introduced similar legislation in the Senate, with my colleague from New Jersey, Mr. Corzine, and am seeking hearings on my bill, S. 386. These important bills recognize the historical significance of the Great Falls area in Paterson, New Jersey, and I am hopeful that our colleagues in both chambers join us in support of this effort.

Paterson is known as America's first industrialized city. Alexander Hamilton founded Paterson in 1792 as a mercantile private-public partnership, using the powerful falls to power industry. He built a laboratory, and established the Society for the Establishment of Useful Manufactures which actively promoted the textiles industry. Textiles were a large part of the development of industry in Paterson, once known as the Silk City, and regarded as the center of the textile industry for many years.

New and developing industries located to Paterson and contributed to the growth of the city. New immigrants, arriving at nearby Ellis Island, settled in Paterson, and provided the workforce necessary for this newly industrialized city to thrive.

Rich in history, the Paterson Great Falls is also endowed with natural beauty. The Great Falls is an island of beauty in a sea of urban development. The Great Falls is the second largest waterfall on the East Coast, and attracts visitors from within and outside of New Jersey.

Paterson Great Falls is also an educational tool for New Jersey's children. Students young and old travel to Paterson Great Falls to witness its natural splendor, to learn about the industrial revolution, and the pioneers who helped build our nation.

This area is truly a valuable asset to the State of New Jersey, and I feel it is only proper to share this wonderful resource with the entire nation by establishing the Paterson Great Falls as a unit of the National Park System (NPS).

The Federal Government has already acknowledged the significance of Great Falls, by designating the area a national historic landmark. Establishing it as a unit of the NPS would increase the presence of Great Falls, and the NPS would provide staff and tours, and allow for a better, more educational interpretation of the site.

This designation is warranted. Our nation's urban history is currently under-represented by the NPS. Not many sites tell the story of the growth of our nation and its economy from that of agrarian to industrial. Other than Lowell, Massachusetts, a one-time industrial powerhouse whose historic district was designated a national park, I am not aware of another NPS site which represents our nation's early rich urban history.

Congressman Pascrell's legislation would take the first step toward this important designation by directing the NPS to study the feasibility of establishing a national park at the Paterson Great Falls area. I wholly endorse this initiative, and look forward to the consideration of H.R. 146 in the Senate. This legislation is necessary so that a critical chapter in the story of our nation may be told to future generations.

Mr. HEFLEY. The first panel is made up of The Honorable Rob Simmons, Second District of Connecticut, and The Honorable Bill Pascrell, Jr., the Eighth District of New Jersey. Have you all flipped a coin or decided who would like to go first?

Mr. PASCRELL. I will lead off, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. HEFLEY. Bill, you take it from there.

STATEMENT OF THE HONORABLE BILL PASCRELL, JR., A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY

Mr. PASCRELL. Well, thank you, Mr. Chairman, for allowing us the opportunity to testify here today. H.R. 146 calls for a study of

the Great Falls National Historic District, in my district and in my hometown of Paterson, New Jersey, to determine the feasibility of adding Paterson, the historic district, to the National Park System. There is no dispute that the Great Falls Historic District possesses an historic significance that makes it an area to be preserved and treasured. The history is rich.

Alexander Hamilton realized the incredible beauty and potential of the Great Falls when he founded Paterson in 1792. As America's first planned industrial city, it is our duty to ensure its preservation for generations to come. As we revisit Alexander Hamilton, Mr. Chairman, we see a very different Hamilton than we learned perhaps in our schools. The greatness of this man is yet not discovered.

Already tourists pour into this area to see the 77-foot Great Falls of the Passaic River and to partake in the preserved history; 20,000 yearly visitors have attended the Paterson Museum, which is in the district. The falls and the surrounding neighborhood really represent the genesis of the American economic miracle. Increasing the presence of the National Park Service will give the area the attention and resources it really deserves.

As a key to our manufacturing roots, these mills that sit today at the Great Falls constructed paper and cotton, and manufactured the first revolver at Sam Colt's Works, the first locomotives at the Rogers Works, as well as airplane engines and, of course, silk. Paterson was the Silk City. Paterson is known around the world for being the producer of such silk. These buildings represent the various stages of the Industrial Revolution. They stand as monuments to progress. They are a mirror to hard-working American families.

As a result of the employment opportunities that abound in Paterson because of these mills, Mr. Chairman, the city's population grew and diversified rapidly. Between 1850 and the turn-of-the-century, Paterson's population increased from 11,000 to 105,000 people, growing by an average of 50 percent per decade. As a result, Paterson is representative of the waves of immigration in the United States. The Irish and the English immigrants, replaced later by the Italians and subsequently Spanish-speaking populations who still reside here today, 57 ethnic groups. Chronicling the patterns and cultures of the immigrants that came to Paterson from the 18th through the 20th centuries would provide us with a microcosm of the effect of immigration in shaping this greatest of all lands.

The historic labor unrest in Paterson focused on anti-child labor legislation, safety in the workplace, the minimum wage and reasonable working hours. Some of the most important figures in early 20th-century labor history were involved in the Great Silk Strike of 1913, and while teaching modern-day Americans about the history of the industry, the mills at Great Falls also set the backdrop for the history of the labor movement. Today, they can teach both histories so tightly intertwined.

Not only is the Great Falls Historic District historically significant, but the city of Paterson stands ready to work in conjunction with the National Park Service to develop its potential. I am confident that the city is up to this task. This is the first legislative

step I have taken on behalf of the Great Falls toward joining the National Park Service, but it is not the first time I have worked with the city of Paterson to enhance and develop this valuable and important area.

I have long thought that the Passaic River and the Great Falls are not only a critical part of our past history, they are the key to our future, to the city's future, to the region's future. We must do all we can in a united fashion to protect these most valuable assets. As the Mayor of Paterson, I went to Washington in 1993 to testify before the House Subcommittee on Parks and Public Lands, to help convince Congress that this area was worth protecting. I was proud to work with then-United States Senator Frank Lautenberg to secure Federal funds to revitalize the Great Falls Historic District.

Our work paid off, and the following year I stood with the Senator on the steps of the Paterson Museum and accepted $4.1 million in Federal dollars, secured under the Urban History Initiative, to restore and rebuild the Stoney Road Bridge over the upper raceway, as well as hiking trails. This helps strengthen the relationship between the National Park Service and the city of Paterson.

The Great Falls District has been on the National Register of Historic Places since 1970, has been a national landmark named by President Ford, and I was so proud to be there at the time that he named, in 1976, this great, great landmark. He defined it. He came to Paterson to do such. In 1988, the Interior Department listed the district as a Priority One threatened National Historic Landmark. So the Park Service has long been aware of our need to protect and save this area. Since the beginning of our relationship, the city and the Park Service have worked together in a partnership that has helped the city begin to develop and revitalize the Great Falls Historic District.

You will hear later on, Mr. Chairman, members of the Committee, from Anna-Lisa Dopirak, the director of community development for the city of Paterson, who will share with you many examples of the strong relationship between the city and the National Park Service. In addition to a strong partnership with the city, I believe the key to the success of creating a viable and healthy historic district is community involvement, and that is why we created an Advisory Committee that meets regularly with the Park Service to choose the priorities and shape the direction the Great Falls Historic District will move in. As Mayor, I attended many of those meetings and was impressed by the community's interest and support on the issue.

You will also hear from Pat DiIanni, the president of Vision 20/20, a community organization that is providing grass-roots support for the revitalization of the entire county of Passaic, including the Great Falls Historic District. He will share with you many examples of how the community has evolved.

These falls really represent our city, Mr. Chairman, its people and its potential. This place can be a real destination, help us in creating jobs, grow businesses and bring people back from all over. You cannot put a velvet rope around the district. We must make it a living, breathing attraction that will celebrate our past, present and future.

In conclusion, I will steal the words of the National Park Service in the Design Guidelines they created for the Great Falls Historic District in 1999. "The district bears eloquent testimony to astounding feats of engineering and construction, to ingenious manufacturers and to the courage, creativity and drudgery of untold lives spent within those mills. It is also about the human propensity to harness the forces of nature, to put water and gravity and stone to work. The district retains the sense of having been one large factory, driven by one powerful engine, an image completely consistent with Hamilton's vision of a centralized national manufactory."

Thank you again, Mr. Chairman, and I am honored to appear before your Committee.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Pascrell follows:]

Statement of The Honorable Bill Pascrell, Jr., a Representative in Congress from the State of New Jersey, on H.R. 146

Thank you Mr. Chairman and the entire subcommittee for allowing me the opportunity to testify here today. My legislation, H.R. 146, calls for a study of the Great Falls National Historic District in my hometown of Paterson, New Jersey, to determine the feasibility of adding it to the National Park System.

There is no dispute that the Great Falls Historic District possesses a historic significance that makes it an area to be preserved and treasured. The history here is rich. Alexander Hamilton realized the incredible beauty and potential of the Great Falls when he founded Paterson in 1792 as America's first planned industrial city and it is our duty to ensure its preservation for generations to come.

Already, tourists are pouring in every year to see the 77-foot Great Falls of the Passaic River and to partake in our preserved history. For the past 12 years, an average of 20,000 yearly visitors have attended the Paterson Museum in the Historic District. And the Great Falls Visitors Center reports almost 5,000 visitors to the center in the last year.

The Falls and the surrounding neighborhood really represent the genesis of the American economic miracle, and increasing the presence of the National Park Service here will give the area the attention and resources it rightly deserves.

As a key to our manufacturing roots, the mills that sit today at the Great Falls constructed paper, cotton,. They manufactured the first revolver at Samuel Colt's Works, the first locomotives at the Rogers Works, as well as airplane engines, and of course silk. Paterson is known around the world as the Silk City. These buildings represent the various stages of the industrial revolution in the United States. They stand as monuments to progress, and could provide living museums for present day Americans to learn about this important part of our history.

As a result of the employment opportunities that abounded in Paterson because of the mills, the city's population grew and diversified rapidly. Between 1850 and the turn of the century, the population of Paterson increased from 11,000 to 105,000 growing by an average of 50 percent per decade.

As a result, Paterson is representative of the waves of immigration in the United States, as Irish and English immigrants were replaced later by Italians, and then subsequently Spanish-speaking populations who still reside there today.

Chronicling the patterns and cultures of the immigrants that came to Paterson from the 18th through the 20th centuries would provide us with a microcosm of the effect of immigrants in the shaping of the United States.

This convergence between the burgeoning industrial workplace and the fledgling immigrant communities resulted in conflicts that led to the modern day labor movement.

The historic labor unrest in Paterson focused on anti-child labor legislation, safety in the workplace, minimum wage, and reasonable working hours. Some of the most important figures in early 20th Century American labor history were involved in the Great Silk Strike of 1913.

While teaching modern day Americans about the history of industry, the mills at Great Falls also set the backdrop for the history of the labor movement. Today they can teach both histories—so tightly intertwined—together.

Not only is the Great Falls Historic District historically significant, but the city of Paterson stands ready to work in conjunction with the National Park Service to develop its potential. My goal is to create a synergistic partnership between the city

of Paterson and the National Park Service. I am confident that Paterson is up to the task.

This bill is the first legislative step I have taken on behalf of Great Falls toward joining the National Park Service. But it is not the first time I have worked with the city of Paterson to enhance and develop this valuable and important area. I have long thought that the Passaic River and the Great Falls are not only a critical part of our past history. They are the key to our future, and we must do all we can in a united fashion to protect these most valuable assets.

As Mayor of Paterson, I went to Washington in 1993 to testify before the House Subcommittee on Parks and Public Lands to help convince Congress that this area was worth protecting.

I was proud to work closely with our former U.S. Senator Frank Lautenberg to secure Federal funds to revitalize the Great Falls Historic District. Our work paid off and the following year, I stood with Senator Lautenberg on the steps of the Paterson Museum and accepted $4.1 million in Federal dollars secured under the Urban History Initiative to restore and rebuild the Stoney Road Bridge over the Upper Raceway as well as hiking trails.

This helped strengthen a relationship between the National Park Service and the city of Paterson that is ongoing today. But the city of Paterson has an even longer history of working with the Federal Government to preserve its historic lands.

The Great Falls district has been on the National Register of Historic Places since 1970 and has been a National Historic Landmark since 1976. Since 1988, the Interior Department has listed the district as a Priority One threatened National Historic Landmark. So the Park Service has long been aware of our need to protect and save this area.

Since the beginning of our relationship, the City and the Park Service have worked together in a partnership that has helped the City begin to develop and revitalize the Great Falls Historic District.

You will hear later from Anna-Lisa Dopirak, the Director of Community Development for the city of Paterson, who will share with you many examples of the strong relationship between the City and the National Park Service.

In addition to a strong partnership with the City, I believe that the key to the success of creating a viable and healthy historic district is community involvement. That is why we created an Advisory Committee that meets regularly with the Park Service to choose the priorities and shape the direction the Great Falls Historic District will move in.

As Mayor of Paterson, I attended as many of those meetings as possible. I was impressed by the community's interest and support in this issue.

You will hear later from Pat DiIanni, the President of Vision 20/20, a community organization that is providing grassroots support for the revitalization of Passaic County, including the Great Falls Historic District. He will share with you other examples of community support and efforts to develop and protect the area through community involvement.

These Falls really represent our city, its people and all its potential. This place can be a real destination that will create jobs, grow businesses and bring people in from all over. We cannot put a velvet rope around the district we must make it a living, breathing attraction that will celebrate our past, present and future.

In conclusion, I will steal the words of the National Park Service in the Design Guidelines they created for the Great Falls Historic District in 1999, "The district bears eloquent testimony to astounding feats of engineering and construction, to ingenious manufacturers, and to the courage, creativity, and drudgery of untold lives spent within the mills. It is also about the human propensity to harness the forces of nature, to put water and gravity and stone to work. The district retains the sense of having been one large factory driven by one powerful engine, an image completely consistent with Hamilton's vision of a centralized national manufactory."

Thank you again for this opportunity.

Mr. HEFLEY. Thank you, Mr. Pascrell.

Mr. Simmons?

STATEMENT OF THE HONORABLE ROB SIMMONS, A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT

Mr. SIMMONS. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased to be here this afternoon to testify in support of H.R. 182, which is a bill to

study the inclusion of Connecticut's Eightmile River as part of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, and we have a map here in the chamber, Mr. Chairman, which we can use to illustrate the location of this river. As you probably know, Connecticut has a wealth of natural resources, and the Eightmile River, which is located in the area to the east of the Connecticut River, which bisects the State, is the area that we are talking about. It is a watershed from three of our towns down into a cove, which then flows into the river and then into Long Island Sound.

This river has been identified as an exemplary source of resources. It is free-flowing. It has excellent water quality. It has a diversity of aquatic water habitats and fish species, including native trout, and it is also a recreational resource which figures into the communities which surround it. Unfortunately, because of the trends of development in Connecticut in recent years, it is not likely to remain in its current condition without some community effort and some effort on our part to preserve and protect it.

That is why, on the very first day that I was sworn in as a freshman member of this House of Representatives, I introduced a bill to study the Eightmile River for wild and scenic status. I was pleased to be joined in that effort by all of my House colleagues on both sides of the aisle, from Connecticut, and as well, I received commitments from Senators Dodd and Lieberman on the Senate side to introduce companion bills in that body. For more than 30 years, the National Wild and Scenic Rivers Act has protected some of our nation's most precious rivers, and they are not all out west or in some of the vast reaches of our country. In fact, in northwestern Connecticut, the Farmington River has achieved that status through legislation introduced by Congresswoman Nancy Johnson. Connecticut can have a wild and scenic river. It is possible.

This Act makes sure that certain select rivers of the Nation that have these outstanding assets will be preserved and protected, and that they will be available to future generations. I think that the Eightmile River possesses all of these qualities. I believe that the dollars we are requesting for a study will demonstrate that beyond a reasonable doubt, and this is the process we follow in these cases. I am proud to submit this legislation on behalf of my constituents in those three towns, and I would like to request if we could, Mr. Chairman, that some correspondence between individuals and organizations be introduced into the record. This is an initiative that has broad-based support in the community, and these letters demonstrate that commitment.

I am also excited that one of our three first selectmen from this area is here with us today. That is Sue Merrow of East Haddam. She has some testimony she would like to submit, and also Nathan Frohling of The Connecticut Nature Conservancy is here to testify on behalf of this bill. I thank you, Mr. Chairman, for your attention. I am happy to answer any questions that you have, and I look forward to working with you and your Committee on this legislation as we move forward.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Simmons follows:]

Statement by The Honorable Rob Simmons, a Representative in Congress from the State of Connecticut, on H.R. 182

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee, I am pleased to be here this afternoon to testify in support of H.R. 182, a bill to study the inclusion of Connecticut's Eightmile River as part of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

Eastern Connecticut is fortunate to have a wealth of natural beauty, such as the Eightmile River. The river, and the watershed it supports, is an outstanding ecological system. It has been identified as an exemplary occurrence of one of Connecticut's most imperiled natural communities. Its streams are free flowing, contain excellent water quality and a diversity of aquatic habitats and fish species, including native and stocked trout. The Eightmile River is also an important recreational resource and figures prominently in the character of the communities in which it flows.

Unfortunately, the Eightmile River is not likely to remain in this outstanding condition without a concerted community effort to protect it.

That's why on my very first day in Congress, I introduced H.R. 182, a bill authorizing the National Park Service to study and determine whether the Eightmile River is eligible for designation as a National Wild and Scenic River. I was pleased to be joined in this effort by every member of Connecticut's congressional delegation.

For more than 30 years, the National Wild and Scenic Rivers Act has safeguarded some of the nation's most precious rivers. The Act intends that certain select rivers of the Nation that possess outstandingly remarkable scenic, recreational, geologic, fish and wildlife, historic, cultural or other similar values, shall be preserved in free-flowing condition, and that they shall be protected for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations. Designated rivers receive protection to preserve their-free-flowing condition, to protect the water quality and to fulfill other vital national conservation purposes. I believe Connecticut's Eightmile River possesses all of these qualities, deserves all of these protections and should be looked at by the National Park Service as an important addition to the National Wild and Scenic River System.

I am very proud to submit this legislation at the request of my constituents in East Haddam, Salem and Lyme. I am excited that the First Selectman of East Haddam, Sue Merrow and Nathan Frohling of the Connecticut Nature Conservancy are here in Washington to testify on behalf of this bill. Thank you.

EAST HADDAM LAND TRUST, INC.
P.O. Box 122, East Haddam, CT 06423

March 12, 2001

Congressman Robert Simmons
511 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C.

Dear Congressman Simmons,

I am writing on behalf of the East Haddam Land Trust urging the committee to strongly support bill HR1082. We believe the Eight Mile River is a valuable natural resource, which is at this time relatively undeveloped and free flowing. We support and endorse any efforts made to conserve and protect this treasure.

Very truly yours,

Maureen VanDerStad
President

David B. Bingham, MD
50 White Birch Road
Salem, CT 06420

Testimony Regarding Study of the Eightmile River

My name is David Bingham, and I live in Salem, Connecticut. I was raised on a farm located on the East Branch of the Eightmile River. For much of my life, I took the river for granted, part of a big backyard that had a river running through it where we could swim or fish or explore.

That was over fifty years ago. Since then I have traveled widely, with a special interest in birds, many of which use habitats along streams and wetlands. Every time I travel, I appreciate more and more the significance of the stream that flows through my "backyard," when I return home to Salem. And the more I read about the connectedness of ecological systems (the importance of wildlife corridors, water quality, biodiversity, varied habitats, larger tracts of open space, to the health of our natural environment), the more I realize that the incredible natural resource that is here is dependent on the quality and use of the lands adjacent to the river, not only in the valley that I live in, but in the whole watershed.

Over 200 species of birds use this watershed during at least part of their life-cycle, some migrating through, but many finding critically important habitat for their survival, including species such as the Cerulean and Black-throated Blue Warblers, Hermit and Wood Thrushes, Hawks, Owls, Rails, Wood Ducks.

Five years ago I was privileged to be asked by the Selectmen of the Town of Salem to serve on a committee to study the Eightmile River Watershed, with assistance from State and Federal experts on natural resources. What we found opened everyone's eyes to the fact that the beautiful and well known areas of the stream, namely Devil's Hopyard State Park and the confluence of the stream with the Connecticut River at Hamburg Cove, are just a fraction of the beautiful and unspoiled areas of the stream.

Half of our Town of Salem lies within the watershed, and there is almost no development along the main branch of the stream and most of its tributaries. But pressure for development is enormous, and pressure to divert or remove water from the stream system for neighboring towns, in our rapidly urbanizing region of the state, is growing.

The Town of Salem has signed a pact with her neighboring Towns of Lyme and East Haddam to protect the River's natural resources and scenic beauty. But we are small towns and are at times at the mercy of federal and state projects that overwhelm our local interests. We need to know that we can receive the recognition and evaluation that will prove to others that this is a resource with far wider value than our local parochial interests.

Not only the avian, but animal (River Otter, Mink, Weasel, Bobcat), amphibian (Box and Spotted Turtles, Spotted and Marbled Salamanders, Wood Frogs), and plant species are under severe stress from the suburban sprawl that is overwhelming their habitats in our region.

Atlantic Salmon and other anadromous fishes have a stream here that, if protected, can improve their chances of restoration and survival. Fish ladders have been built on the only two dams that block the use of habitat on the main branches of the river, but the quality of the water must be maintained if these fish are to continue to reproduce successfully.

It is our hope and expectation that study we are requesting will show that the Eightmile River is worthy of designation as a Wild and Scenic River, and that authorization of the study will lead to better protection of this beautiful and important natural resource. The Eightmile River is a gem that we are in danger of damaging irreparably. We urge your authorization of the study under the provisions of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.

With your help, we look forward to preserving the quality of the Eightmile River, a major tributary of the Connecticut River, and a critical component of a watershed that has ecological value of international significance. Thank you for your support.

Respectfully,

David Bingham,
President, Salem Land Trust
Salem, Connecticut 3/11/01

Mr. & Mrs. James H. Thach, III
23 Mitchell Hill Road
Lyme, Connecticut 06371

March 12, 2001

Representative Robert Simmons
511 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Simmons,

I am writing you today to thank you for sponsoring HR 182 to study the Eight Mile River in eastern Connecticut for the wild and scenic designation. Those of us who are lucky enough to live in the vicinity of the Eight Mile River are blessed with a beautiful natural area, that has not yet been destroyed. The Nature Conservancy recognized the unique value of this area when they designated the Connecticut River estuary, including the Eight Mile River, as one of the worlds "Last Great Places".

Our local Lyme government, in cooperation with the Lyme Land Conservation Trust, Inc., The Nature Conservancy, and the State of Connecticut, are all doing what they can to protect the Eight Mile River, as are all the other towns lucky enough to be situated along its banks. However, the entire area is under significant development pressure, and we now need Federal assistance in the effort to save that which is worth saving.

As chairman of the Town of Lyme's Open Space Committee, I believe the most important conservation and preservation effort in the Town of Lyme is the Eight Mile River and its watershed, and our recent town survey confirmed that position.

Please pass our support for HR 182 to all members of the House who will consider this bill.

With Thanks,
Respectfully,

J. H. Thach III

James H. Thach III

The East Haddam Economic Development Commission
P.O. box K, East Haddam, Connecticut 06423

Congressman Rob Simmons
511Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

March 11, 2001

Dear Congressman Simmons:

The East Haddam Economic Development Commission asks that you convey our support of H.R. 182 to the members of congress and any committees involved with the development of said resolution. The East Haddam Economic Development Commission, (E.H.E.D.C) fully supports the designation of the Eight Mile River as one of the nations " Wild and Scenic Rivers". As you may be aware, under the Wild and Scenic River Act of 1968, the first step toward designation is to conduct a resource and eligibility study of the river. H.R.182 would be the beginning of that process.

The people of East Haddam have long been ardent supporters of conservation efforts that protect a place they value highly. They have fought against inappropriate development and the fragmenting of green space as well as deteriation of the rural character of this area. Their concerns have informed the Town's plans of development and conservation and guide the E.H.E.D.C. efforts to bring sustainable, compatible economic development to the area.

Tourism plays an important role in the East Haddam economy. The Economic Development Commission supports tourism attractions and retail development in areas already zoned as commercial or industrial. However, we also recognize that protecting the natural and scenic beauty of the region is key to bringing visitors to our town. We have supported the green space linkage efforts in the area of the river, building upon the Devil's Hopyard State Park. Federal recognition of the Eight Mile River brings an official status that we would be proud to publicize in our tourism marketing efforts!

We ask for your support and that of the committee of House Resolution 182

Sincerely,

Edward Thereault
Chairman

edcL1180

TOWN OF EAST HADDAM
LAND USE OFFICE

Town Office Building - P. O. BOX K
EAST HADDAM, CONN. 06423

March 9, 2001

Representative Elect Robert Simmons

RE: House Bill HR - 182 Legislation to amend and include the Eightmile River to The National Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968 (P.L. 90-542)
Eightmile River in the Connecticut Towns of East Haddam, Lyme, and Salem

Dear Representative Simmons,

As Land Use Administrator of the Town of East Haddam, I would like to express my support to the passing of House Bill HR - 182 "Legislation to amend the 1968 Wild And Scenic Rivers Act (P.L. 90-542) "to include the Eightmile River for study for potential addition to the Nation Wild and Scenic Rivers System. This issue was brought to the Town's Land Use Commissions and Boards this past fall and received full support through out.

The Eightmile Watershed area has over eighty (80%) percent forest coverage, high quality stream systems, a diverse abundance of wildlife, and an existing restoration project for anadromous fish such as the Atlantic salmon and blueback herring. Despite East Haddam's location within the northeast corridor's growing megalopolis, the opportunity to experience a walk through a vast forested area still exists. This area was deemed important enough that the Towns of East Haddam, Salem, and Lyme entered into a cooperative partnership with the University of Connecticut Extension System and The Nature Conservancy to proactively protect and manage this corridor.

The Eight Mile River drains into the lower Connecticut and is part of one of the richest and most complex ecological systems in the northeastern United States. The Nature Conservancy designated the Lower Connecticut River Tidelands as one of the " Last Great Places " in the world. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has designated the Lower Connecticut River at The Ramsar Convention as a "Wetlands of International Importance", and especially important for migratory waterfowl habitat. In 1998, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife also designated the Connecticut River and its tributaries as the Silvio O. Conte National Fish and Wildlife Refuge. The United States Council on Environmental Quality selected the Connecticut River as one of ten "American Heritage River's" in the United States

This area has since 1969 been designated in the Plan of Development as an area for open space considerations. The Commissions hope you can support this effort by passing legislation for authorizing a study to determine whether the Eightmile River should be added to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers Designation.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

James Ventres, Land Use Administrator - Town of East Haddam

u/z/p&z/Simmons

The Honorable Rob Simmons
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC

March 8, 2001

Sir:

I write to urge passage of HR 182 to authorize a study preparatory to granting wild and scenic status to the Eight Mile River. I strongly support the ultimate objective of naming the Eight Mile a wild and scenic river. However, even if that objective is never realized, the study itself will be of great value to our local communities and landowners as they work to preserve this watershed in a way consistent with responsible land use.

I have lived nearby the Eight Mile River all my life and have fished the publicly accessible stretches of it for 50+ years. It is truly one of the great-unspoiled places in the East.

My best Eight Mile River anecdote is not about watching Wood Ducks land in the morning mist or knocking ice from the guides of my fly rod. Rather, it involves our oldest son and the Devil's Hopyard State Park through which the river flows. When Jon was 3 or 4 years old, my wife and her sister took him for a picnic lunch in the Hopyard. He was fretful that the park was called Devil's Hopyard because it is where the devil hops around. My wife reassured him that "Devil's Hopyard" is just a name given to the area by the early settlers not because it is really the devil's stomping grounds. When they arrived at the Hopyard and were carrying their lunch down to the waterside, a teen wearing a red cape and devil mask came running across the old covered bridge yelling and shouting to his friends. It took some time to stop the flow of tears and a lot longer for Mom to regain her credibility.

Jon is now thirty and he and his wife have an eight-month-old daughter of their own. I see HR 182 as an action that will help keep the Eight Mile river as clean and as beautiful when Elizabeth someday takes her children there as it was the day I first fished it.

Thank you for sponsoring this legislation.

Sincerely

Harvey W. Thomas, Jr.
317 East Shore Drive
Colchester, CT 06415

60 Mt. Archer Rd.
Eightmile River Watershed
Lyme CT 06371 USA
March 8, 2001

Honorable Rob Simmons
511 Cannon House Office Building
Washington DC 200515

Subject: H.R. 182, a bill to study the inclusion of the Eightmile River as part of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

Dear Representative Simmons;

I am writing to thank you for introducing HR 182 and encourage you to continue to work for its passage.

I live in the Eightmile River Watershed, in the town of Lyme CT, USA. I have given my address in this way because I believe that we humans should have a sense of place. My "place", in the Eightmile River Watershed, gives me not only physical sustenance in the air I breath, the water I drink and the food I grow, it gives me a sense of spiritual sustenance in the diversity of living beings the watershed supports.

Although I do not own property on the Eightmile River, its watershed sustains me, I believe it is my privilege and duty to steward the watershed's resources in a sustainable and responsible way. Toward this end I became involved in the local land trust- the Lyme Land Conservation Trust. When I learned that the Trust had received easements for and partnered with others to build two fish ladders on the Eightmile River, I decided to apply my training and work experience in fisheries science and fisheries management to organize over a dozen other volunteers to operate the fishways and collect data on the numbers and kinds of fish using the ladders.

Clearly the conservation of the Eightmile River is important to the fish, the ecosystem, and to me and the other volunteers and partners who have made the fishways an operating reality. I'm doing what I can at the local level and I urge you to enhance this locally driven conservation by encouraging your colleagues in the House and Senate to approve HR 182 to conduct a study of the Eightmile River Watershed to assess its suitability for designation as a wild and scenic river.

Sincerely,

Linda E. Bireley

Linda E. Bireley

LYME LAND CONSERVATION TRUST, INC.

P.O. Box 1002, Lyme, Connecticut 06371

March 8, 2001

Representative Robert Simmons
268 North Main Street
Stonington, Connecticut 06378

Dear Representative Simmons:

I am writing on behalf of the Lyme Land Conservation Trust to express the Land Trust's support for HR 182, a Study of the Eightmile River under the 1968 Wild and Scenic Act (P.L. 90-542).

The Lyme Land Conservation Trust is working with the East Haddam Land Trust, Salem Land Trust, Connecticut Chapter of the Nature Conservancy and the Eightmile River Watershed Committee to investigate whether the Eightmile River Watershed is suitable for designation as a Wild and Scenic River. This coalition of conservation organizations is asking for your support of HR 182 for passage of legislation in the U. S. House of Representatives for authorizing a study to determine whether the Eightmile River should be added to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. The Board of Directors of the Lyme Land Conservation Trust unanimously supports this effort because the Eightmile River is relatively undeveloped and remains free flowing. We want to protect and conserve this valuable natural resource in a way that allows local control of conservation and land use decisions. The Lyme Town Selectmen, The Lyme Planning and Zoning Commission and the Lyme Inland Wetlands and Conservation Commission are, among others, all in favor of this legislation. Your support of this action is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Anthony Irving, President
Lyme Land Conservation Trust
PO Box 1002
Lyme, CT 06371

March 12, 2001

Representative Robert Simmons
511 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-0702

Dear Congressman Simmons:

I am writing in support of H.R. 182 to authorize a study of the Eightmile River to assess its suitability for inclusion into the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. I am a Certified Wildlife Biologist and have worked in Connecticut in the field of natural resource management for over ten years. Since 1991 I have lived in East Haddam, one of three towns through which the Eightmile flows. For the last seven years, I have been actively involved with the East Haddam Land Trust, a private, non-profit land conservation organization dedicated to preserving the natural resources and rural character of East Haddam and surrounding towns.

A tremendous amount of attention has been given to the Eightmile River because of its scenic qualities, unique natural character, and value to fisheries and wildlife. Over the last three years, I have been privileged to be involved with the Eightmile River Watershed Project, a resource inventory and mapping project supported by the University of Connecticut and The Nature Conservancy. What has made this project so unique and successful is that it has been led by the very people that live and work within the watershed, a tri-town, non-regulatory advisory group of local officials and citizens who share a common interest in balancing conservation and growth within the watershed. Their work has illustrated a number of important features that make the Eightmile River such an exemplary resource - its free-flowing streams, excellent water quality, diversity of aquatic habitats and organisms, and outstanding runs of native and stocked trout, to name a few. Also significant is the fact that the watershed remains over eighty percent forested, providing habitat for a diverse assemblage of wildlife, including many species that have been eliminated from other parts of Connecticut and the region as a result of habitat loss and forest fragmentation.

For those of us who have enjoyed the beauty of the river and the opportunities it provides, it comes as no surprise that the Eightmile River Watershed has become one of the major focal points for land protection at the local and state level. The watershed is comprised of numerous large parcels of protected open space owned by the State, The Nature Conservancy, local land trusts and most noteworthy, private individuals who have voluntarily and proactively worked to protect and enhance their land through conservation easements and the implementation of forest stewardship plans. These lands provide a strong foundation for the establishment of a significant natural and scenic greenway that will benefit fish and wildlife and protect our water quality for generations to come.

I can assure you that there is a strong coalition of citizens, local officials and natural resource professionals that are interested and committed to providing the support needed to carry the study process forward. To secure this high level of protection for the Eightmile River and help ensure the long-term environmental, economic and cultural health and vitality of the communities within the watershed would be a great legacy for you and your fellow Congressmen. On behalf of my family, I thank you for your time and interest in this important endeavor.

Respectfully,

Ann M. Kilpatrick
129 Daniel Peck Road
East Haddam, CT 06423

BRINGING RIVERS TO LIFE

American Rivers
FOUNDED 1973

TESTIMONY OF KRISTEN MCDONALD

WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS PROGRAM ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR

AMERICAN RIVERS, INC.

ON H.R. 182

BEFORE THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS,
RECREATION, AND PUBLIC LANDS

HOUSE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

MARCH 13, 2001

1025 VERMONT AVENUE, N.W. • SUITE 720 • WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3516
(202) 347-7550 • (202) 347-9240 FAX • www.americanrivers.org

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Mr. Chairman, members of the Subcommittee, thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony on H.R. 182, a bill to study Eightmile Creek in Connecticut for inclusion in the Wild and Scenic Rivers System. My name is Kristen McDonald, and I am the Wild and Scenic Rivers Program Associate Director for American Rivers. Since its founding in 1973, American Rivers has worked with our grassroots partners to protect rivers under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act and has actively assisted federal agencies, states and local groups with river conservation efforts. American Rivers is a 30,000-member organization committed to the protection and restoration of the nation's outstanding rivers.

I would first like to thank Congressman Rob Simmons for introducing H.R. 182, to study the eligibility and suitability of wild and scenic river designation of the Eightmile River, a tributary to the Connecticut River. It is unusually pristine river, a part of the largest unfragmented forest along the Connecticut coastline, with remarkably good water quality. It is fully worthy of study for potential designation.

There are no protected federal lands along the Eightmile River, but 23% of the watershed has been set aside for the purpose of conservation by the state, towns, The Nature Conservancy, local land trusts and others. This high level of existing local commitment to protecting the river is a good indicator that long-term protection of the river, through a federal-state-local partnership model of wild and scenic river designation, will be successful. This model is gaining momentum throughout the Northeast and resulted in

passage of bills in the 106th Congress to designate the lower Delaware River and White Clay Creek.

Because of its outstandingly remarkable fish and wildlife, and scenic values, the Eightmile River was included on the Nationwide Rivers Inventory, a listing of rivers found potentially eligible for wild and scenic river designation by federal lands agencies. The river is an historic Atlantic Salmon Fishery, and efforts are underway by the state to restore these important fish, as well as American Shad. Currently, the river is home to a thriving population of three varieties of trout, and numerous other fish species. The Eightmile River system includes numerous plant and animal species, including two globally rare plant species, Parker's pipewort and Eaton's beggar tick, and aquatic invertebrates on the state of Connecticut's Endangered Species List.

The cultural and recreational resources of the Eightmile River include boating, fishing, hunting, and hiking, as well as historic sites. Unplanned growth is a threat to the unique, scenic qualities that are the basis for recreation tourism in the area. The wild and scenic river designation process will ensure a long-term plan for the river that recognizes its significance as a natural resource, and can help nearby towns effectively manage growth.

I appreciate the opportunity to submit testimony to the Subcommittee today.

January 3, 2001

Congressman-Elect Rob Simmons
12 Roosevelt Avenue
Box 4
Mystic CT 06355

Dear Congressman-Elect Simmons:

Enclosed please find the section of the minutes of the November 21, 2000 Salem Planning and Zoning Commission meeting in which the Commission endorsed a Wild and Scenic River study of the Eightmile River.

Sincerely yours,

David Bingham
Secretary, Salem Planning and Zoning Commission

DB:dt

270 HARTFORD ROAD • SALEM, CONNECTICUT 06420-3809

excerpt
Salem PZC minutes
11/21/00

6. Eightmile River Wild and Scenic Designation

D. Bingham explained the process by which all or parts of the Eightmile River could be designated as a Wild and Scenic River as described in his memo (with attachment) to the Commission members.

Requested that a letter from the PZC be sent to our Congressman requesting that a federal study of the Eightmile River be authorized for the Wild and Scenic River designation.

M/S/C (Bingham/Fontneau) that the Salem Planning and Zoning Commission supports the request for a Wild and Scenic River designation study for the Eightmile River.

During discussion:

It was the Commission's consensus to pass this matter along to the Inland Wetlands and Conservation Commission and recommend to them that they take similar action.

Vote: For approval - Bingham, Duncan, Fontneau. For denial – no one. Abstaining – McKenney.
MOTION CARRIED.

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

November 21, 2000

Congressman-elect Robert Simmons
12 Roosevelt Avenue
Mystic, CT 06355

Re: Wild and Scenic Designation

Dear Congressman-elect Simmons,

The town of East Haddam is fortunate to have parts of the **Eight Mile River** run through our boundaries. This ecological cornucopia has long been appreciated for its natural beauty and diversity of wildlife. Our commission has discussed the Wild and Scenic River act of 1968 at our recent meeting, and believe that the **Eight Mile River** is a perfect candidate for inclusion in this designation.

The first step towards this goal is a Federal study of the river's resources and evaluation its eligibility under this act.

Please help us by introducing a bill to secure the necessary funding required to begin the process of Federal designation of the Eight Mile River as a "Wild and Scenic" place.

Respectfully,

Nic Damuck

W. "Nic" Damuck
Chair

INLAND WETLANDS AND WATERCOURSES COMMISSION
TOWN OF EAST HADDAM
LAND USE OFFICE
(860) 873-5031

November 22, 2000

Representative Elect Robert Simmons
12 Roosevelt Avenue
P.O. Box 4
Mystic, CT 06355

RE: The National Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968 (P.L. 90-542)
Eightmile River in the Connecticut Towns of East Haddam, Lyme, and Salem

Dear Representative Elect Simmons,

The East Haddam Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission would like to express their support to the East Haddam Land Trust, the Lyme Land Trust, the Salem Land Trust, The Nature Conservancy, and the Eightmile River Watershed Committees in their efforts in pursuing the study and designation of the Eightmile River Watershed as a Wild and Scenic River as authorized under the 1968 Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (P.L. 90-542).

The Eight Mile River drains into the lower Connecticut River and is part of one of the richest and most complex ecological systems in the northeastern United States. The Nature Conservancy designated the Lower Connecticut River Tidelands as one of the "Last Great Places" in the world. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has designated the Lower Connecticut River at The Ramsar Convention as a "Wetlands of International Importance", and especially important for migratory waterfowl habitat. In 1998, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife also designated the Connecticut River and its tributaries as the Silvio O. Conte National Fish and Wildlife Refuge. The United States Council on Environmental Quality selected the Connecticut River as one of ten "American Heritage Rivers" in the United States

The Eightmile River and its tributaries are an integral part of the lower Connecticut River. The Commission hopes you can support this effort by introducing legislation for authorizing a study to determine whether the Eightmile River should be added to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers Designation.

Sincerely,

Randolph Bill, Chairman
Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission

u/z/p&z/Wild&IWWC/Simmons

EAST HADDAM OPEN SPACE COMMISSION
LAND USE OFFICE
(860) 873-5031

November 22, 2000

Representative Elect Robert Simmons
12 Roosevelt Avenue
P.O. Box 4
Mystic, CT 06355

RE: The National Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968 (P.L. 90-542)
Eightmile River in the Connecticut Towns of East Haddam, Lyme, and Salem

Dear Representative Elect Simmons,

The East Haddam Open Space Commission would like to express their support to the East Haddam Land Trust, the Lyme Land Trust, the Salem Land Trust, The Nature Conservancy, and the Eightmile River Watershed Committees in their efforts in pursuing the study and designation of the Eightmile River Watershed as a Wild and Scenic River as authorized under the 1968 Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (P.L. 90-542).

The Eightmile Watershed area has over eighty (80%) percent forest coverage, high quality stream systems, a diverse abundance of wildlife, and an existing restoration project for anadromous fish such as the Atlantic salmon and blueback herring. Despite East Haddam's location within the northeast corridor's growing megalopolis, the opportunity to experience a vast forested area still exists in the center of Connecticut. The importance of contiguous forest in a healthy ecosystem can not be measured. Once lost it can never be regained. Large open space areas provide habitat for a multitude of plants and animals, some rare and endangered. It provides for clean and cool waters that we all value.

The Commission hopes you can support this effort by introducing legislation for authorizing a study to determine whether the Eightmile River should be added to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers Designation.

Sincerely,

Jon Modica

Jon Modica, Chairman
Open Space Commission

u/z/p&z/Wld&osc/Simmons

To: Representative-elect Robert R. Simmons
268 North Main Street
Stonington, CT 06360

From: Potapaug Audubon Society
C/o Dr. Milton O. Clark
18 Eden Park Drive
Salem, CT 06420

The following resolution was passed on October 5,2000:

The Potapaug Chapter of Audubon consisting of members from Clinton, Westbrook, Chester,Essex, Deep River, Old Lyme, Lyme, East Haddam, and Salem urge you to sponsor the legislation for the Study of the Eight Mile River as a Wild and Scenic River.

Congratulations on your election. We hope you will aid us in this important endeavor.

Sincerely,

Dr Milton O Clark

Dr. Milton O. Clark
Conservation Chairman

TOWN OF EAST HADDAM
PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION
Town Office Building - P. O. BOX K
EAST HADDAM, CONN. 06423
(860) 873-5031 - Fax (860) 873-5025

November 22, 2000

Representative Elect Robert Simmons
12 Roosevelt Avenue
P.O. Box 4
Mystic, CT 06355

RE: The National Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968 (P.L. 90-542)
Eightmile River in the Connecticut Towns of East Haddam, Lyme, and Salem

Dear Senator Dodd,

The Planning and Zoning Commission would like to express their support to the East Haddam Land Trust, the Lyme Land Trust, the Salem Land Trust, The Nature Conservancy, and the Eightmile River Watershed Committees efforts in pursing the study and designation of the Eightmile River Watershed as a Wild and Scenic River as authorized under the 1968 Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (P.L. 90-542).

The Eightmile Watershed area has over eighty (80%) percent forest coverage, high quality stream systems, a diverse abundance of wildlife, and an existing restoration project for anadromous fish such as the Atlantic salmon and blueback herring. Despite East Haddam's location within the northeast corridor's growing megalopolis, the opportunity to experience a walk through a vast forested area still exists. This area was deemed important enough that the Towns of East Haddam, Salem, and Lyme entered into a cooperative partnership with the University of Connecticut Extension System and The Nature Conservancy to proactively protect and manage this corridor.

This area has always been designated in the Plan of Development as an area for open space considerations. The Commission hopes you can support this effort by introducing legislation for authorizing a study to determine whether the Eightmile River should be added to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers Designation.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Harvey Thomas/a
Harvey Thomas
Chairman, East Haddam Planning and Zoning Commission

u/z/p&z/Simmons

November 1, 2000

Representative-elect Rob Simmons
12 Roosevelt Avenue, Box 4
Mystic, Connecticut 06355

Dear Representative-elect Simmons:

I am writing on behalf of the Lyme Planning and Zoning Commission to express the Commission's support for a Study of the Eightmile River under the 1968 Wild and Scenic Act (P.L. 90-542).

We understand that Lyme Land Conservation Trust, East Haddam Land Trust, Salem Land Trust, Connecticut Chapter of the Nature Conservancy and the Eightmile River Watershed Committee have formed a coalition to investigate whether the Eightmile River Watershed is suitable for designation as a Wild and Scenic River. They are asking you to introduce legislation in the U. S. House of Representatives for authorizing a study to determine whether the Eightmile River should be added to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. We support this effort because the Eightmile River is relatively undeveloped and remains free flowing. We want to protect and conserve this valuable natural resource in a way that allows local control of the conservation and land use decisions. Please introduce appropriate legislation to begin the study as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

David Tiffany, Chairman
Lyme Planning and Zoning Commission
Lyme Town Hall
Lyme, CT 06371

November 26, 2000

Representative-elect Rob Simmons
268 North Main Street
Stonington, Connecticut 06378

Dear Representative-elect Simmons;

I am writing on behalf of the Lyme Conservation and Inland Wetlands Commission to express the Commission's support for a Study of the Eightmile River under the 1968 Wild and Scenic Act (P.L. 90-542).

We understand that the Lyme Land Conservation Trust, East Haddam Land Trust, Salem Land Trust, Connecticut Chapter of the Nature Conservancy and the Eightmile River Watershed Committee have formed a coalition to investigate whether the Eightmile River Watershed is suitable for designation as a Wild and Scenic River. They are asking you to introduce legislation in the U. S. House of Representatives for authorizing a study to determine whether the Eightmile River should be added to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. We support this effort because the Eightmile River is relatively undeveloped and remains free flowing. We want to protect and conserve this valuable and unique natural resource in a way that allows local control of the conservation and land use decisions. Please introduce appropriate legislation to begin the study as soon as possible.

Respectfully,

Don Gerber, Chairman
Lyme Conservation & Inland Wetlands Commission
Lyme Town Hall
Lyme, CT 06371

November 26, 2000

Representative-elect Rob Simmons
268 North Main Street
Stonington, Connecticut 06378

Dear Representative-elect Simmons;

I am writing on behalf of the Lyme Open Space Committee to express the Committee's support for a Study of the Eightmile River under the 1968 Wild and Scenic Act (P.L. 90-542).

We understand that the Lyme Land Conservation Trust, East Haddam Land Trust, Salem Land Trust, Connecticut Chapter of the Nature Conservancy and the Eightmile River Watershed Committee have formed a coalition to investigate whether the Eightmile River Watershed is suitable for designation as a Wild and Scenic River. They are asking you to introduce legislation in the U. S. House of Representatives for authorizing a study to determine whether the Eightmile River should be added to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. We support this effort because the Eightmile River is relatively undeveloped and remains free flowing. We want to protect and conserve this valuable and unique natural resource in a way that allows local control of the conservation and land use decisions. Please introduce appropriate legislation to begin the study as soon as possible.

Respectfully,

James Thatch, Chairman
Lyme Open Space Committee
Lyme Town Hall
Lyme, CT 06371

(copy)

East Haddam
Economic Development Commission

P.O. Box K • East Haddam • Connecticut • 06423-0295

Congressman Elect Rob Simmons
12 Roosevelt Avenue
Box 4
Mystic, CT 06355

November 17, 2000

Dear Congressman Elect Simmons:

The East Haddam Economic Development Commission seeks your assistance to begin the process of obtaining Wild and Scenic Designation of the Eightmile River. As you may be aware, under the Wild and Scenic River Act of 1968, the first step toward designation is to conduct a resource and eligibility study of the river.

Tourism plays an important role in the East Haddam economy. The Economic Development Commission supports tourism attractions and retail development in areas already zoned as commercial or industrial. However, we also recognize that protecting the natural and scenic beauty of the region is key to bringing visitors to our town. We have supported the greenspace linkage efforts in the area of the river, building upon the Devil's Hopyard State Park. Federal recognition of the Eightmile River brings an official status that we are proud to publicize in our tourism marketing efforts!

We ask for your help to introduce a bill to appropriate funds for study of the Eightmile River.

Sincerely,

Original Signed By

Edward Thereault
Chairman

edcL1180

To: Representative-elect Robert R. Simmons
268 North Main Street
Stonington, CT 06360

From: Potapaug Audubon Society
C/o Dr. Milton O. Clark
18 Eden Park Drive
Salem, CT 06420

The following resolution was passed on October 5,2000:

The Potapaug Chapter of Audubon consisting of members from Clinton, Westbrook, Chester,Essex, Deep River, Old Lyme, Lyme, East Haddam, and Salem urge you to sponsor the legislation for the Study of the Eight Mile River as a Wild and Scenic River.

Congratulations on your election. We hope you will aid us in this important endeavor.

Sincerely,

Original Signed by

Dr. Milton O. Clark
Conservation Chairman

The Nature Conservancy®
CONNECTICUT CHAPTER
Saving the Last Great Places

55 High Street
Middletown, Connecticut
06457-3788

TEL 860 344-0716
FAX 860 344-1334

International Headquarters
Arlington, Virginia
TEL 703 841-5300

December 1, 2000

Congressman-Elect Rob Simmons
12 Roosevelt Avenue
Box 4
Mystic, CT 06355

Dear Mr. Simmons,

Congratulations on your election victory! We are delighted for the opportunity to make contact with you so immediately after your success and look forward to working with you on the proposed Wild and Scenic River Study for the Eightmile River.

As you may know, The Nature Conservancy (TNC) is an international non-profit conservation organization whose mission is the protection of biological diversity. We have been working to protect the special areas within the Lower Connecticut River Watershed for over ten years. Named in 1993 by The Nature Conservancy as the "Tidelands," one of 40 "Last Great Places" in the Western Hemisphere, the globally significant environmental qualities of this region have also been recognized by state, federal and international authorities.

As part of our ongoing scientific effort to study and understand this area, the Eightmile River system has emerged in the last two years as an exemplary aquatic ecosystem within the Tidelands. There are a myriad of reasons why this is a special resource ecologically, yet it is equally important to note the special scenic, cultural and recreational qualities this river provides the communities through which it flows.

We have been very active in the Eightmile River Watershed Project, a collaborative effort of TNC, the University of Connecticut Cooperative Extension System, the EPA and the Silvio Conte Wildlife Refuge along with many local partners, to study and map the Eightmile River Watershed. The conclusion of our work: this is a precious resource worthy of protection and the Congressional Wild and Scenic study process offers us the best tool for achieving that goal. It involves a locally-based process of self-determination and a balancing of growth and conservation. Congressional designation also offers a level of protection and support not otherwise available for the river.

The Nature Conservancy has been pleased to participate actively in the recent local effort to organize awareness and support of the Eightmile River and for a Wild and Scenic river study of the Eightmile. We join with our colleagues and friends in asking for your support in introducing legislation authorizing such a study, the first step in moving toward possible Wild and Scenic River designation.

In pursuing this course of action, we have been working closely with the National Park Service in Boston, who are also enthusiastic about the significance of this river and its eligibility under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. Most specifically, we are looking to include the main stem and East Branch of the Eightmile River in the Study Authorization.

We thank you in advance for your interest and cooperation. It would be a pleasure to answer any questions you may have.

Thanks again,

Sincerely,

Nathan M. Frohling
Tidelands Program Director

cc. Dennis McGrath , CT State Director
David P. Sutherland, Director, Government Relations

CONNECTICUT RIVER WATERSHED COUNCIL
Protecting the Connecticut River Since 1952
One Ferry Street, Easthampton, MA 01027

December 5, 2000

Congressman-Elect Rob Simmons
12 Roosevelt Avenue, Box 4
Mystic, CT 06355

Dear Mr. Simmons,

The Connecticut River Watershed Council would like to welcome you as a member of the Connecticut River delegation! The Council was founded in 1952 as a protector and champion of the River and the responsible use of its watershed lands. We look forward to getting to know you and working with you and the rest of watershed delegation on Connecticut River issues.

This letter is express the Council's support for a Wild & Scenic Study of the Eightmile River. As you may be aware, the Council has been working with local interests and state and federal agencies to restore migratory fish to the Eightmile River. The partnership just completed its second fishway at Ed Bill's Pond in Lyme on the East Branch of the Eightmile. These efforts have already resulted in the restoration of thousands of migratory fish to the River. One key to these efforts, similar to the Wild & Scenic process, is the investment of local community groups and towns.

Another analogue to the Wild & Scenic process can be drawn from the American Heritage Rivers status for the Connecticut River. The Connecticut was designated in July of 1999 as one of 14 American Heritage Rivers. The striking element of the designation was the broad coalition of environmental, economic and business interests (54 cosponsors and over 250 signatory supporters!) that have come together to work with our federal agencies and the delegation to see improved management of the River. The Watershed Council is the convening group for that initiative which is intended to improve the responsiveness of federal agencies to local river interests. Similarly, a Wild & Scenic Study would help Eightmile River advocates – who have already come together in support of the sustainability of the River and the watershed's quality of life – with additional tools, funding and programs to advance their local goals. It is already clear that, in the Eightmile, your District is blessed with a truly outstanding world class natural resource that deserves added attention.

In the lower Connecticut River Valley, there is a longstanding consensus on the need to protect the River, balance conservation and growth, and facilitate compatible economic growth. Put simply, folks are recognizing that the quality of life they enjoy needs attention. In the

HEADQUARTERS: 413-529-9500 UPPER VALLEY: 603-675-2518 LOWER VALLEY: 860-528-3588
FAX: 413-529-9501 E-MAIL: crwc@crocker.com Printed on recycled paper

Eightmile River, the communities have already been working to formally recognize those values and the Wild & Scenic Study will allow them to further define their focus on the resources that need protecting and the methods for achieving that goal. The study would provide the funding, structure, expertise, and facilitation for the communities to expand their efforts and come together to identify the issues and goals they have for the resource. Importantly, the study provides a measure of accountability concerning federal actions which the towns and often the state do not have control over. Specifically, federal projects that would have an adverse impact on the River would not be allowed under designation.

We look forward to being in touch with you to discuss the agenda for the Connecticut River. Thank you for your support of a Wild & Scenic Study for the Eightmile River. Please do not hesitate to contact the Council for information.

Sincerely,

Thomas H. Maloney

Thomas H. Maloney
River Steward

Cc: Senator Christopher Dodd
Senator Joseph Lieberman
Congressman John Larson
Congresswoman Nancy Johnson

SALEM LAND TRUST
509 NEW LONDON RD.
SALEM, CT. 06420

October 6, 2000

Mr. James Fogarty
Salem First Selectman
270 Hartford Rd.
Salem, Ct. 06420

Dear Jim:

The Salem Land Trust at our last Board meeting on Sept. 10th, passed a resolution to strongly support a study giving National Wild and Scenic Designation for the Eightmile River.

The Wild and Scenic Rivers Act was established by Congress in 1968 to preserve the beauty and free-flowing nature of waterways and prohibits federally assisted or funded water resource projects that would impede the free-flow of designated rivers. The act fosters local goal setting and management of the river and provides an annual budget for maintenance and conservation.

You had indicated some concern about the proposed Golf Course being impacted by a portion of the Harris Brook watershed. There is agreement to exclude that portion of Harris Brook north of Route 82.

If our committee can be of any further assistance to you, please let me know.

Sincerely,
David H. Wordell
David H. Wordell, Pres.

cc: Nathan Frohling

EAST HADDAM LAND TRUST, INC.
P.O. Box 122, East Haddam, CT 06423

November 25, 2000

Congressman Elect Rob Simmons
12 Roosevelt Avenue
Box 4
Mystic, CT 06355

Dear Congressman Elect Rob Simmons,

I am writing to express the support of the East Haddam Land trust for a Study of the Eightmile River under the 1968 Wild and Scenic Act and to seek your assistance in initiating the first step. The East Haddam Land Trust is working with the Lyme Land Trust, Salem Land Trust, Connecticut Chapter of the Nature Conservancy and the Eight Mile River Watershed Committee to investigate whether the Eightmile River is suitable for designation under the 1968 Wild and Scenic Act (P. L. 90-542). The Eightmile River is a valuable natural resource which at this time is relatively undeveloped and free flowing. The Board of Directors of the East Haddam Land Trust supports this effort to protect and conserve the Eightmile River. We are asking you to introduce legislation in the U.S. House of Representatives authorizing a study to determine the suitability of adding the Eightmile River to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

Sincerely,
Maureen VanDerStad
Maureen VanDerStad
President

LYME LAND CONSERVATION TRUST, INC.

P.O. Box 1002, Lyme, Connecticut 06371

November 13, 2000

Representative-elect Rob Simmons
12 Roosevelt Avenue, Box 4
Mystic, Connecticut 06355

Dear Representative-elect Simmons:

I am writing on behalf of the Lyme Land Conservation Trust to express the Trust's support for a Study of the Eightmile River under the 1968 Wild and Scenic Act (P.L. 90-542).

We along with, the East Haddam Land Trust, Salem Land Trust, Connecticut Chapter of the Nature Conservancy and the Eightmile River Watershed Committee have formed a coalition to investigate whether the Eightmile River Watershed is suitable for designation as a Wild and Scenic River. We are asking you to introduce legislation in the U. S. House of Representatives for authorizing a study to determine whether the Eightmile River should be added to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. We support this effort because the Eightmile River is relatively undeveloped and remains free flowing. We want to protect and conserve this valuable natural resource in a way that allows local control of conservation and land use decisions. Please introduce appropriate legislation to begin the study as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

Anthony Irving, President
Lyme Land Conservation Trust
PO Box 1002
Lyme, CT 06371

Susan D. Merrow
First Selectman

Bradley P. Parker
Randolph W. Dill
Selectmen

Office 860-873-5020
Fax 860-873-5025

Selectmen's Office
TOWN OFFICE BUILDING
EAST HADDAM
CONNECTICUT
06423

November 22, 2000

Congressman Elect Rob Simmons
12 Roosevelt Avenue
Box 4
Mystic, CT 06355

Dear Congressman Elect Simmons:

Congratulations on your recent election to Congress. I'm sure that your mail box is more full than ever with letters asking for your attention to important issues in the Second District. I write to add one more. I speak for the East Haddam Board of Selectmen when I ask that you consider and support an issue which is of great import to the Towns of East Haddam, Salem, and Lyme. My fellow Selectmen and I ask that you lend not only your support but also your leadership to the effort to study the Eightmile River for possible designation as a Wild and Scenic River.

The Eightmile River has been described by the Nature Conservancy as "an exemplary occurrence of one of Connecticut's most imperiled natural communities." It is a free flowing river of high water quality, supported by extensive wetlands and a largely undeveloped watershed, and inhabited by healthy populations of fish and wildlife. The enclosed brochure is an indicator of the regard with which this watershed is held in the three towns that comprise it. Each of the three towns in the watershed has signed a compact, acknowledging the importance of this river to the social, economic, and environmental fabric of our towns,and pledging to work cooperatively to protect this valuable resource. We feel that an important step in our stewardship of this river will be to examine its potential as a Wild and Scenic River, and to begin this process, Congress must authorize a study.

Please let me know if I can supply any more information about this exciting project or arrange a tour of this handsome resource. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Susan Merrow

Susan Merrow,
First Selectman

printed on recycled paper

OFFICE OF
THE SELECTMEN
(860) 434-7733

TOWN OF LYME 1665 CONNECTICUT

NOVEMBER 27, 2000

REPRESENTATIVE ELECT ROB SIMMONS
268 NORTH MAIN STREET
STONINGTON, CT 06378

DEAR REP. ELECT SIMMONS:

THE TOWN OF LYME BOARD OF SELECTMEN IS WRITING TO RESPECTFULLY REQUEST YOUR ASSISTANCE IN AN ON GOING, COLLECTIVE ENDEAVOR WITH THE TOWNS OF SALEM AND EAST HADDAM TO PROTECT THE EIGHT MILE RIVER WATERSHED.

OUR THREE COMMUNITIES HAVE SIGNED A COMPACT CREATING THE EIGHT MILE RIVER WATERSHED COMMITTEE WHICH HAS BEEN WORKING TO COLLECT, MAP AND ANALYZE RESOURCE INFORMATION FOR THE WATERSHED. DURING THIS TIME, WE HAVE COME TO REALIZE THAT WE NOT ONLY HAVE A WORLD CLASS NATURAL RESOURCE WITHIN OUR BOUNDARIES, BUT ALSO THAT IT IS HIGHLY VUNERABLE.

WE BELIEVE THAT FEDERAL "WILD AND SCENIC" DESIGNATION FOR THE EIGHT MILE IS A LOGICAL NEXT STEP IN OUR EFFORT TO PROTECT THIS RESOURCE WHILE BALANCING CONSERVATION GOALS WITH THE NEED FOR ECONOMIC GROWTH OBJECTIVES COMPATIBLE WITH THE RESOURCE.

TO ACCOMPLISH THIS DESIGNATION, CONGRESSIONAL AUTHORIZATION OF A "WILD AND SCENIC" STUDY IS THE NECESSARY FIRST STEP. IT IS THE LYME SELECTMEN'S HOPE THAT YOU WILL SUPPORT AND LEAD THE EFFORT IN WASHINGTON. THE STUDY PROCESS WOULD PROVIDE FUNDING AS WELL AS A FRAMEWORK FOR OUR RESPECTIVE COMMUNITIES TO OUR DEFINE OUR ISSUES AND GOALS FOR THE WATERSHED. WHILE WE BELIEVE THERE IS BROAD BASED COMMUNITY SUPPORT FOR "WILD AND SCENIC" DESIGNATION, WE HAVE NOT YET HAD A TRULY INCLUSIVE PROCESS FOR ENGAGING OUR COMMUNITIES IN A SELF EVALUATION OF THIS RESOURCE. A STUDY WOULD PROVIDE THE STRUCTURE AND EXPERTISE FOR DEFINING OUR OBJECTIVE IN AN INCLUSIVE, REGIONAL FASHION.

WE HOPE YOU AGREE WITH OUR POSITION AND LOOK FORWARD TO ASSISTING YOU IN ANY WAY NECESSARY TO WIN CONGRESSIONAL APPROVAL FOR OUR PROJECT.

BEST REGARDS,

RALPH ENO
FIRST SELECTMAN

VIVIEN BLACKFORD & ASSOCIATES
CENTER FOR MANAGEMENT
10 Hamburg Road
East Haddam, Connecticut 06423
860-434-5212
Fax 860-434-5266

November 27, 2000

Congressman-Elect Rob Simmons
12 Roosevelt Avenue
Box 4
Mystic, CT 06355

Dear Mr. Simmons:

Congratulations on your recent election victory. It is clear from media reports that you know a good deal about stewardship, and now your entire job is just that. Although it will doubtless be very demanding, I hope it is as gratifying as you anticipated.

This letter is about a stewardship matter, an environmental preservation matter.

The **Eight Mile River** that runs through East Haddam, Salem and Lyme needs to be studied and carefully considered for designation as a ***wild and scenic river***. I am writing to ask that you sponsor such a study, which is one of the crucial steps in achieving ***wild and scenic designation*** for this river.

As a landowner along the river, I can tell you with assurance that this little river is a national treasure that deserves preservation. It is pure, pristine, and full of a wide array of beautiful plants and animals, a number of which are endangered. It is in an area where two important conditions obtain:

- The river is still pristine and almost entirely undisturbed, even though its area is under strong and increasing residential development pressure. Many people want to move to the river's area, especially since the expansions by Pfizer, the Mohegans and the Pequots in Southeastern Connecticut. Large new houses are rapidly decreasing the greenway buffer along the river. The river will almost certainly degrade dramatically in the near future because of this building pressure, unless the towns through which the river runs create, monitor and enforce restrictions to protect the river.

- The citizens and municipal governments of the towns of East Haddam, Salem and Lyme have already demonstrated the will, commitment and capacity to act and plan and work together to preserve this precious resource. The Land Trusts in all three towns are especially impressive by virtue of their broad bases of support. Through the efforts of the Land Trusts, The Nature Conservancy, UCONN's

Extension Center, and other civic groups, many, many people have been educated and mobilized and have come to care deeply about the Eight Mile River and its watershed.

In recognition of the importance of perpetual preservation of the river, my husband and I are giving a conservation easement of our riverfront acreage to The Nature Conservancy. Others along the river have done or are preparing to do the same thing. But the whole river cannot nearly be sufficiently protected by this approach.

My husband I and many others will very much appreciate your most crucial assistance in obtaining the study that is the next step in preserving this lovely little river for future generations of Connecticut citizens. If I can be helpful with any further information, please contact me.

Sincerely yours,

Vivien Blackford

Vivien Blackford

Mary Catherwood
Post Office Box 255
Hadlyme CT 06439

(860) 434-8961
marycath@ctol.net

November 14, 2000

Representative Sam Gejdenson
2304 Rayburn Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Gejdenson:

As a member of Lyme Garden Club and a former board member of Lyme Land Conservation Trust, I am very much interested in conservation and preservation of our land. I urge you to support an NPS study to designate the Eightmile River as a Wild and Scenic River.

Very truly yours,

Mary Catherwood

Mary Catherwood

Nov. 15, 2000

Rep. Sam Gejdenson
2304 Rayburn Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Rep. Gejdenson:

As a Board member of the Lyme Garden Club I am very interested in conservation, ecology & preservation. I urge you to support an NPS study to designate the Eight Mile River as a Wild & Scenic River.

Sincerely,

Lucie L Shaffer
68 Brockway Ferry Rd
Lyme, CT 06371

Congressman-Elect Rob Simmons
12 Roosevelt Avenue
Box 4
Mystic, CT 06355

22 November 2000

Dear Mr. Congressman:

First of all, it was heartening to many of us in Salem that you were elected as our representative. We are especially encouraged that the long-delayed completion of Route 11 will now have a vigorous advocate in you.

However, as a Salem home owner with property bordering the East Branch of the Eight Mile River, I also wish to strongly encourage you to actively support the awarding of our treasured water course the designation of 'Wild and Scenic River'.

Many of us here are very concerned about the character of our town and that the preservation of our natural resources, the Eight Mile River being a perfect example, be protected.

Sincerely yours,

Jack Bodman

Jack Bodman
P.O. 2028
Salem, CT 06420

ANDREW ZEMKO
230 HARTFORD ROAD
SALEM, CT 06420

November 17, 2000

Congressman-Elect Rob Simmons
12 Roosevelt Avenue
Box 4
Mystic, CT 06355

Dear Congressman-Elect Simmons:

As a property owner with land bordering the east and west branches of Eightmile River in both Salem and East Haddam, I urge you to introduce legislation to authorize a study to determine if the Eightmile River qualifies to be a National Wild and Scenic River.

Your attention to this issue is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Andrew Zemko

Andrew Zemko

116-3 Blood Street
Lyme, CT 06371
November 26, 2000

Congressman-Elect Rob Simmons
12 Roosevelt Avenue, Box 4
Mystic, CT 06355

Dear Representative Simmons,

My husband and I own property in Salem and Lyme. The Salem land has a water source that feeds into the East Branch of the Eight Mile River, and the Lyme Property borders a lake that supplies water to the West Branch of the Eight Mile River.

Both branches of the river are pristine at this time, and I would like to see them receive protection under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968. Therefore, I am asking you to introduce legislation for a Wild and Scenic Study during the forthcoming Congressional session.

As a member of both the Salem and Lyme Land Trusts, I would like to see these water resources protected; and I will continue to work toward that goal on the local level.

Sincerely,

Marilyn M. Wilkins

Marilyn M. Wilkins

JANICE M. ANDERSON
2 OLD HAMBURG ROAD
LYME, CONNECTICUT 06371

November 20, 2000

Rob Simmons
Congressman-elect
12 Roosevelt Avenue, Box 4
Mystic, Connecticut 06355

Dear Congressman-elect Simmons,

I am writing in support of the introduction of a bill to study the Eight Mile River. The outcome of the study would hopefully result in the preservation and future designation of this beautiful watershed area as "wild and scenic". Preservation of the river as it stands is extremely important to us as our property includes direct frontage on the river in the area of upper Hamburg Cove in Lyme. The wildlife is abundant and the area is appreciated more each year.
Again, we as residents of Lyme wholeheartedly favor a study to designate "our river" as "wild and scenic".

Yours truly,

Janice and Richard Anderson

Dolbia Hill Farm
P.O. Box 2040, Salem, CT 06420

November 14, 2000

Congressman Elect Rob Simmons
12 Roosevelt Ave.
Mystic, CT 06355

Dear Mr. Simmons:

First let me congratulate you upon your recent election.

For forty-four years I have been a resident and landowner in the southeastern corner of the Town of East Haddam, right in the middle of the Eight Mile River watershed. This watershed consists of beautiful, relatively undeveloped country which has been receiving attention by State officials, by The Nature Conservancy and by the local land trusts as worthy of preservation. Significant portions of it, including the Devils Hopyard State Park, the Nehantic State Forest, and numerous preserves belonging to the land trusts and The Nature Conservancy are already receiving protection.

My personal involvement includes the establishment forty years ago of the Burnham Brook Preserve and its subsequent growth by gifts of land from Mrs. Goodwin and myself and from our neighbors and by purchases by The Nature Conservancy. This Preserve, now consisting of well over 1000 acres, is located just downstream from the Devils Hopyard. It protects about a mile of the west branch of the Eight Mile River and almost all of two of its significant feeder streams.

This letter is to urge you to introduce legislation to authorize a study of the Eight Mile River as a candidate for designation as a Wild and Scenic River. I believe such designation would be very helpful in extending permanent protection to this unique natural asset.

Thanking you for your consideration of this request,

Sincerely,

Richard H. Goodwin

Richard H. Goodwin

BASHAN LAKE ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 206
East Haddam, CT 06423

November 15, 2000

Congressman Elect Rob Simmons
12 Roosevelt Avenue
Box 4
Mystic, CT 06355

Dear Congressman Elect Simmons,

Property owners around Bashan Lake are neighbors of the Eight Mile River watershed. Sharing similar conservation and preservation values, the Bashan Lake Association (B.L.A.) fully supports the effort to have the Eight Mile River earn the Wild and Scenic designation.

If there are any questions, please call me at my office (860) 229-9928 or, if you prefer, fax me at (860) 229-8295.

Thank you,

Bruce T. Fletcher

Bruce T. Fletcher
President of the B.L.A.

Lyme Garden Club
PO Box 255
Hadlyme, CT 06439
October 19, 2000

US Representative Sam Gejdenson
2 Courthouse Square
Norwich, CT 06360

Dear Congressman Gejdenson,

The Lyme Garden Club seeks your assistance in the designation of the Eightmile River as a Wild and Scenic River under the 1968 Act, administered by the Department of the Interior. We believe that this designation would support that part of our club's objective, which is to maintain the highest standard of excellence in conservation civic improvement and all branches of horticulture. The designation would support the town of Lyme's efforts to maintain its rural character and to protect this important natural resource. As most of the eighty-one members of the Lyme Garden Club are residents of Lyme, club members have a vested interest to this project from both perspectives.

As you are aware, the first step in the designation process is a study of the river by the National Parks Service to determine if it qualifies for the program. We are asking that you introduce a bill in the next session of Congress to initiate this. Designation per se is a second step.

The environmental importance of the river has already been demonstrated by a number of actions. The Nature Conservancy has called it a "Conservation Target" as it seeks to protect the tidelands of the lower Connecticut River, which it has designated "One of the Forty Last Great Places in the Western Hemisphere". Similarly, the river has received recognition by the state as a "River of Importance".

Lyme has diligently enforced its inland wetland and zoning ordinances that affect the river and its tributaries. About a third of the acreage in the town is protected open space, either as state, town or The Nature Conservancy-owned land. In addition, the Lyme Land Conservation Trust now protects more than 2,000 acres, most of it through landowner donations of conservation easements. This certainly speaks to the conservation sentiments of the residents.

Until recently, there were few threats to the river. But increasing development pressures threaten the integrity of the river and local water supplies. Federal designation of the river under the Act would help with such pressures.

The members of the Lyme Garden Club ask for your assistance in initiating the first step by submitting a bill to Congress to request the Department of the Interior to study the feasibility of designation of the Eightmile River as a Wild and Scenic River.

Sincerely,

Janet Cody

Janet S. Cody
Secretary, Lyme Garden Club

Congressman - Elect Rob Simmons
12 Roosevelt Avenue
Box 4
Mystic, CT
06355

November 20, 2000

Dear Congressman Simmons,

The Civic Association of the Town of East Haddam, a relatively new association of approximately 30 individuals, that encourages education of the towns constituents in a non-political atmosphere. We seek your assistance in the designation of the Eight Mile River as a Wild and Scenic River under the 1968 ACT, administered by the Department of the Interior. We believe that this designation would strongly support the town's effort's to maintain its rural character and protect and preserve this important natural resource.

As you are aware, the first step in this designation process is a study of the river by the National Parks Service to determine if it qualifies for the program. We are asking that you introduce a bill in the next session of Congress to initiate this process (Designation would be the following step).

East Haddam Land Trust, along with Lyme Land Conservation Trust and Salem Land Trust, joined The Nature Conservancy and University of Connecticut's Cooperative Extension Service in establishing a scientific and planning study five years ago. Landowners abutting the river were consulted in the study process and so have developed awareness of the significance of the river. These towns are already using the data collected, to support planning and land use decisions.

The River is threatened by increasing development pressures and demands and may threaten the integrity of the river and the local water supplies. Federal designation of the river under the Act would help quell these pressures.

We therefore turn to you for assistance in initiating the first step by submitting a bill to Congress to appropriate funds for the National Parks Service study.

Sincerely,

Timothy R. Johnson

Timothy R. Johnson
East Haddam Civic Association
PO Box 13
East Haddam, CT
06423

(copy)

East Haddam
Community Planning Group

A Balance of - Community Economy Environment

Congressman Elect Rob Simmons
12 Roosevelt Avenue
Box 4
Mystic, CT 06355

November 17, 2000

Dear Congressman Elect Simmons:

I am writing on behalf of the East Haddam Community Planning Group to request your assistance in the first step toward obtaining Wild and Scenic Designation of the Eightmile River. As you may be aware, under the Wild and Scenic River Act of 1968, the first step toward designation is to conduct a study of the river's important natural resources and determine eligibility.

The Community Planning Group, a local government and citizen advisory group, has been working to facilitate broad public involvement in "compatible development," which is the pursuit of businesses and land uses that conserve the environment, enhance the local economy, and achieve community goals. In this effort, the town has identified *rural character* and *environmental quality* as important town values and has recognized the Eightmile River as an important regional asset. The study and acceptance into the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System would strengthen the town's conservation vision for the Eightmile River and increase public awareness of this significant natural resource.

We ask that in the next session of Congress you please introduce legislation to authorize a study of the Eightmile River to begin the process for Federal designation.

Sincerely,

Debbie Mathiasen

Debbie Mathiasen
Community Planning Group
Project Assistant

CPGL1180

CPG 4508 TOWN STREET, EAST HADDAM, CT 06423 860-873-2311

November 16, 2000 sent 11/17

The Honorable Robert Simmons
12 Roosevelt Avenue
Box 4
Mystic CT 06355

Dear Congressman-Elect Simmons:

First, congratulations on your election victory. You received the most votes of any candidate in the Town of Salem! I wish you every success in serving the people of the 2nd District.

I am writing now to join with my colleagues from the Towns of East Haddam and Lyme to express my support for a Wild and Scenic Study of the Eightmile River toward possible designation under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968, and to seek your assistance in introducing appropriate legislation toward this end for the upcoming 2001 Congressional Session. As you may know, the Eightmile River is located in the Towns of Salem, East Haddam and Lyme and has recently received considerable attention by our local communities and other interested parties. Five years ago, the three towns joined with the Connecticut Chapter of The Nature Conservancy and the University of Connecticut's Cooperative Extension System to form the Eightmile River Watershed Committee. The EPA and Silvio Conte Wildlife Refuge helped provide funding. One of the first achievements of this effort was the signing of a "Conservation Compact" by all three towns committing to protect and enhance the Eightmile River.

The Eightmile River Watershed Committee also undertook a scientific and planning study of the river and its watershed, which is now completed. This work confirmed that the Eightmile River is a truly remarkable and outstanding resource and helped advertise this fact. Landowners abutting the river and other community members have increasingly heard about the Eightmile River project, and in many cases became directly involved. Those that did now have a greater awareness of the significance of the river.

The Eightmile River Watershed Committee, in reviewing the various options for furthering the protection and wise stewardship of the Eightmile River, voted unanimously to support a Wild and Scenic Study. Locally, the Salem Land Trust also formally endorsed this study.

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Additionally, The Nature Conservancy has named the Eightmile River system as a top conservation priority within the "Tidelands of the Connecticut River", a region identified by them in 1993 as one of the forty "Last Great Places" in the western hemisphere. The Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection has identified the Eightmile River as "an exemplary occurrence of one of Connecticut's most imperiled natural communities". It is on the National Rivers Inventory list compiled by the National Park Service.

The National Park Service has made a number of visits to this watershed and has expressed considerable enthusiasm for the current state of the Eightmile River, and support for a Wild and Scenic River Study application. It is the main stem and East Branch of the river that we are specifically naming as subjects of the proposed study.

Because the Eightmile River is a major tributary of the Connecticut River, its protection through the Wild and Scenic process would make a significant contribution to the American Heritage River Designation. A Wild and Scenic Study would provide multiple benefits to the local communities. It would allow us to gain further scientific information about the resource, and would facilitate a common community process for input and decision-making to determine the future of this resource. It would allow the communities to build an approach to management that is based on local control and would further enhance and facilitate coordination among the three towns of the watershed.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation in working with the Towns of East Haddam, Lyme and Salem, and with the Eightmile River Watershed Committee to initiate a Wild and Scenic Study for this truly special eastern Connecticut resource.

Sincerely yours,

James D. Fogarty
First Selectman, Town of Salem

JDF:dat

To: Representative-elect Robert R. Simmons
268 North Main Street
Stonington, CT 06360

From: Salem Historical Society
Salem, CT
C/o Dr. Milton O. Clark
18 Eden Park Drive
Salem, CT 06420

The Salem Historical Society urges you to sponsor and support the legislation for the Study of the Eight Mile River as a Wild and Scenic River.

Please aid us in this important endeavor.

Sincerely,

Original Signed by

Dr. Milton O. Clark

Mr. HEFLEY. Thank you very much, both of you, for your testimony. Let me ask you, Mr. Simmons, is there general—I take it from what you said, you feel there is general local support for this?

Mr. SIMMONS. Absolutely, and that is a critical point. We have in these letters, they will demonstrate, I think, beyond a reasonable doubt that each of the three municipalities, and many of the entities of those municipalities, official entities of those municipalities, and citizens and citizens groups support this initiative. In a sense, I inherited the issue because, shortly after the election, I went down into this area and was briefed on the project, and I would say two years at work, at least, had gone into preparing materials in anticipation of submitting this legislation. So, when I was briefed, I got a very comprehensive briefing, and I got a very clear sense from public officials, private individuals and non-profit organizations, that they are all in support of this initiative.

Mr. HEFLEY. Well, that is good, because we would not want, you would not us to force this on the people of Connecticut if they do not want it personally.

Mr. SIMMONS. That is a critical comment and that is why I have asked, as two additional witnesses; one, that we have a representative from the Nature Conservancy to talk about the environmental aspects of the river, but secondly, we have a local elected official, a First Selectman, which is essentially a Mayor of one of the three towns, testify. If, in fact, we were allowed to have more mayors testify, we would have them here, but we were asked only to bring one.

Mr. HEFLEY. Thank you. Mr. Pascrell, what is there, there in Paterson for people to see? Are the mills still in existence, and that is part of what you are wanting to save?

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Chairman, many of those mills are still in existence. They have been converted, some of them, to schools, to a museum, to other manufacturing activities. Most of them are still there, most of them have been preserved, Mr. Chairman, and this is really something to see in its present form. We just imagine what it would look like and what would be and what it would produce if we are able to really have this partnership I have been talking to you about.

This is a nonpartisan project, Mr. Chairman. The Governor of the State, Donald DiFrancesco just became the Governor, has written, you have it in the record, his endorsement of this project. The two Senators from New Jersey are with us one hundred percent, as are the New Jersey members of this Committee, in support of this project.

Mr. HEFLEY. Okay. Thank you. Mrs. Christensen?

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will enter my statement for the record if that is okay with you.

Mr. HEFLEY. Without objection.

[The prepared statement of Mrs. Christensen follows:]

Statement of The Honorable Donna Christensen, a Delegate to Congress from the Virgin Islands

Mr. Chairman, today the Subcommittee will receive testimony on three unrelated bills.

Our first bill, H.R. 146, introduced by Rep. Pascrell, would authorize a National Park Service study of the suitability and feasibility of designating the Great Falls

Historic District in Paterson, New Jersey, as a unit of the National Park System. I understand the area has a rich industrial history and that our witnesses will provide us with some details of the resource values found there. Our second bill, H.R. 182, by Mr. Simmons, would authorize a study to determine whether it would be appropriate to designate the Eightmile River as part of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. The Eightmile River is located in Southern Connecticut and has already been identified by the National Park Service as a potential Wild and Scenic River based on its outstanding scenic, geologic, and wildlife values.

While there is no controversy regarding the merits of H.R. 182, it is our understanding that the Administration will testify in opposition to the bill based on its newly proposed moratorium on new additions to the National Park System. We look forward to hearing more about this new policy.

Our last bill, H.R. 601, introduced by Rep. Simpson, would provide for hunting on the Federal lands that were included within the Craters of the Moon National Monument when the monument was enlarged on November 9, 2000. The bill also provides for the disposition of grazing fees arising from the use of the expansion area. I understand that there are some unusual circumstances pertaining to these matters at the monument that the Administration witness will be able to elaborate on.

Mr. Chairman, we appreciate the presence of our witnesses here today and look forward to their insights on the legislation that is before us.

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. I have also been asked to enter the statement of Congressman Pallone for the record, I ask unanimous consent.

Mr. HEFLEY. Without objection.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Pallone follows:]

Statement of The Honorable Frank Pallone, Jr., a Representative in Congress from the State of New Jersey, on H.R. 146

I support H.R. 146, legislation introduced by my colleague Representative Pascrell of New Jersey. H.R. 146 calls for a study of the Great Falls National Historic District to determine the feasibility of adding this location to the National Park System. Representative Pascrell has identified a unique place, rich in the history of America's development. The Great Falls Historic District deserves great attention; it deserves designation as a National Park.

At the heart of the Great Falls Historic District is the 77-foot Great Falls of the Passaic River, the second largest waterfall by volume east of the Mississippi River and a key in our nation's manufacturing history. In 1791, Alexander Hamilton selected the Great Falls for the creation of an industrial site and with Pierre Charles L'Enfant designed a waterpower system to increase the Nation's manufacturing capabilities. Hamilton believed that America to be free from British influence, must be industrially free ; Great Falls is one or our founding father's creations.

The Great Falls Historic District contains examples of 18th, 19th, and 20th-century water-powered remnants, including a three-tiered raceway and an abundance of mills. This District is the historical home to the first Colt revolver at Samuel Colt's Works, the first locomotives and airplane engines at Rogers Works, and is also known around the world as ″Silk City″. Great Falls Historic District includes examples of almost every type of manufacturing facility built during America's industrial revolution.

Additionally, Paterson, New Jersey is rich with the history of America's immigrant workers. Migration patterns of workers in Paterson provide a sketch of America's immigrant population and the role of immigrants in America's factories. Further, labor issues in this industrial workplace led to the need for labor laws that formed the foundation of today's labor movement.

I support my colleague's approach to review the potential of the Great Falls Historic District as a National Park. The Great Falls Historic District is an example of New Jersey's development, New Jersey's brilliant ingenuity and New Jersey's insight that should be preserved to serve as a history lesson to Americans for years to come.

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. I want to welcome my colleagues, my classmate, Congressman Pascrell, who has introduced the bill to author-

ize the National Park Service study. I am well aware of your efforts on all fronts to improve the economic conditions of Paterson and the surrounding area, and I see this as one other way of doing this. I did not know that we shared Alexander Hamilton, who grew up in my district in the Virgin Islands, which makes me even more interested in your bill.

Mr. Simmons, when I said I would see you soon, I did not expect to see you this soon at our Committee. Welcome. I am very interested in your bill. I have always been a supporter of the Scenic River Program, however, at this point, it is my understanding that the Administration has imposed a moratorium. I will be looking forward to hearing from the Administration on more about the policy and why it is in place. But, just welcome, and thank you for being here.

Mr. SIMMONS. Thank you.

Mr. HEFLEY. Thank you. Mr. Simpson, did you have some testimony you wanted to share?

Mr. SIMPSON. No.

Mr. HEFLEY. Mr. Gilchrest?

Mr. GILCHREST. Just a quick question, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Pascrell, how many acres does this cover in Paterson?

Mr. PASCRELL. About 112 acres, sir.

Mr. GILCHREST. Who owns it now?

Mr. PASCRELL. Well, various people. God owns the falls, which is in the river and the river runs right through the district. There are private ownerships. In fact, most of the ownership in the district is privately owned—I would say most of the commercial properties, there are also residents. It is a mixed zone where the Great Falls Historic District is. As I pointed out before, President Ford named this landmark back in 1976. We need the help of the Park Service, in a synergistic partnership, to develop this so that it is really not only a destination for tourists, but that the area itself is alive and continues to grow.

Mr. GILCHREST. I am not familiar with the bill. Is it your intention to have this owned and then run by the National Park Service?

Mr. PASCRELL. Part of the district, as I said, is the falls itself. There are parks on both sides of the falls, and that is something, since I am not officially part of the government of Paterson, I would recommend that there be some kind of relationship, some kind of partnership in overseeing that particular parkland. It was never my intention that the Park Service or the Federal Government own the entire district, sir.

Mr. GILCHREST. The entire district is a little over 100 acres?

MR. PASCRELL. That is correct, sir.

Mr. GILCHREST. Has the State wanted to make it a State Park or work with the county to make it a county-state partnership? Do you need the money from the Federal Government to get some infusion of cash to make all this happen?

Mr. PASCRELL. We have had some infusion of Federal dollars, as I pointed out, back in 1995 to begin the process. This is our first real attempt to get the Park Service officially to be involved, physically, to be involved there in this partnership I have talked to you about. The county has endorsed this. The State of New Jersey, as

I have just said to you, the Governor wrote a letter endorsing this particular project. We have worked this on many different levels, but we do need the Park Service there. I know many times we are reluctant to talk about the Park Service in urban areas. We tend to think of them more on a grandiose. This is a very different Committee, though. In the last two sessions we have gone beyond those old parochialisms and commend this Committee, and that is why I am very optimistic when I appear before you.

Mr. GILCHREST. I wish you well. I wish you good luck. I also wish Mr. Simmons luck on the eight miles of wild and scenic. You don't often think of Connecticut as wild and scenic, but if you can save a little wild and scenic in Connecticut, we are for it.

Mr. SIMMONS. I appreciate those remarks, sir. As I indicated, we actually have the Farmington River in the northwestern part of the State, which flows into the Connecticut River, and it currently has wild and scenic status due to the efforts of my colleague, Congresswoman Nancy Johnson, some years ago. We do have some unique and special spots buried away in our tiny little State.

Mr. GILCHREST. Maybe you can have a sister River in Idaho called Moose Creek. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. HEFLEY. Mr. Simpson?

STATEMENT OF HON. MICHAEL K. SIMPSON, A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF IDAHO

Mr. SIMPSON. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I can tell you that I have been to Connecticut and there are places that are both wild and scenic. I apologize for being late and I did have an opening statement on House Bill 601 that is on the schedule today. I want to thank you for scheduling this hearing on H.R. 601. I would like to thank Don Clower of the Idaho Fish and Game Commission and Jack Fisher of the Idaho Wildlife Federation for traveling all the way to Washington, D.C. to testify on behalf of this legislation. I understand they are on panel number two.

On November 9, 2000, President Bill Clinton issued Presidential Proclamation 7373 to expand the boundaries of Craters of the Moon National Monument. Prior to Clinton's proclamation, the monument was comprised of 52,440 acres. President Coolidge established the monument in 1924. Former President Clinton's approximation expanded the boundaries to include, approximately, 661,287 acres of additional Federal land. The area is managed by the Secretary of Interior through the National Park Service and by the Bureau of Land Management. The National Park Service manages approximately 410,000 acres of the expansion, while the Bureau of Land Management manages the remaining 251,000 acres.

When the monument was expanded, it was understood that continued access to hunting would be maintained. However, when the proclamation was issued, hunting was restricted in the area of the expansion managed by the National Park Service. Under this legislation, areas that were open to hunting before the expansion will remain open to hunting under the jurisdiction and laws of the State of Idaho. The legislation also ensures the grazing fees collected in the national monument are disposed according to the Taylor Grazing Act.

Unfortunately, due to the outmoded and antiquated national monument process, there was not a formal means by which the State of Idaho, the congressional delegation or the general public could comment on the proposed monument expansion. While the Idaho Fish and Game Commission expressed their interest in working with the Secretary of Interior to allow for appropriate wildlife management in the expanded area, their concerns were largely ignored. When the Idaho congressional delegation and governor spoke with the Secretary of the Interior about the Craters of the Moon expansion, we were led to believe that hunting would not be affected. In fact, the relevant language of the proclamation says nothing in this proclamation shall be deemed to enlarge or diminish the jurisdiction of the State of Idaho with respect to fish and wildlife management.

However, when the proclamation was issued, it was realized that current National Park Service regulations preclude hunting in the area of the expansion managed by the National Park Service; therefore, denying access to traditional hunting grounds. H.R. 601 is about fairness and ensuring that Idahoans are not locked out of traditional hunting areas. H.R. 601 has the support of the Idaho Fish and Game Commission, the Idaho Fish and Game Advisory Committee, the Idaho Wildlife Council, Idaho Wildlife Federation and local county commissioners.

Once again, Mr. Chairman, I want to thank you for taking the opportunity to hold a hearing on this piece of legislation that is important to the State of Idaho. When you look at the expansion of the Craters of the Moon into what is called the Great Rift, this 661,000 additional acres, it is largely lava rock and sagebrush, and people ask if there are really any deer out there. I can tell you I have never gotten one with a 30-06, but I have gotten one with a Corvette and a Jeep, so there are plenty of deer out there. So thank you, Mr. Chairman.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Simpson follows:]

Statement of The Honorable Mike Simpson, a Representative in Congress from the State of Idaho

Mr. Chairman, thank you for scheduling this hearing on H.R. 601. I would also like to thank Don Clower, Idaho Fish and Game Commission; and Jack Fisher, Idaho Wildlife Federation, for traveling all the way to Washington, DC to testify on behalf of this legislation.

On November 9, 2000, former President Bill Clinton issued Presidential Proclamation 7373 to expand the boundaries of the Craters of the Moon National Monument. Prior to Clinton's proclamation, the monument was comprised of 54,440 acres. President Coolidge established the monument in 1924.

Former President Clinton's proclamation expanded the boundaries to include approximately 661,287 acres of additional federal land. The area is managed by the Secretary of Interior through the National Park Service and the Bureau of Land Management. The National Park Service manages approximately 410,000 acres of the expansion, while the Bureau of Land Management manages the remaining 251,000 acres. When the monument was expanded it was understood that continued access to hunting would be maintained. However, when the proclamation was issued, hunting was restricted in the area of the expansion managed by the National Park Service. Under my legislation, areas that were open to hunting before the expansion will remain open to hunting under the jurisdiction and laws of the State of Idaho. The legislation also ensures that grazing fees collected in the national monument are dispersed according to the Taylor Grazing Act.

Unfortunately, due to the outmoded and antiquated national monument process there was not a formal means by which the State of Idaho, the congressional delegation, and the general public could comment on the proposed monument expansion.

While the Idaho Fish and Game expressed their interest in working with the Secretary of Interior to allow for appropriate wildlife management in the expanded area, their concerns were ignored by an administration that cared little for public input in land management decisions.

When the Idaho congressional delegation and Governor spoke with the Secretary of Interior about the Craters of the Moon expansion we were led to believe that hunting would not be affected. However, when the proclamation was issued it was realized that current National Park Service regulations preclude hunting in the area of the expansion managed by the National Park Service. Therefore, denying access to traditional hunting grounds.

H.R. 601 is about fairness and ensuring that Idahoans are not locked out of traditional hunting areas. H.R. 601 has the support of the Idaho Fish and Game Commission, Idaho Fish and Game Advisory Committee, Idaho Wildlife Council, Idaho Wildlife Federation, and local county commissioners.

Once again, I want to take this opportunity to thank you for holding this hearing. I am hopeful that the information presented here will allow us to move forward with this common sense legislation.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. HEFLEY. My chief ability to harvest deer in Colorado has been with my car, too, so I understand what you mean. Gentlemen, if you would like to join us up here for the remaining part of the hearing, or as much as you can stay, or if you would like to participate with us in the hearing, we would love to have you do it.

Let us go to a second panel. Mr. Joseph Doddridge, Acting Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks, Department of the Interior; Mr. Don Clower, Idaho Fish and Game Commission; and Mr. Jack Fisher, Idaho Wildlife Federation. I want to take the two Gentlemen from Idaho first, because you have come a long way and I understand you have an airplane to catch later this afternoon. You can choose whichever one of you would like to speak first and we will go from there.

Mr. Fisher, you drew the short straw?

Mr. FISHER. Yes, Mr. Chairman, I believe that I won the toss in this case.

Mr. HEFLEY. Which goal do you choose to defend?

STATEMENT OF JACK FISHER, IDAHO WILDLIFE FEDERATION, NAMPA, IDAHO

Mr. FISHER. We will find that out here real soon. Mr. Chairman and members of the Subcommittee, I want to say my name is Jack Fisher and I'm the President of the Idaho Wildlife Federation. I'm also a member of the Idaho Fish and Game Advisory Committee. I want to thank you for allowing us to participate in today's hearing on H.R. 601. My testimony will focus primarily on the hunting aspect of this resolution, and will be on behalf of the Idaho Wildlife Federation and the Idaho Fish and Game Advisory Committee. The Idaho Wildlife Federation is Idaho's oldest conservation organization. The Federation's primary mission is to promote citizen support for the conservation of Idaho's wildlife and natural resources, for fishing, hunting and outdoor recreation benefiting all future generations.

Our current membership totals nearly 6,000 Idaho citizens. The Idaho Wildlife Federation was founded in 1936 and, in fact, this Friday we will be celebrating our 65th anniversary at our annual meeting. I would also like to mention that the Idaho Wildlife Federation is an affiliate of the National Wildlife Federation.

Mr. Chairman, the sportsmen and women of Idaho are extremely concerned over the loss of the hunting opportunity due to assignment of management responsibility for the expanded acres of the Craters of the Moon National Monument to the National Park Service. In our opinion, H.R. 601 has more to do with instilling a sense of faith in the integrity of our government. When the Craters of the Moon National Monument was being discussed in Idaho, the Idaho Wildlife Federation voiced concerns that hunting opportunities might be lost, and it seems that those concerns have proved to be well founded.

It is our understanding that assurances were given to Idaho's congressional delegation, as well as Idaho's governor, that hunting would continue to be allowed if the expansion was approved. Some believe that by merely assigning management responsibility of the expanded area to the National Park Service, it was going to automatically eliminate hunting. That is certainly what has happened, and while there are those who support such restrictions, the Idaho Wildlife Federation is not one of them.

The very size and remoteness of the area that now comprises the Craters of the Moon National Monument makes restrictions for hunting needless. I believe it is important to put the size of the area we are talking about into perspective. I have researched the size of Washington D.C., and found out that it encompasses approximately 43,000 acres, or 68.2 square miles. By comparison, the expanded portion of the Craters of the Moon National Monument encompasses some 661,000 acres, or 948 square miles, which is about 14 times the size of Washington, DC.

As for lost hunting opportunity, in 1999, elk hunters spent an estimated 2,158 man days afield, and additionally deer hunters spent another 1,238 man days in the area. In addition, antelope, sage grouse and doves are hunted in significant numbers, which would further add to the utilization in this area. The loss of nearly 4,000 man days of hunting opportunity will put additional stress on surrounding wildlife management areas at a time when hunting pressure is of a growing concern.

The economic impact for just the deer and elk hunting alone equates to about $210,000. Now, that may not seem like much of a dollar impact, but in rural Idaho it is definitely very significant. I believe that it is important to mention that currently the area does not have a wildlife deprivation problem that would be involving adjacent private landowners' agricultural crops. However, the loss of hunting opportunity and the lack of harvest of the surplus deer and elk and antelope will most certainly result in future deprivation problems.

Controversy surrounding wildlife deprivation statewide is a constant problem and was the primary reason for creating the Idaho Fish and Game Advisory Committee initially in 1989. So, in closing, Mr. Chairman, I would like to extend my appreciation to Representative Mike Simpson for presenting this legislation, and I would like to point out that virtually nothing has changed except the designation of this land as part of the Craters of the Moon National Monument, and the transfer of management responsibility from one government agency to another, and as such, I urge that you and the members of your Committee support H.R. 601.

As I had mentioned earlier in my testimony, this is really an issue about instilling a sense of faith in the integrity of our government, by keeping promises and restoring our traditional hunting opportunities in this area. That concludes my testimony on this, sir.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Fisher follows:]

Statement by Jack W. Fisher, President, Idaho Wildlife Federation, and Member, Idaho Department of Fish and Game Advisory Committee

Mr. Chairman and members of the Subcommittee:

Thank you for inviting us to participate in today's hearing on House Resolution 601. My testimony will focus on the hunting aspects of the resolution. However, before doing so, I believe it is important to provide you with some background information concerning the Idaho Wildlife Federation who I have the honor of representing. My testimony will also be on behalf of the Idaho Department of Fish and Gem's Advisory Committee of which I am a member. The Advisory Committee's membership represents both sportsmen and agricultural interests.

BACKGROUND

The Idaho Wildlife Federation is Idaho's oldest conservation organization. The Federation's primary mission is to promote citizen support for the conservation of the state's wildlife and natural resources for fishing, hunting, and outdoor recreation benefiting future generations. We currently have several hundred members and 25 affiliate organizations. Our affiliates represent diverse sportsmen's interests from throughout Idaho including archery, fishing, law enforcement, hunting dogs, wild turkeys and even a herpetological society. Membership to our affiliate groups varies from a relative handful to well over a thousand in the case of the Idaho State Bowhunters organization.

The Idaho Wildlife Federation was founded in 1936 as an outgrowth of the national Civilian Conservation Corps program due to growing citizen concern about conservation and wildlife management. This Friday we will be celebrating our 65th anniversary at our annual banquet. I would also like to mention that the Idaho Wildlife Federation is an affiliate of the National Wildlife Federation although we function independently.

IDAHO WILDLIFE FEDERATION'S AND THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE'S INTEREST IN H.R. 601

The sportsmen of Idaho are extremely concerned over the loss of hunting opportunities due to assignment of management responsibility for expanded acreage of the Craters of the Moon National Monument to the National Park Service.

It is our opinion the resolution has more to do with instilling a sense of faith in the integrity of our government. When the expansion of Craters of the Moon National Monument was being discussed, the Idaho Wildlife Federation was concerned that hunting opportunities might be lost. It seems those concerns have proved to be well founded.

It has been our understanding that assurances were given to Idaho's congressional delegation as well as Idaho's Governor that hunting would continue to be allowed if the expansion was approved. We are uncertain if some of those involved may have known surreptitiously that, by assigning management responsibility for a portion of the expanded area to the National Park Service, hunting would automatically be restricted. However, that is certainly what has happened and while there may be those who support such restrictions, our organization is not one of them.

IMPACTS DUE TO THE LOSS OF HUNTING OPPORTUNITIES

The very size of the area that now comprises the Craters of the Moon National Monument makes restrictions on hunting needless. I believe it is important to try and put the size of the area we are talking about into some sort of perspective. To do so, I researched the size of Washington, D.C. and found it encompasses about 43,648 acres or 68.2 square miles. By comparison, just the expanded area of the Craters of the Moon National Monument encompasses 607,000 acres or about 948 square miles, roughly 14 times the size of Washington, D.C. Thus, with the mere stroke of a pen, such a vast remote area was placed off limits to those who have traditionally hunted in the area.

I would like to point out that I am not aware of any hunting-related mishaps in the area in question so safety is really not an issue. As for lost hunting opportuni-

ties, in 1999 elk hunters spent an estimated 2,158 days in the field and deer hunters another 1,238 days in this area. I was unable to obtain similar estimates for other species such as antelope and sage grouse which would add to the hunter utilization information. From an economic impact standpoint for just elk and deer hunting in the management area involved, the numbers equate to about $210,795. That may not seem like much of a dollar impact to some of you, but in rural Idaho it's significant.

Additionally, I believe it is important to mention that currently the area does not have a wildlife depredation problem involving adjacent private landowners' agricultural crops. However, the loss of hunting opportunities and harvest of elk and deer will most likely result in a depredation problem due to the inability to keep wildlife populations in check by hunter harvest. Controversies surrounding wildlife depredation in general is a constant problem and was the primary reason for creating the Fish and Game Advisory Committee.

CONCLUSION

Mr. Chairman, in closing I would like to extend appreciation to Representative Mike Simpson for sponsoring the resolution. I would also like to point out that virtually nothing has changed except for the designation of the bud as part of the Craters of the Moon National Monument and the transfer of management responsibility from one government agency to another. As such, I urge you and members of your Subcommittee to support House Resolution 601.

As I mentioned earlier in my testimony, this is really an issue about instilling faith and integrity in our government by keeping promises and retaining traditional hunting opportunities. I would be pleased to respond to any questions that you or other members of your Subcommittee may have at this time.

Mr. HEFLEY. Thank you very much, Mr. Fisher.

Mr. Clower?

STATEMENT OF DON CLOWER, IDAHO FISH AND GAME COMMISSION, MERIDIAN, IDAHO

Mr. CLOWER. Mr. Chairman, members of the Committee, I would like to take just a moment to thank you for the opportunity to testify in front of the Subcommittee. My name is Don Clower. I am a member of the Idaho Fish and Game Commission. A brief history of the Idaho Fish and Game Commission; there are seven commissioners who are appointed by the Governor of Idaho to manage the affairs of the Idaho Fish and Game department and manage the wildlife in the State of Idaho. I was appointed to this commission in 1999 by Governor Dirk Kempthorne. The Craters of the Moon National Monument was expanded to 661,000 acres. Hunting has been a traditional part of this expansion long before white men ever came to the State of Idaho.

I would like to point out one part of the proclamation that has been brought up a couple of times before, but I believe has a great amount of importance on this issue. The proclamation states that nothing in this proclamation shall be deemed to enlarge or diminish the jurisdiction of the State of Idaho with respect to fish and wildlife management. We were led to believe, when this monument proclamation was under discussion, that traditional hunting and other uses of this area would be guaranteed.

Immediately upon the Park Service taking over the management of this land, we lost that ability to manage the wildlife and exercise the rights of the State of Idaho to manage our wildlife. Hunting and trapping will not harm the resources the monument was established to protect. The monument was originally established and recently expanded to protect geological formations. This is a very isolated area in the central part of the State of Idaho, very inacces-

sible. There is really only one road that passes through Craters of the Moon. The other roads are two tracks, very unimproved roads that lead out into different sections of the lava flow that are available for hunting and trapping. Last year, Jack gave you the number of man hours that were utilized in the Craters of the Moon for hunting.

We have a really good elk herd out there that produces outstanding opportunities to elk hunt. We have a large deer herd and we have a large antelope herd, which provide opportunity for sportsmen in the State of Idaho to harvest during hunting seasons. Our hunting seasons are very short. They run for a couple of months in the late fall and they do not interfere and never have interfered with the management of this particular area. Again, you will have to understand, this is a very, very remote part of Idaho and fairly inaccessible.

Prohibiting hunting will result in a loss of unique and highly valued recreational opportunities. There is a common misconception that no hunting takes place in the lava flows, but there is a considerable amount of use of this particular area. Prohibiting hunting and trapping on the expansion is also administratively impractical, if not impossible, because of having to try to sign the different areas in the lava flow, because if you have ever been out to the Craters of the Moon, the lava flow comes and goes in a very, very large area. I am not too sure exactly how you would sign all this area to prohibit hunting in one portion and the other portion managed by the BLM would continue to allow hunting. So it would be a very difficult area, in our opinion, to try to manage.

In closing, Mr. Chairman, the Idaho Fish and Game Commission requests passage of H.R. 601 because it makes sense. The rules regarding the use of the national monument should be tailored to the resource or the designation it was designed to protect. Uses that do not conflict with the purpose of the designation should not only be allowed, they should be encouraged. Hunting and trapping are compatible with the expanded area of the Craters of the Moon National Monument. These activities have been going on there for years without harming the scenic beauty of this unearthly landscape. Let's keep it that way. I would like to thank the Committee and Congressman Simpson for allowing us the opportunity to come here today and speak in support of this legislation.

Thank you.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Clower follows:

Statement of Don Clower, Idaho Fish and Game Commission

My name is Don Clower. I am a member of and am testifying on behalf of the Idaho Fish and Game Commission. I appreciate the opportunity to address this Subcommittee in support of Congressman Simpson's bill regarding hunting on the recent expansion of the Craters of the Moon National Monument in Idaho.

The expansion of the Craters of the Moon National Monument was imposed by Presidential Proclamation on November 9, 2000. This expansion was significant, increasing the size of the monument nearly tenfold to 661,000 acres with 410,000 acres to be managed by the National Park Service (NPS). The remaining 250,000 acres will be managed by the BLM.

The NPS-administered portion of the expansion will be closed to hunting and trapping, in spite of language in the President's proclamation that states: "Nothing in this proclamation shall be deemed to enlarge or diminish the jurisdiction of the State of Idaho with respect to fish and wildlife management." The rationale behind this decision to exclude hunting and trapping seems to be based on the practice that

the NPS does not normally allow these activities on lands it administers unless there is legislation specifically allowing hunting and trapping. Hence the apparent need for Congressman Simpson's legislation. We urge you to support this legislation for the following reasons:

Hunting and trapping will not harm the resources the monument was established to protect. The monument was originally established and recently expanded to protect geologic formations. These activities will not have any impact on the lava flows or other geologic features of the monument that are any different than other uses of the monument like hiking, photography or sightseeing. Vehicles are restricted to existing roads and trails and apply to all users.

Hunting and trapping will not interfere with other uses of the monument. Seasons for both activities are relatively short and have limited participation. Hunting is confined to the months of September through November, which are outside the high visitation months of June, July and August while trapping is conducted from December through February. Under Congressman Simpson's proposed legislation, these traditional activities would only be allowed on the expansion, the original monument with its parking areas and visitor center would remain closed to hunting.

Prohibiting hunting and trapping on the expansion is administratively impractical if not impossible. The expanded monument contains land managed by the NPS and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). The NPS land includes the lava flows and the BLM land includes the sagebrush and grassland habitats surrounding the flows. The boundary between the land managed by the BLM, where hunting will continue to be allowed, and the NPS where hunting is prohibited is indistinct and is not readily discernible by the public. In order to post signs on the boundary, it would have to be surveyed, at considerable expense. The resultant signing would be unsightly and defeat the purpose of protecting the scenic beauty of the area. Until signing is completed, the public will not be able to tell if they are in the area open to hunting and trapping.

Prohibiting hunting on the expansion will have negative impacts to nearby farmland. The loss of hunting and expanded refuge created by the monument is likely to result in increases in elk numbers. In the last twenty years, 'elk populations have increased dramatically on the sagebrush steppe lands surrounding the Monument and the Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory (INEEL). These animals spend the daylight hours where hunting is prohibited and depredate adjacent agricultural lands at night. Large refuges like the INEEL and the expanded Craters Monument make it very difficult to control the size of these elk herds. In addition, higher elk populations could alter the unique native plant communities found in the lava flows and smaller kipukas that the monument desires to protect. Prohibiting hunting and other wildlife management practices will inhibit our ability to manage big game populations at a level that is compatible with other resource uses and values. We suggest that the proposed legislation allow other wildlife management practices on the expansion, like trapping and aerial survey.

Prohibiting hunting will result in the loss of a unique and highly valued recreational opportunity. There is a common misconception that no hunting takes place on the lava flows. Hunters and trappers do use this area. Those willing to brave the remote and hostile terrain are rewarded with a truly unique recreational experience. Trapping should also be authorized in the legislation.

Allowing hunting on lands managed by the National Park Service will not set a precedent. In the past the IDFG has successfully advocated maintaining hunting opportunity in the designation of National Monuments in Idaho. When the Hagerman Fossil Beds National Monument and the City of the Rocks National Reserve were designated, both remained open to hunting. The IDFG has worked closely with the NPS and the Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation to ensure hunting does not conflict with other uses of these lands. The Department is committed to continuing this relationship on the expanded Craters of the Moon National Monument.

The concerns I have outlined here today will come as no surprise to the NPS, the BLM and other Department of Interior (DOI) officials familiar with the proposal to expand the Craters of the Moon. We were disappointed in the lack of coordination by the DOI in the early phases of this proposal. We were not notified of or invited to participate in public meetings or interagency discussions on expansion of the Craters. In spite of this, the Commission made their concerns known in writing and in testimony prior to the President's proclamation, all to no avail. Our Governor, Dirk Kempthome, has written Secretary Gale Norton on this issue and our legislature has passed a memorial regarding hunting in the Craters expansion area.

In closing, Mr. Chairman, the Idaho Fish and Game Commission requests passage of this legislation because it makes sense. The rules regarding uses of National Monuments should be tailored to the resources the designation was designed to protect. Uses that do not conflict with the purpose of the designation should not only

be allowed, they should be encouraged. Hunting and trapping are compatible with the expanded area of the Craters of the Moon National Monument. These activities have been going on there for years without harming the scenic beauty of this unearthly landscape. Let's keep it that way. I thank you for this opportunity to testify and for your favorable consideration of this request.

Mr. HEFLEY. Thank you very much.

Mr. Doddridge?

STATEMENT OF JOSEPH E. DODDRIDGE, ACTING ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR FISH AND WILDLIFE AND PARKS, DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, WASHINGTON, DC

Mr. DODDRIDGE. Mr. Chairman, thank you for the opportunity to appear before your Committee today. I have three different bills to testify on, and I would like to present them, with your concurrence or approval, in the order that they were presented to you. The first would be H.R. 146, a bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to study the suitability and feasibility of designating the Great Falls Historic District in Paterson, New Jersey as a unit of the Park System. The Department of the Interior recommends that the Committee defer action on H.R. 146 until the Park Service is able to make further progress on the President's initiative to eliminate the deferred maintenance backlog within the next five years. We are seeking a temporary moratorium on new park unit designations or authorized new studies so that we can focus our existing staff and resources on taking care of what we now own. We also want to use our available planning funds to complete previously authorized studies in establishing new park units or expanding units.

I should say that, in addition, we are concerned that such a study could serve to divert the city of Paterson and the National Park Service from the very real opportunities authorized by Congress in 1992 and 1996, and opportunities that have yet to be fully realized. As Congressman Pascrell stated, the 1996 legislation provides Paterson with the opportunity both to demonstrate its capacity for leadership and partnership, and to develop and implement a preservation program as indicators of its commitment and capacity. Successful completion of that program could lead to a future congressional designation or a reauthorized partnership funding, as appropriate. Our concern is, given the limited resources we have for special resources study, that this could divert attention from existing opportunity authorized in the 1996 Act.

This could take a few years to complete, especially when considering other congressionally authorized studies that are competing for limited resources available to the program. If the recommendations of the study were negative and the congressional action forthcoming, there would be no preservation or development action available to us. Mr. Chairman, that concludes my testimony.

The next bill, which is H.R. 182, would amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act by designating segments of the Eightmile River for study and potential addition to the Wild and Scenic River System. As in the previous bill, Mr. Chairman, we recommend that the Committee defer action on this until we can make further progress on our initiative to eliminate the backlog within the next five years.

We are seeking this temporary moratorium until we can sort this out and make some progress in this area. I should point out, as Congressman Simmons indicates, that over the past couple of years, the Park Service has responded to interest and inquiries from local advocates and town officials regarding a potential Wild and Scenic River study for the Eightmile River. There appears to be strong local commitment and interest and support for protecting the river system, as evidenced by the Committee's formation of an intermunicipal watershed committee and the signing of an innovative Eightmile River watershed conservation concept. The concept, signed by the communities of East Haddam, Lyme and Salem acknowledge their commitment to protect and enhance water resources, wildlife habitats and rural landscapes in the watershed.

I should also point out that, in going through the material before this hearing, the Fish and Wildlife Service has also worked closely with the local communities as far as possible additions to the Conte Refuge. So there is more than one agency in the Department of the Interior that is interested in this watershed. But notwithstanding the strong support, we again recommend that Congress defer action on this until we make further progress in eliminating our maintenance backlog. Thank you.

As far as the third bill which I am here to testify on today, H.R. 601, a bill to ensure continued access of hunters to those Federal lands included within the boundaries of the Craters of the Moon National Monument in the State of Idaho, pursuant to Presidential Proclamation 7373 on November 9, 2000, and to continue the applicability of the Taylor Grazing Act and the disposition of grazing fees arising from the use of such lands, and for other purposes.

Mr. Chairman, the Department supports H.R. 601, which would preserve hunting on the NPS-managed portion of the monument expansion. As Congressman Simpson pointed out, and the gentleman from Idaho, prior to the recent proclamation, Craters of the Moon National Monument was managed solely by the National Park Service. The expansion of the monument, however, consists of lands that have been administered by the Bureau of Land Management. The proclamation gives both agencies responsibilities for administering the monument cooperatively. The National Park Service has the primary management responsibility for the old monument, plus the approximate 400,000-acre addition that consists of exposed lava flows. The Bureau of Land Management is responsible for administering the remainder of the portion.

The proclamation specified that the NPS portion is to be managed under the same laws and regulations that applied to the original monument. Since hunting has not been authorized in the original Craters of the Moon National Monument, the effect of the proclamation was to prohibit hunting in the NPS portion of the monument expansion. However, the Department supports a clarification of this language to allow continued use of the lands in the expanded monument area for hunting. Hunting in a portion of the monument administered by the Bureau of Land Management is not affected.

The Department also recognizes that legislation to provide the authority for hunting within the NPS management portion of the

monument expansion would give the superintendent the ability to work cooperatively with the State of Idaho on issues concerning adjacent landowners. For example, hunting could be used as a tool in mitigating agricultural depredation caused by elk grazing on alfalfa crops on privately owned lands outside the monument. While the Department supports legislation to continue hunting in the NPS portion of the monument, this does not include support for opening to hunting the portion of the monument that existed prior to the proclamation. That portion has always been and should continue to be closed to hunting. In addition, I would like to clarify that the Department's position on this specific issue does not indicate support for opening other areas of the park system to hunting.

I will be finished shortly, Mr. Chairman. While the Department supports the intent of H.R. 601, to open the NPS-managed portion of the monument expansion, we are concerned over the language in Section 1(b) that appears to preclude any authority of the Secretary to exercise jurisdiction over the activity. Is that an omen, Congressman?

[Laughter.]

Mr. SIMPSON. I would say that was the first negative thing you said.

[Laughter.]

Mr. DODDRIDGE. We believe that the Secretary has a role to play in cooperation with the State to ensure that hunting is consistent with public safety, area administration, protection of the monument's resources, and public use and enjoyment. We have attached proposed language for the Committee's consideration that is consistent with similar provisions and laws that authorize hunting in other park areas. H.R. 601 also requires the Taylor Grazing Act to continue to apply to the disposition of grazing fees arising from the use of the expansion area.

It requires a certain percentage of fees to be returned to the grazing district in which the use occurs. However, it is my understanding that since no grazing occurs in the NPS portion of the expansion area and the proclamation does not affect grazing on the BLM portion, we feel this provision is unnecessary. This concludes my testimony on the three bills, Mr. Chairman.

Thank you.

[The prepared statements of Mr. Doddridge follow:]

Statement of Joseph E. Doddridge, Acting Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks, Department of the Interior, on H.R. 146

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. 146, a bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to study the suitability and feasibility of designating the Great Falls Historic District in Paterson, New Jersey, as a unit of the National Park System.

The Department of the Interior recommends that the Committee defer action on H.R. 146 until the National Park Service (NPS) is able to make further progress on the President's Initiative to eliminate the deferred maintenance backlog within five years. We are seeking a temporary moratorium on new park unit designations or authorizations of new studies so that we can focus our existing staff and resources on taking care of what we now own. We also want to use our available planning funds to complete previously authorized studies with a close examination of the life-cycle costs of establishing a new park unit, expanding an existing unit, or adding new NPS funding obligations.

Paterson, New Jersey has a rich history as the Nation's first planned industrial city as well as containing some of the country's oldest textile mills. In 1792,

Alexander Hamilton formed an investment group called the Society of Useful Manufactures whose funds would be used to develop a planned industrial city in the United States that was later to become Paterson. Hamilton believed that the United States needed to reduce its dependence on foreign goods and should instead develop its own industries. The industries developed in Paterson were powered by the 77-foot high Great Falls of the Passaic, and a system of water raceways that harnessed the power of the falls. The district originally included dozens of mill buildings and other manufacturing structures associated with the textile industry and later, the firearms, silk, and railroad locomotive manufacturing industries. In the latter half of the 1800's, silk production became the dominant industry and formed the basis of Paterson's most prosperous period, earning it the nickname Silk City. Paterson was also the site of historic labor unrest that focused on anti-child labor legislation, safety in the workplace, a minimum wage, and reasonable working hours.

Industrial decline in Paterson followed the general pattern for northern textile cities, with a major decrease in business during the middle third of the 20th Century. Today, the historic district reflects many phases of decline and renewal: some buildings are deteriorated and vacant, while others continue in industrial use or have been adaptively reused for housing and offices.

Because of its significant role in the economic and industrial development of the United States, the 89-acre Great Falls of the Passaic/Society of Useful Manufactures Historic District was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1970 and designated a National Historic Landmark (NHL) in 1976. Since 1988 the District has been listed as a Priority One threatened National Historic Landmark in the Department of the Interior's annual report to Congress on NHLs. This threatened status is primarily based on the condition of the 7-acre site that formerly housed the Allied Textile Printers. This site, immediately below the Great Falls, has been devastated by a dozen fires over the last 15 years. The site was acquired by the city of Paterson through foreclosure in 1994 and a developer is currently under contract to redevelop the site.

In addition, we are concerned that such a study would serve to divert the city of Paterson and the National Park Service from the very real opportunities authorized by Congress in 1992 and 1996, opportunities that have yet to be fully realized.

In the Fiscal Year 1992 Appropriations bill for the Department of the Interior, Congress appropriated funds for the New Jersey Urban History Initiative to provide funding for historic preservation projects that encourage economic development. The city of Paterson was authorized to receive $4.147 million in Urban History Initiative funds to be administered by the NPS under a cooperative agreement with the City. Over the years, the NPS has worked closely with the City to use the money to protect historic resources while fostering compatible economic development. This initiative has shown results such as funding projects for research, community grants, and restoration of historic resources. For example, Urban History Initiative funds were used for an oral history project and ethnographic study conducted by the Library of Congress American Folklife Center. Funds were also used for the stabilization of the ruins of the Colt Gun Mill as part of a match for a New Jersey Historic Trust grant to the city of Paterson.

The second major congressional initiative to support historic preservation opportunities in Paterson is section 510 of the Omnibus Parks and Public Lands Management Act of 1996 (Public Law 104-333; 110 Stat. 4158). The Great Falls Historic District was authorized for $3.3 million in matching grants and assistance to develop and implement a preservation and interpretive plan for the District, and permit the development of a market analysis with recommendations of the economic development potential of the District. Yet, none of these funds authorized in 1996 have been appropriated.

Although the City has committed to the raising of the matching funds required under the authorization, we do not believe that this has yet occurred. Such matching funds will be important because recent legislation indicates that Congress expects significant non-Federal matches for new units of the national park system containing large numbers of historic buildings such as the New Bedford National Historical Park and Boston Harbor Islands National Recreation Area. Without this demonstrated local financial support for the operation and protection of new park units, it is probably not feasible to recommend their addition to the System.

The 1996 legislation provides Paterson with the opportunity both to demonstrate its capacity for partnership, and to develop and implement a preservation program as indicators of its commitment and capacity. The successful completion of that program could lead to a future congressional designation or reauthorized partnership funding as appropriate.

Our concern is that given limited resources, a special resource study (SRS) could divert attention from the existing opportunities authorized in the 1996 Act. The SRS

could easily take years to complete, especially when considering other congressionally authorized studies that are competing for limited money available in this program. If the recommendations of the study were negative and no congressional action forthcoming, years would have passed with no preservation or development action.

The National Park Service believes in the important historic and natural resources in the city of Paterson, and we believe in the capacity of the City to identify matching funding. There are signs this is beginning to happen. The breadth of activities allowed under the 1996 Act is much greater than those normally authorized for a national park unit. It is our sincere wish that the currently authorized preservation initiative for Paterson be allowed to proceed rather than being delayed by a study.

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 Joseph E. Doddridge, Acting Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks, Department of the Interior, on H.R. 182

Mr. Chairman, thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today to discuss the views of the Department of the Interior on H.R. 182. H.R. 182 would amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act by designating segments of the Eightmile River for study and potential addition to the Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

The Department of the Interior recommends that the Committee defer action on H.R. 182 until the National Park Service (NPS) is able to make further progress on the President's Initiative to eliminate the deferred maintenance backlog within five years. We are seeking a temporary moratorium on new park unit designations or authorizations of new studies so that we can focus our existing staff and resources on taking care of what we now own. We also want to use our available planning funds to complete previously authorized studies with a close examination of the life-cycle costs of establishing a new park unit, expanding an existing unit, or adding new NPS funding obligations.

The Eightmile River is located in the lower Connecticut River watershed in south central Connecticut. Fifteen miles of the Eightmile River and its East Branch through the communities of Lyme, East Haddam, and Salem, Connecticut are included on the National Park Service's Nationwide Rivers Inventory of potential Wild and Scenic River segments. Both segments are included on the Inventory for outstanding scenic, geologic, fish and wildlife values. Over eighty percent of the Connecticut River watershed is still forested, including large tracts of unfragmented hardwood forests that are home to a diverse assemblage of plants and animals including bobcats, Great Horned Owls, red foxes, and the Cerbulean Warbler.

Over the course of the past two years, the National Park Service has responded to interest and inquiries from local advocates and town officials regarding a potential Wild and Scenic River study for the Eightmile River. There appears to be strong local support for protecting the river system, as evidenced by the communities formation of an inter-municipal watershed committee and the signing of an innovative Eightmile River Watershed Conservation Compact. This compact, signed by the communities of East Haddam, Lyme and Salem, acknowledges their commitment to protect and enhance water resources, wildlife habitats, and rural landscapes in the watershed.

Notwithstanding the strong local support, we again recommend that the Committee defer action on the bill until the National Park Service is able to make further progress to eliminate the deferred maintenance backlog.

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

Statement of Joseph E. Doddridge, Acting Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks, Department of the Interior, on H.R. 601

Mr. Chairman, members of the Subcommittee, I appreciate the opportunity to appear before you today to present the views of the Department of the Interior on H.R. 601, a bill to ensure the continued access of hunters to those Federal lands included within the boundaries of the Craters of the Moon National Monument in the State of Idaho pursuant to Presidential Proclamation 7373 on November 9, 2000, and to continue the applicability of the Taylor Grazing Act to the disposition of grazing fees arising from the use of such lands, and for other purposes.

The Department supports H.R. 601, which would preserve hunting on the NPS-managed portion of the monument expansion.

Craters of the Moon National Monument was established by Proclamation of President Calvin Coolidge in 1924 for the purpose of protecting the unusual landscape of the Craters of the Moon lava field. This unusual landscape was thought to resemble the surface of the Moon and the Proclamation stated that the area "contains many curious and unusual phenomena of great educational value and has a weird and scenic landscape peculiar to itself." Between 1924 and 1962, the monument was expanded and boundary adjustments were made through four Presidential proclamations. In 1996, a minor boundary adjustment was made by section 205 of the Omnibus Parks and Public Lands Management Act of 1996 (110 Stat. 4093; Public Law 104-333). On November 9, 2000, President Clinton's proclamation expanded the 53,440-acre monument by adding approximately 661,287 acres of Federal lands.

The expanded monument includes almost all the features of basaltic volcanism, including the craters, cones, lava flows, caves, and fissures of the 65-mile long Great Rift, a geological feature that is comparable to the great rift zones of Iceland and Hawaii. It comprises the most diverse and geologically recent part of the lava terrain that covers the southern Snake River Plain, a broad lava plain made up of innumerable basalt lava flows that erupted during the past 5 million years.

Prior to the recent proclamation, Craters of the Moon National Monument was managed solely by the National Park Service. The expansion area of the monument, however, consists of lands that had been administered by the Bureau of Land Management. The proclamation gives both agencies responsibilities for administering the monument cooperatively. The National Park Service has the primary management responsibility for the old monument, plus the approximately 400,000-acre portion of the expansion area that consists of exposed lava flows. The Bureau of Land Management is responsible for administering the remaining portion of the monument.

The proclamation specified that the NPS portion of the monument expansion is to be managed under the same laws and regulations that applied to the original monument. Since hunting has not been authorized in the original Craters of the Moon National Monument, the effect of the proclamation was to prohibit hunting in the NPS portion of the monument expansion. However, the Department supports a clarification of this language to allow the continued use of the lands in the expanded monument area for hunting. Hunting in the portion of the monument administered by the Bureau of Land Management is not affected.

Furthermore, although the proclamation specifies that the National Park Service has jurisdiction over the exposed lava flows, the on-the-ground reality is that there is not a precise delineation between areas of vegetation and areas of bare rock, making it difficult in many cases to determine the exact location of the boundary. For the average visitor or hunter, it would be difficult, if not impossible to distinguish whether they were on BLM lands or NPS lands, at least in the vicinity of the jurisdictional boundaries.

The Department also recognizes that legislation to provide the authority for hunting within the NPS-managed portion of the monument expansion would give the Superintendent the ability to work cooperatively with the State of Idaho on issues concerning adjacent landowners. For example, hunting could be used as a tool in mitigating agricultural depredation caused by elk grazing on alfalfa crops on privately owned lands outside the monument.

While the Department supports legislation to allow continued hunting in the NPS portion of the Craters of the Moon expansion area, this does not include support for opening to hunting the portion of the monument that existed prior to the proclamation of November 9, 2000. That portion of the national monument has always been, and should continue to be closed to hunting.

In addition, I would like to clarify that the Department's position on this specific issue does not indicate support for opening other areas of the National Park System to hunting.

While the Department supports the intent of H.R. 601 to open the NPS-managed portion of the monument expansion to hunting, we are concerned over the language in section 1(b) that appears to preclude any authority of the Secretary to exercise jurisdiction over the activity. We believe that the Secretary has a role to play, in cooperation with the State, to ensure that hunting is consistent with public safety, area administration, protection of the monument's resources, and public use and enjoyment of the monument. We have attached proposed language for the Committee's consideration that is consistent with similar provisions in laws that authorize hunting in other park areas.

H.R. 601 also requires the Taylor Grazing Act to continue to apply to the disposition of grazing fees arising from use of the expansion area. The Act requires a certain percentage of grazing fees to be returned to the grazing district in which the use occurs. However, since no grazing occurs in the NPS portion of the expansion area and the proclamation does not affect grazing on the BLM portion, we feel this provision is unnecessary.

This concludes my testimony on H.R. 601. I would be glad to answer any questions you may have.

Proposed amendment to H.R. 601 On page 3, strike lines 10 through 16 and insert the following:

"(b) Continued Access for Hunting.—-The Secretary shall permit hunting on those portions of Craters of the Moon National Monument that were open to hunting before the issuance of Presidential Proclamation 7373 of November 9, 2000 in accordance with the applicable laws of the United States and the State of Idaho. The Secretary, in consultation with the State, may designate zones where and periods when no hunting may be permitted for reasons of public safety, protection of the monument's resources, area administration, or public use and enjoyment. Except in emergencies, any regulations prescribing such restrictions relating to hunting shall be put in effect only after consultation with the appropriate state agency having jurisdiction over hunting.".

Mr. HEFLEY. Mr. Doddridge, let me just clarify, does the Department intend to object to every study or designation until the backlog is taken care of, not particularly Wild and Scenic Rivers, but any of them?

Mr. DODDRIDGE. I really cannot answer that question, Mr. Hefley. I think the Secretary is studying this issue right now. I would think for us to come up before you for the next four years to say that, well, we are getting there but we are not quite there yet, would probably be not the most prudent course of action.

Mr. HEFLEY. I think that is going to be difficult. Do you know how many studies are out there that are yet to be completed?

Mr. DODDRIDGE. Mr. Chairman, I do not know that off the top of my head, but I will be glad to provide that for the record.

Mr. HEFLEY. Okay.

Mrs. Christensen?

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a question also for Mr. Doddridge on H.R. 146 and H.R. 182, because just last week we had a hearing where the Administration supported a study for the Ronald Reagan Boyhood Home. Do you have some criteria by which you decide when a study would be permitted and when a study would not be permitted?

Mr. DODDRIDGE. Well, I think as far as the bill that we were discussing, that there are other prudent courses of action that we could take. At the present time, until we exhaust those, I am not sure that we really need a study at this point in time. Are we talking about H.R. 146, Congresswoman?

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Yes.

Mr. DODDRIDGE. Okay. I think there is enough existing authority out there right now for the Park Service to work closely with the officials in Paterson, New Jersey, to make some progress. In fact, there are $3.3 million authorized right now, subject to matching funds. We, of course, would have to then go back to appropriations to receive those funds, but I think a lot of progress could be made.

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Well, I think you had the same objection to both of those bills, but I am still not clear. Even though there may be existing programs under which Paterson, for example, might get funding, you use the moratorium and the need to complete studies

as the reason for your opposition, and I am still not clear what criteria do you use, since in the other instance the study was permitted?

Mr. DODDRIDGE. To tell you the truth, I am really not that familiar with the testimony on the Reagan Boyhood Home, but I will be glad to answer that question for the record.

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. I guess my other questions would be for Mr. Fisher and Mr. Clower. It is my understanding that there are some unusual circumstances pertaining to the matters of this monument, why grazing or hunting might be permitted; perhaps I see one, keeping wildlife in check. Are there other unusual circumstances why we should continue to permit the hunting or the grazing in this area?

Mr. CLOWER. Madame Chair, I will try to answer that if I understand the question correctly. In this general region, there is the INEEL, which is another government land closure area where we have wildlife; and the wildlife there, the State is not allowed to manage, and they have become increasingly a very large problem, depredation, mostly elk, and back in the late 1980's we had a large number of antelope that caused a large amount of depredation problems, and they stay in an area where they cannot be managed, and at night they maraud out on adjacent farmland and cause a great amount of damage to the crops, especially alfalfa, which is grown in this area. If we are not allowed to manage the wildlife, it becomes a burden on the taxpayers of the State of Idaho because they have to pay for the depredation loss.

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Fisher, you mentioned that there had not been any safety problems with hunting in the area, where hunting has been permitted. Would you anticipate any increase in safety issues with the expansion of the monument? There have not been any thus far, but now we are expanding the monument and hunting would continue in the expanded area. Are there provisions to protect individuals or do you anticipate that the safety issues would remain the same, even given the expansion?

Mr. FISHER. I do not view this as a potential safety problem. This is a tremendously remote area that is basically roadless. The personnel that go into this area, they have to do so knowingly, and I know that there has been no incidents in this area that had previously been allowed to be hunted on, and I certainly would not anticipate any in the future from the continued use of hunting in the area.

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Can I just reserve the balance of my time, if I have other questions for the panel?

Mr. HEFLEY. Sure. Mr. Simpson, since these are your witnesses here and we need to get them to an airplane, I would see if you have anything you would like to ask.

Mr. SIMPSON. I am going to say, listening to the weather outside, I am not sure the airplane is going to leave.

Mr. Clower, did not the State of Idaho previously manage the wildlife in that area? It was the Fish and Game Commission that set the rules and regulations and so forth, prior to this designation?

Mr. CLOWER. That is correct. The Department managed all the wildlife in the State of Idaho, and we managed the wildlife in the

expanded portion of the monument. We have hunting seasons and other regulations in place to manage the wildlife for the people of the State of Idaho.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Doddridge, you suggested that the language—that you were concerned about hunting under the jurisdiction and the laws of the State of Idaho, that you would like to see some language, alternative language, that includes consultation or something like that with the Secretary; is that correct?

Mr. DODDRIDGE. That is correct, Congressman, yes.

Mr. SIMPSON. Do you have that language?

Mr. DODDRIDGE. Yes, we do. Do you want me to read it, sir?

Mr. SIMPSON. Yes, if you would, please.

Mr. DODDRIDGE. The Secretary shall permit hunting on those portions of the Craters of the Moon National Monument that were open to hunting before the issuance of Presidential Proclamation 7373 of November 9, 2000 in accordance with applicable laws of the United States and the State of Idaho. The Secretary, in consultation with the State, may designate zones or periods where no hunting may be permitted for reasons of public safety, protection of the monument's resources, area administration or public use and enjoyment. Except in emergencies, any regulations prescribed in such restrictions relating to hunting shall be put into effect only after consultation with the appropriate State agency having jurisdiction over hunting.

Mr. SIMPSON. So this language would effectively put the Secretary in charge?

Mr. DODDRIDGE. I think I would look at it, sir, that it is really putting both the State and the Secretary in charge. They would have to consult and agree on what areas are to be opened or closed if some such emergency exists.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Clower, what is your impression of that language?

Mr. CLOWER. I guess my first question, Congressman, is if it came to an impasse, who would be the final decision maker?

Mr. SIMPSON. That is kind of my concern, too. If you have got two people regulating something, who makes the final decision? That is why I say that would put the Secretary in charge with that language, as I understand it.

Mr. DODDRIDGE. Well, the Park Service presently allows hunting in 58 other units of the system, generally preserves and things of that nature, and work cooperatively with State agencies in the portions affected. In fact, one of the other places may be in the State of Idaho. It always seems that it works out that the Superintendent there works with the State, at least that is my understanding.

Mr. SIMPSON. Okay. Well, I appreciate that and I look forward to working with you to make sure that we get this language, because I think the Secretary should have some input and oversight over that also, and I do not have a problem with that, and I look forward to working with you to clarify that, and maybe at the markup in the Full Committee we will offer an amendment that we can work out that will do that.

Mr. DODDRIDGE. Thank you, Mr. Simpson. We look forward to working with you, too.

Mr. SIMPSON. I might also say, if I might, just for the record, Mr. Chairman, the reason that the area relative to the Taylor Grazing Act is in this legislation, it was brought to our attention by several individuals who had talked with—you know this is talked with and they told me and this kind of stuff—several of the ranchers were concerned about the distribution of the fees under the Taylor Grazing Act, in that area that is administered by the BLM. The BLM, the Idaho director, said certainly we will distribute those fees as the Taylor Grazing Act says we should, and so consequently this language is not necessary. It is rather redundant. I do not have any problem with actually putting it in statute, because if at some point in the future you decided to consolidate management of this expanded area under the National Park Service, instead of the National Park Service and the BLM, in that case all of the grazing fees would probably go to the National Park Service, I would suspect. Right now, those fees, according to the Taylor Grazing Act, are distributed to the Federal Government, the local BLM and the local grazing districts, to manage the land and so forth. So even if it is unnecessary and redundant to have it in there, I do not have a problem having it in there, and would just as soon have it in there as not.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. HEFLEY. Thank you. Any questions on this side? Any questions over here?

Mr. SIMMONS. Yes, Mr. Chairman, if I could, a quick question to Mr. Doddridge. It is my understanding from his testimony that his organization is seeking a temporary moratorium on new studies, and the words seeking and temporary are of interest to me, obviously. Has this temporary moratorium been granted? Are we in a moratorium status at this point? If so, what do we mean by the word temporary?

Mr. DODDRIDGE. I think what we mean, Congressman, is that as far as the Administration is concerned in our testimony before various Committees, that is our position at the moment. Unfortunately, as I mentioned to the Chairman, I do not have a full explanation of the word temporary or how long this is going to last, but as I said, I did not think it would be prudent for us to continue to come up here before the Committee and use those words.

Mr. SIMMONS. I thank the Gentleman for that answer. I would also share with the Committee what has already been stated in part, two years of work have gone into this project bringing it to this point. The University of Connecticut has expended substantial resources on studying the Eightmile River and have put out a publication, which is simply the tip of the iceberg. So in actual fact a huge amount of work and money has already been invested in the project. I cannot believe that this study would create such a financial burden to the Federal Government or an administrative burden to the Federal Government, that it would bring it to a halt.

So I look forward to working with the Committee on this initiative, sharing with the Committee and with the Administration all of the materials that we have developed in the hope that this temporary moratorium will, in fact, be temporary and that we can move forward on this important issue.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for your courtesy.

Mr. HEFLEY. Thank you very much.

Mr. Gilchrest?

Mr. GILCHREST. Just a question to Mr. Simmons. Is the eight-mile stretch of this river designated as wild and scenic from a State perspective? Has the State designated this wild and scenic?

Mr. SIMMONS. The State has determined that the prospect of wild and scenic status for this river is of sufficient priority that the State has expended resources, but only the Federal Government can provide this status under the Act, and that is why we are here today. Only the Federal Government can help us.

Mr. GILCHREST. I understand the State of Maryland has an ability to designate a river wild and scenic under State regulations and State law, and then, if you get on top of that Federal designation, that emphasizes something a little bit more; but the State has—I would hope that while the Department of Interior is negotiating how long this moratorium will be, that the State of Connecticut pursue this aggressively, because the bottom line is you are trying to protect that river.

Mr. SIMMONS. Absolutely correct. We do not have such language at this point in time, but I will certainly share it with my colleagues back in Connecticut; and yes, we do not want to delay the project, because there is development pressure in eastern Connecticut, and this unique resource could be lost to us over the next decade.

Mr. GILCHREST. I wish you well; and Mr. Fisher, Mr. Clower, Mr. Doddridge, you all had excellent testimony, and we will help Mr. Simpson pursue what will benefit the Nation and the people of Idaho. I just had a couple of quick questions. We talked about hunting issues. Are there trapping issues in this area that was designated—the expansion of the monument; any trapping issues that are similar to hunting issues that might be ensnared by this process?

Mr. CLOWER. In Idaho statute, trapping is just a subheading under hunting, because we talk about hunting as pursuing and the take of wildlife, so it is the same issue, Congressman.

Mr. GILCHREST. What is trapped there?

Mr. CLOWER. Coyotes would be trapped, if necessary. You also have bobcat season. There are several other small furbearers.

Mr. GILCHREST. Wolverines?

Mr. CLOWER. No, sir. The Wolverine is protected in the State of Idaho.

Mr. GILCHREST. I see. And the grazing activity can be worked out, since it does not seem to be an impact based on the expansion of the monument, but for future use that might be beneficial for those people who depend on that. Just out of curiosity, are there any other predators for the antelope, elk or deer other than man?

Mr. CLOWER. Yes, sir, Mr. Congressman. Bobcats and coyotes would be the number one predator out there for—for the antelope or the deer, especially during this time of year when they are having their young, and there are a large number of coyotes in this area, and coyotes are hunted year-round in the State of Idaho.

Mr. GILCHREST. It sounds like a little critter we have in Maryland called nutria; you just cannot get rid of them. Well, in all of

this activity, I wish all of you well, and we will work with Mr. Simpson to get this done.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. HEFLEY. Mr. Pascrell?

Mr. PASCRELL. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, we have witnesses, as you well know, that will be coming up, but I must take exception, if I may, with the policy statement dealing with the deferment, when I know what the funding has been and how, in a bipartisan way, this Committee over the past few years has come together to address the interests of all Americans. I have to take exception with the policy, if that is a policy. We have before us three bills today, all important, and I have supported wildlife measures since I have been in the Congress; one from Idaho, one dealing with Connecticut, one New Jersey; you might say that the whole landscape, rural, suburban, and urban.

It is interesting that my plea before this Committee, and I cannot speak for Mr. Simmons, but knowing his testimony, understanding and hearing his testimony, we are talking about the center of economic development, and we are talking about precipitating economic development. This is the main purpose why we both, for different reasons and in different places, come before this Committee and humbly say that our history is laid out and it is very, very clear. Just because we cannot compare—you know, I do support a project dealing with hundreds of thousands of acres, and we are talking about a very small piece of property compared to that—nonetheless it does not diminish the priority. Nonetheless it does not diminish, in any manner, shape or form, the significance.

So because we have not funded totally what should have been funded, and we have not been able to keep up with maintenance, is not the fault of the people on this Committee. I have to take exception with that policy, if it is a stated policy, because that means it will, in many ways, fix the color of what is to come before this Committee in the future. I would ask you to please consider what we have stated on the record. I can speak for myself. I am sorry. I did not mean to speak for Mr. Simmons—that you humbly consider what we are saying, because first of all it is either needed or it is not needed and, if it is needed, we need to find a way to do it.

Both of these bills are authorization bills. They are not providing—appropriating money. That comes in the next step, and to be told at the very beginning that we should not even be here in the first place, since you should know the policy, to me is a bit disingenuous, if I do say so myself, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Mr. HEFLEY. Thank you, and thank the witnesses. We appreciate you being here. I am sorry. I did not realize you had—I would recognize you.

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Chairman, I guess I want to understand better this deferment, because it seems to me that the Great Falls Historic District, and I commend my colleague, Mr. Pascrell, for his diligence in pursuing this and the work he has done to highlight this, even in his earlier professional incarnation as mayor, it seems to me that this district fills the bill for national historic landmarks as well as any place I can think of, I mean, where significant

historic events occurred, prominent Americans worked and lived, areas that represent the ideas that shaped our Nation.

I mean, this was the start, in many ways, you could argue, of American industry. This was the site where America began its ascent to industrial and mercantile dominance in the world. It is also a very beautiful sight. It is striking. It is one of the landmarks of New Jersey, and New Jersey is the most densely populated State in the country, and we have to work real hard to protect the treasures we have got. So I would hate to see this opportunity slip past, because we are only asking for a study here. As I understand, that is what the bill is.

So I would ask—Mr. Doddridge, I suppose, is the best person to express this—what is the reason that you give for recommending a deferral of even a study of the appropriateness of this site?

Mr. DODDRIDGE. Well, Congressman, the reason I gave is that until the Administration gets a better handle on the $4 billion backlog of the National Park System, and how, keeping with the Administration's desire to eliminate that backlog within the next four or five years, we have asked for a temporary moratorium on designation of new units or studies. So it is really driven by the backlog and our ability to try to get our hands around that backlog and eliminate it.

Mr. HOLT. Well, the President, I am pleased to hear, has made a commitment to appropriating money to deal with that, or to recommending to us appropriation of money to deal with that backlog. The size of the study we are talking about, as I calculate it, is about one-hundred thousandth of the amount of money that you say is being considered here. For something as important to the history of the United States and, I should say, important to New Jersey, I think that is a small price to pay.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. HEFLEY. Thank you very much, and I think these were good comments. I would say to the Department, I commend you on the one hand for emphasizing getting your arms around this backlog. This Committee wants you to get your arms around the backlog, too. I am a little concerned with a $4 billion backlog, it looked like in your budget you are going to ask for $500 million. It is going to take a long time over five years in order to get done, if that is the rate we go at.

Secondly, even if we do not designate any more units, and I am not saying we will not, but even if we do not designate any more units to the Park System during this moratorium, I think you are going to have trouble holding that policy of no new studies, because it appears to me that we have some areas that we are going to lose if we do not take some action. If we put them in a study area, then we can protect them during that period of time. When the moratorium comes off, if you have done the studies, then we have a priority list of what you think is important to the units of the Park System. So the idea that we will not ask you to do additional studies, I think, is a little far-fetched. The idea of whether or not we will designate additional units under this moratorium, I think that has yet to be decided, but I would just send that message back to you and you may figure out some way that you can come to us with some kind of a compromise on this.

Mr. DODDRIDGE. Mr. Chairman, you can be sure I will take that message back down the street.

Mr. HEFLEY. All right. Thank you very much. Thank you Gentlemen from Idaho for coming all the way out here. We appreciate it. We hope you have a safe trip back. I want to ask Mr. Pascrell if you would introduce our first two members of this panel, and I am going to ask Mr. Simmons if he would like to introduce the second two members of this panel.

Mr. SIMMONS. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That would be my honor and I appreciate again the indulgence of the chair and the support of the members as we consider this bill. We have before us Sue Merrow, who is the First Selectman of East Haddam. That makes her the Mayor and the Chief Executive Officer of that town. That is one of three towns that are sponsoring this legislation. I should also say that she has been very active in environmental issues, so she brings a nice balance between the municipal interest, which goes to taxes and goes to economic development, and the environmental interest, which, of course, for a small State like Connecticut is critically important. Then she is joined by Nathan Frohling, who represents The Nature Conservancy. I think most of the members are familiar with that national level organization. I am pleased they are both here and I am excited to hear their testimony.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. HEFLEY. Mr. Pascrell?

Mr. PASCRELL. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have two representatives from Paterson, New Jersey joining us today. One is an Anna-Lisa Dopirak, who is the director of community development for the city. Anna-Lisa has been working for the city of Paterson for many, many years. She is a former mayor of the city of Paterson, and was the business administrator when I was the mayor. So I am prejudiced. She has been working toward revitalizing the Great Falls Historic District for as long as I can remember. She is an invaluable leader within the city government, Mr. Chairman, members of the Committee, and I am thankful for her leadership.

Also with us today is Pat DiIanni, who is the founder and president of Vision 20/20, which is a community organization that provides grassroots support for the revitalization of Passaic County, including the Falls District, and for the past several years Vision 20/20 has been a community leader on the issue of the Great Falls.

Mr. Chairman, thank you.

Mr. HEFLEY. Thank you and let's deal with the Paterson issue first, whichever one of you would like to begin.

STATEMENT OF ANNA-LISA DOPIRAK, DIRECTOR, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FOR THE CITY OF PATERSON, PATERSON, NEW JERSEY

Ms. DOPIRAK. Mr. Chairman, good afternoon, members of the Committee. My name is Anna-Lisa Dopirak. I am the director of community development for the city of Paterson. I am here today on behalf of the citizens of Paterson to convey our support for H.R. 146, the Great Falls Historic District Study Act of 2001. In 1791, Alexander Hamilton fostered the Organization of the Society for Useful Manufactures. We call it today SUM. He did this

because he saw the need to free our young country from dependence on foreign manufacturers, and he knew that by harnessing the water power of the Great Falls of the Passaic River, this could be accomplished.

After the establishment of the SUM, the mill district evolved over many years, and it was involved in such things as textile manufacturing, sailmaking, locomotive construction and the thing for which we are most famous, the production of silk. The Great Falls Historic District became a physical and cultural textbook of the United States labor movement and its immigrant history, and it continues that today. It mirrored the prosperity and the recessions of the 18th, 19th, and 20th-century economic history.

For 150 years, the mills endured. Generations of families continued to work in them. But in the years following World War II, major social and economic changes occurred in this country. In the 1950's and 1960's, the mills were seen to be obsolete, as people moved away and manufacturing moved out into the suburbs. It was believed that the item the mills could be most useful for was to become a highway right-of-way. In fact, the mill area was designated to become a highway right-of-way. Acquisition and some demolition was actually begun by the Department of Transportation of the State of New Jersey, and only because a small group of dedicated citizens saw what we were about to lose, did this change.

The small group of citizens was instrumental in 1970 in having the Great Falls of Paterson, and the SUM historic district, placed on the National Register of Historic Places. That stopped the highway. In 1976, as we heard before, then-President Gerald Ford came to Paterson for the purpose of declaring the Great Falls SUM a historic landmark district. One year later, in 1977, the raceways and the water power systems that made the SUM what it was declared a National Historic Mechanical and Civil Engineering Landmark District. Today, 2001, we are seeking a designation to become possibly a unit of the National Park System through a study which would be funded by H.R. 146.

The architectural, natural and historic resources, as well as community support, are in place, we believe, to warrant consideration of our request, and that is why we are here before you today. Since the district's designation in the 1970's, the city has undertaken a very proactive role to preserve its heritage. It has established a historic preservation commission. It has become a certified local government for preservation. It has worked with developers, both for profit and not for profit, to rehabilitate, as well as to reconstruct, sensitive sites within our historic district. Mills have been converted. Today mills have become residences, offices, private schools, and a museum.

Our Federal partnership was established back in the 1970's when we were awarded a grant from the United States Economic Development Administration for the early work in the historic district. Later, as it was said before, in the early 1990's we established a partnership with the National Park Service, and that partnership continues today. We are going back to the United States Economic Development Authority because we have recognized that one of our most underrated assets is the Passaic River, and we have an application in to the U.S. EDA to assist us in studying the river, along

the entire length of the river, not just that part of the river that traverses the historic district.

If the district becomes a part or a unit of the National Park System, we think this would be a very fitting tribute to Alexander Hamilton. If you remember your early history, Alexander Hamilton and Thomas Jefferson engaged in a great debate, should this country develop with an agrarian society or should this country develop with an industrial society? We know that Alexander Hamilton won the debate, and so we feel that this is why it would be a fitting tribute. Today our country is well known mostly for its industrial prowess.

Hamilton foresaw the national potential of the SUM historic district and its manufacturing base, and today the historic district continues to tell this national story. The locomotives that were manufactured here helped to build the Panama Canal. They also helped to move the silver ore from Jerome to the smelter. Colt pistols, the gun that won the West, they had their start in the historic district. In fact, the mill in which they were developed still stands. It is in pretty bad condition, but we have stabilized it and we are looking for ways to rebuild it to its original configuration. The Wright engine, although not manufactured in the historic district, was certainly manufactured in Paterson as part of its industrial history. The Wright airplane engine, which powered Lindbergh's flight to Paris, was made in Paterson. It also supplied the parts of the engines that the Tuskegee Airmen used. Ellis Island, so close to us, our history of immigrants that came through Ellis Island—they no longer come through Ellis Island, but we consider that a major part of our history. In an odd way, the historic district even has reached out to the rarefied world of art.

If you go today to the Metropolitan Museum in New York City, you will see many exquisite objects that have been acquired by the museum through the Rogers Fund. For many years, I visited the museum and I never connected the Rogers Fund with the Rogers Locomotive Erecting Shop from Paterson. In fact, when I inquired, it was only through a bequest from that very same Rogers family that that fund was made, and that particular heritage of the Great Falls Historic District is available for everyone who comes to that museum.

Just over 200 years ago, Alexander Hamilton himself came to the Congress of the United States. He urged the Congress to establish, as well as support, a national manufacturing center which had the Great Falls as its focus. Congress did not heed his request, but Ladies and Gentlemen, the legacy of Hamilton endures today in our historic district. So I hope you will give support to H.R. 146. It is a fitting tribute to Hamilton, and I like to think it represents a 21st century manifestation of his original request to this august body.

Thank you.

[The prepared statement of Ms. Dopirak follows:]

Statement of Anna-Lisa Dopirak, Community Development Director, City of Paterson, Paterson, New Jersey, on H.R. 146

Good afternoon Chairman Hansen and Honorable members of the Sub-Committee. I am honored to be before you today to discuss the city of Paterson's support for

the Great Falls Historic District Study Act of 2001. This is an important juncture in the Historic District's long history and the culmination of years of effort.

A CAPSULE EARLY HISTORY

In 1791, Alexander Hamilton fostered the organization of the Society for Establishing Useful Manufactures (SUM) to harness the waterpower of the Great Falls of the Passaic River so that the young United States could be independent of foreign manufacturing. The mill district evolved over the years to include textile manufacturing, sail making, locomotive construction, and the production of silk. It became a physical and cultural textbook of the United States labor movement and its immigrant history. It mirrored the prosperity and recessions of 19th and 20th Century economic history. For 150 years the mills endured. Their products changed, and generations of families continued to work in them, but in the years following World War II major social and economic shifts occurred.

A THREAT REVERSED

In the 1950's and 60's, highways and suburbs grew, and the mills and the Great Falls neighborhood district were threatened. The mills were believed to have outlived their usefulness and their neighborhood became the designated area for a new highway. Acquisition and some demolition by the State Department of Transportation began. It was only through the determined persistence and not always welcomed efforts of a small group of citizens that the Great Falls of Paterson and Society for Establishing Useful Manufactures Historic District was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1970, and the highway was stopped.

In 1976, the Federal Government designated the 108 acres around the falls as the Great Falls/Society for Establishing Useful Manufactures National Historic Landmark District. In 2001, the city of Paterson seeks designation of the District (GFHD) as an Urban National Park. We believe the basic infrastructure in terms of natural, historic, and architectural resources and community support is in hand for serious consideration of national park status. The city of Paterson is committed to working with our residents, Passaic County and its other municipalities, and the state and Federal Government to make the Great Falls/SUM Historic District a unit of the national park system. Therefore, we support H.R. 146, the Great Falls Historic District Study Act of 2001.

Since the 1970 designation as a national district, the small group of early historic district advocates has grown into a large group of stakeholders. Patersonians may not always agree on exactly how to develop the GFHD's assets, but we all do agree that the GFHD warrants a Federally supported review as an urban national park candidate. The designation of the Great Falls as a unit of the national park system would be a fitting Federal monument to Alexander Hamilton. Decades past his death, he ultimately won the debate with Jefferson of industrial versus agrarian development for the United States. His view prevailed, and today our country is known foremost for its industrial prowess.

PATERSON ACTS

Since the 1976 historic landmark designation, the city established a historic preservation commission, became designated as a certified local government to strengthen our local preservation efforts, and encouraged both for-profit and non-profit developers though multiple funding sources to rehabilitate and/or re-construct historically sensitive sites in the district. These include the city's 1970's restoration of the Ivanhoe Wheelhouse, and the construction of the Upper Raceway Park utilizing New Jersey Green Acres funds.

In the late 1970's through the 1980's, the City administered a USEDA Title IX grant of 11.1 million dollars. This grant permitted the total renovation of the Rogers Locomotive Erecting Shop into the 1st floor Paterson Museum and upper three floors of office space. The city entered into an agreement with the Great Falls Preservation and Development Corporation (GFPDC) for the long-term lease of the structure. Simultaneously, basic infrastructure improvements including design and installation of street furniture, lighting and landscaping were completed. A new open space, Cianci Park, was created on a former parking lot, and archaeological studies related to these projects, and others, were completed. The restoration of the facade of the Union Works Mill opposite the Paterson Museum was completed and protected through a facade easement the city holds on the building that houses a private school and day-care center.

Throughout the 1980's mills became residences and offices: these include the Franklin Mill (offices), the Essex and Phoenix mills (residences) the Ryle-Thompson Houses (offices), and the Argus Mill (charter school). In 1991, the Port Authority of

New York-New Jersey was invited by then Mayor Bill Pascrell to prepare a study on the economic development opportunities of the Great Falls Historic District. Shortly thereafter, in 1992, 4.2 million dollars were appropriated by Congress through former Senator Frank Lautenberg's New Jersey Urban History Initiative (UHI) funding program. The UHI funds are under the auspices of the National Park Service (NPS) Mid-Atlantic Regional Office. The NPS staff has been working with representatives of the city of Paterson (the Core Advisory Group) and organizations and developers active in the preservation of the Landmark District. Project activities funded through the UHI are intended to provide a more formalized basis for development. They include:

* design guideline for the GF/SUM National Historic Landmark District
* environmental assessment of the seven-acre ATP site
* preparation of the draft programmatic agreement for the ATP site
* condition assessment of buildings in the District
* Maxman Report—Historic Industrial Site Analysis ATP Site—a pre-development assessment of the historic and archaeological resources on the site and the feasibility of their retention (or not)
* public service and education in the District through the use of AmeriCorps workers to undertake certain public works projects in the District
* set-aside of district easement/rehabilitation revolving loan fund
* oral history project undertaken by the Library of Congress American Folklife Center
* Making History—a community grant program awarded to local individuals or organizations for historical, artistic and cultural projects related to the UHI

At the same time as the UHI began, complementary development and planning efforts continued. Work progressed as additional funding for the Colt Gun Mill stabilization was secured. Completion of the first phase of the stabilization included recording and palletizing storage of the dissembled stonework. A revised programmatic agreement for the ATP site pre-development and development activities representing 24 months of consultation among signatories and interested parties is drafted and awaiting further comments. The city continues to augment community support of the planning process through a combination of organizational and planning functions. These include the formation and support of the Downtown Paterson Special Improvement District (SID) (one of two SID's) and the establishment in 1999 of a Downtown Historic District on the New Jersey and National Registers. Municipal applications have been prepared and submitted to the New Jersey DOT-TEA-21 Program for the Upper Raceway Park and Rogers Locomotive Erecting Shop Enhancements.

WHAT THE FUTURE HOLDS

The importance of Paterson's river environment, the basis for Alexander Hamilton's vision, has belatedly been recognized politically and is moving forward under a grant application to the U.S. Economic Development Administration. If successful, riverfront planning extending nearly the entire length of the Passaic River in Paterson will be undertaken. At the same time, the City has submitted an application to the New Jersey Green Acres Program for the extension of a river walk along the Passaic River, east of the Great Falls.

Support for a feasibility study of designating the Great Falls/SUM is not limited to Paterson, nor should it be. Others will address the support of Passaic County and surrounding municipalities, as well as the regional impact.

Just over two hundred years ago, Alexander Hamilton petitioned the U.S. Congress to establish and subsidize a National Manufacturing Center with the Great Falls as its focal point. The request failed and the SUM chartered by the State of New Jersey resulted. Today, we have in Paterson the legacy of Hamilton's vision and an opportunity for the U.S. Congress to reconsider his request in its twenty-first century manifestation.

Mr. HEFLEY. Thank you.

Mr. DiIanni?

STATEMENT OF PAT DiIANNI, PRESIDENT, VISION 20/20, HAWTHORNE, NEW JERSEY

Mr. DIIANNI. Good afternoon, Mr. Chairman and members of the Subcommittee. I would like to talk to you a little bit about Passaic County, because I do represent Vision 20/20, which is a Passaic County organization, established by the board of freeholders as a non-profit corporation. The population of Passaic County is a little less than 500,000. The lower one-third consists of old industrial areas intermixed with suburbs, but the upper two-thirds has beautiful ridges, rolling hills, placid lakes, and most important, the watershed for almost all of northern New Jersey.

We want to preserve that watershed by preventing the expansion of development in that area. We want to make sure that it occurs in the already developed southern part of the county, and in improving the southern part of the county. The national park would be a very important keystone for the expansion and the development of all of Passaic County.

Let me tell you something about Vision 20/20. It has over 400 members. It has a board of trustees of 38 members; three of them are Freeholders; five of them are Mayors; Vice Presidents of two banks; the County Surrogate; professionals; business people; and the County Planner.

Our membership is diverse politically, professionally, ethnically, gender- and age-wise. I dwell on this structure of Vision 20/20 so that you will understand that it speaks for all 16 municipalities, since all 16 municipalities are represented on this body.

Recently, Vision 20/20 passed a resolution in support of H.R. 146, and the idea of the Great Falls of Paterson. What has happened recently is that the concept or the possibility of getting a national park arose. There has been enough of an upwelling of enthusiasm from almost all segments of our population, The Board of Chosen Freeholders, which is the governing body of the county, adopted a resolution—I think it was last Thursday—to support this.

The mayor of Prospect Park faxed a resolution from Prospect Park to my home at 10:30 last night. There are letters from a number of people, who are interested. We received a call yesterday from the office of State Senator John Georgenti, who assured us that a resolution has been or will be filed in the State Senate of New Jersey, and I understand the same thing will happen in the State Assembly of New Jersey. The business community is on board.

I spoke to a representative of the umbrella group that represents four chambers of commerce in our community. They adopted a resolution unanimously in support of H.R. 146, and wished us well. As I talk to people on the street from all sections of the county, because I do travel all over the county, the enthusiasm is encouraging. They understand that this is the first step in the revitalization of the area, which is sorely needed in our county. I understand there was some question as to the feasibility of this park at the Great Falls of Passaic County.

In Passaic County, we have many historic areas, and the park would be the pendant on the necklace of Passaic County's historic areas. For example, we have the New Jersey State Botanical Garden at Skylands Manor in Ringwood; the Ringwood Manor and Iron

Works, which supplied cannonballs and other war materials to Washington's army; Long Pond Iron Works in West Milford, which also supplied war material to Washington's Army; and Federal Hill in Bloomingdale was a signal station to call the militia companies of northern New Jersey to defend the ridgeline, the first ridge of the Watchungs. It was fortified by the then-Governor of New Jersey, and throughout the entire Revolutionary War, it protected the important North-South Highway, which connected New England all the way south; Washington's headquarters at the Dey Mansion in Wayne; the site of Lafayette's headquarters in Hawthorne; the Botto House, the only American labor museum in the United States; Lambert's Castle and Observatory Tower; Morris Canal Park in Clifton; and the site of Washington's crossing of the Passaic. With all these treasures, the Great Falls National Park will be in good company.

We want to be partners with the Federal Government in celebrating in a meaningful way the cradle of America's industrial might. The residents of Passaic County will do and are doing their part to help provide the sinew and muscle to make this happen.

All Americans ought to have an opportunity to visit, enjoy the birthplace of America's industrial greatness.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman and members.

[The prepared statement of Mr. DiIanni follows:]

Statement of Pat DiIanni, Esquire, President, Vision 20/20

Good afternoon Honorable Mr. Chairman and the honorable members of the Subcommittee.

I hail from Passaic County, New Jersey, which has a rich heritage and a diverse natural beauty. There are old industrial centers in the southern portion about 12 miles west of New York City. The northern two-thirds of our county has rolling hills and ridges, a historic mining village, placid lakes and a watershed supplying potable water for most of northern New Jersey.

HISTORY

There are the Great Falls in Paterson, the 3rd most populous city in New Jersey. These falls are 77 feet high and the 2nd largest in the northeast. Paterson is the 1st planned industrial city in the United States. Former Secretary of Treasury Alexander Hamilton foresaw the industrial capacity needed to make this country great and in 1792 he organized the "Society for Establishing Useful Manufactures" to utilize the potential of the Falls to power mills along the Passaic River. The first Colt Gun Mill, the Rogers Locomotive, the first Holland Submarine were all built in Paterson.

A tale is told that during the encampment of the Continental Army along the Passaic River in Passaic County, General George Washington and several of his officers including his Aide de Camp, Alexander Hamilton, picnicked at the Great Falls. Twelve years later Mr. Hamilton, remembering the waterpower of the Falls, organized the Society for Useful Manufacturing chartered by the State of New Jersey under then Governor Paterson

I understand that other testimony will be presented by other witnesses relating to the historic central role Paterson, the Great Falls and the Historic District played in the creation of our great industrial nation. However, I wish to mention a little known story.

The First Ridge of the Watchungs, which overlooks the Falls, traverses Passaic County from north to south. During the Revolutionary War this ridge was fortified and manned by the militia companies of Northern New Jersey.

The fortified Ridge protected the Great North-South Highway located west of the ridge. This "Highway" was the major line of communications available to the Continental Army connecting New England to the southern part of our fledgling nation. The interdiction of the Great North-South Highway by British Troops then encamped on the Hudson River, a mere 15 miles east, may have proven disastrous for the Continental Army.

PASSAIC COUNTY VISION 20/20, INC.

I come before you as President and spokesman for Passaic County Vision 20/20, Inc. (Hereinafter referred to as "Vision 20/20". Passaic County Vision 20/20 is a non-profit organization, incorporated in 1999 by the Passaic County Board of Freeholders by unanimous, bipartisan resolution.

Our over 400 members from all 16 Municipalities are volunteers dedicated to improving Passaic County. The 33 member Board of Trustees and five alternates include three (3) Freeholders, five (5) Mayors, Vice Presidents of two banks, the County Surrogate, the County Planner, business people, educators and professionals. Our members are diverse, politically professionally, ethnically, gender-and age-wise.

Our corporate mission is broad and comprehensive. It mandates improving the economy, protecting the environment and preserving the history and cultures of Passaic County. The corporation has undertaken more than two (2) dozen projects as diverse as obtaining grants: (a) to install bike and walking paths, (b) to produce annual multicultural events, and (c) to promulgate a County-wide redevelopment "Smart Growth" plan to conform to the New Jersey State Development and Redevelopment Plan. The establishment of a National Historic Park at the Great Falls is one of our cherished hopes and a keystone for revitalization. Although we are embarking on many specific projects, our ultimate goal is to make Passaic County a better place in which to live, to work and to play.

COMMUNITY SUPPORT AND ENTHUSIASM FOR H.R. 146 AND THE GREAT FALLS NATIONAL PARK

I dwell on the structure of our organization to demonstrate to you, that we are broad based and non-political. We are in a unique position to read the pulse of the communities throughout Passaic County. We assure you of strong support for the Great Falls National Historic Park.

Lisa Macioci, a trustee, and members of her Great Falls National Park Task Force have worked assiduously over the past year and a half promoting the park concept. They report favorable and enthusiastic support among residents within and without Passaic County. The other trustees have noted similar expressions of support. Additionally, the Board of Chosen Freeholders of Passaic County has listed a resolution in support of H.R. 146 for its next open meeting.

Recently a resolution was unanimously adopted by Vision 20/20 trustees to communicate with local, county and state governing bodies and to launch a petition drive supporting H.R. 146 and the Great Falls National Historic Park proposal. Many Mayors, County Freeholders and State Legislators strongly advocate H.R. 146 and the Great Falls National Historic Park concept. Hopefully, resolutions will be adopted prior to the closing of the record of the hearing. In this regard, I respectfully move that the record remain open for a reasonable time after the conclusion of oral testimony.

The general public and especially business people see the Park as an economic engine to spur the economy of Paterson and the entire area. The stakeholders of the county perceive tourism as the major county industry of the future. The Park will be a cornerstone for revitalization of the southern portion of the county while relieving pressure on the environmentally sensitive northern two-thirds of the county and the adjacent Highlands region, presently the focus of some developers' attention.

The Park has the wholehearted support of the business community, environmentalists, historic preservationists, and John Q. Public. In my travels around the county, I have yet to meet anyone, who does not strongly support the concept of the Great Falls National Historic Park. To the contrary, people wonder why the Federal Government has forsaken this national treasure.

The Park is within two hours drive for tens of millions of Americans. Major railroads and highways crisscross the region surrounding the Great Falls. Interstate 80 passes within two miles of the site, The Garden State Parkway leads to within one mile of the site. The New Jersey Turnpike gives ready access to the Parkway from the south and from New England. New Jersey Routes No. 3, 4, 20, 46 and Interstate 287 pass within five miles of the Great Falls.

The Great Falls National Historic Park will not stand alone. Passaic County has scores of historic sites nearby, not the least among these are:

The New Jersey State Botanical Gardens at Skylands Manor in Ringwood.

The Ringwood Manor and Iron Works which supplied cannon balls and other war materiel to Washington's Army.

Long Pond Iron Works in West Milford.

Federal Hill in Bloomingdale.

Washington's Headquarters at the Dey Mansion in Wayne.
The site of General Lafayette's Headquarters in Hawthorne.
The Botto House American Labor Museum in Haledon.
Lambert Castle and Observatory Tower in Paterson.
Morris Canal Park in Clifton.
Site of Washington's Crossing of the Passaic River at Aquan-nock Landing in City of Passaic.

With all these treasures in the surrounding areas of Passaic County, the Great Falls National Historic Park will become the pendant in the pearl necklace of Passaic County, attracting tourists from far and wide.

PASSAIC COUNTY'S FUTURE

Passaic County, through the efforts of Vision 20/20, was recently awarded a grant by the State of New Jersey to provide in-depth studies and to promulgate long term plans for "Smart growth" initiatives throughout the county. The studies and plans will address many aspects of county life in general and tourism in particular. The Park will be central to these plans to rejuvenate the county. We foresee the rebirth of the county similar to the Renaissance in other areas of the country, e.g. San Antonio, Texas, Chattanooga, Tennessee, Baltimore, Maryland, and many others too numerous to list.

We ask only to be partners with the Federal Government to celebrate in a meaningful way, the cradle of America's Industrial Power. The residents of Passaic County will do and are doing their part to help provide the sinew and muscle to make this happen. All Americans ought to have an opportunity to visit and enjoy the birthplace of America's Industrial Greatness.

Mr. HEFLEY. Thank you very much.

Ms. Merrow? Okay. Mr. Frohling?

STATEMENT OF NATHAN FROHLING, PROGRAM DIRECTOR, THE NATURE CONSERVANCY, MIDDLETOWN, CONNECTICUT

Mr. FROHLING. Mr. Chairman and members of the Subcommittee, I am pleased and delighted to be here today and to present The Nature Conservancy's support for H.R. 182. As you may know, The Nature Conservancy is an international non-profit organization dedicated to preserving the plants and animals and natural communities that represent the diversity of life on earth. We have over one million members and have protected over 12 million acres in the United States and Canada. We work very closely with local communities and in strong partnerships with both public and private landowners. Our Tidelands Program, which I direct in Connecticut, seeks to protect key ecological areas within a 560-square-mile region of the lower Connecticut River, this region, again known as the Tidelands, has received considerable acclaim over the last 10 years, being named one of the 40 last great places in the western hemisphere and also being included under the international Ramsar Convention, among other recognitions. The Eigthmile River is part of this area, and it is a top priority for The Nature Conservancy.

It is rare to find entire ecosystems intact throughout their range, especially on the East Coast. But the Eightmile River watershed is one example, one last remaining example that we have, of such an ecosystem; 85 percent forested, as is demonstrated by the map that you see on my left. Picture that as a fall day, by the way, a lot of orange and yellow there, a lot of fall colors in the forest; 85 percent of this watershed is forested and it contains the largest unfragmented forest region in coastal Connecticut. Nine thousand

four hundred acres of this watershed are in permanent protection. That is about 25 percent.

The Eightmile River system is free-flowing, and the water quality of its extensive wetlands and watercourses is excellent throughout. From native brook trout to blueback herring, the river system is a haven for fish, both in terms of diversity and abundance. It contains globally rare species and has the internationally recognized tidal marsh, freshwater tidal marsh, at Hamburg Cove. There are some other smaller things we do not often see, native submerged aquatic vegetation and freshwater mussels further testify to the fact that this is a very healthy ecosystem.

It is also within the State's elite in terms of the insects and mayflies and beetles and snails, the things that we do not see, but reflect a really special system. There is also the scenic beauty and an abundance of recreational opportunities here that make this highly regarded by the communities that live in this area, and as a river on the nationwide rivers inventory, there is little doubt that the Eightmile River system contains outstandingly remarkable values. The greatest threat to these is incremental, unplanned growth, and while growth is inevitable, the question is whether it will be managed to sustain the nationally outstanding values here.

Six years ago, the Eightmile River watershed project was formed by local citizens and officials, the University of Connecticut and The Nature Conservancy to initiate a new model for balancing conservation and growth within a watershed. Now, having expended great energy and having generated considerable information, this is one of scores of maps that have been developed for this watershed. Also, having witnessed tremendous community interest over these years, we now look to support a community process of self-determination. A Wild and Scenic River study is the best vehicle for achieving this goal, and that is because the process associated with designation and the study process provides the incentive, the structure, the expertise and the resources needed for the communities to come together and collectively identify the issues and goals they have for this resource and to set forth the means for achieving those goals. The study that we seek today is being sought as much to facilitate this community self-determination as it is to achieve the designation.

Wild and Scenic River designation would also offer special important protections that we in the local communities cannot otherwise avail ourselves of, nor can we avail those protections at the State level, either, I might add. Widespread support exists for the study, as letters and newspaper endorsements will testify. The communities are ready to do their part. A small Federal contribution through this study can leverage a very large local effort, and the value associated with sustaining a national treasure.

The study would leverage the kind of volunteer, community-based initiative that has been hailed for sustaining the fabric of our communities, and I might add it would not require Federal land acquisition, it would not involve Federal land management, it would not become a Federal park. Time is critical. Not only is some of the resource being lost every day, but the community's determination, confidence and readiness is tied to the momentum that

has been created over the last six years. The people of these communities are looking for your support.

Thank you very much for this opportunity to testify in support of H.R. 182, and I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Frohling follows:]

Statement of Nathan M. Frohling, Tidelands Program Director, Connecticut Chapter, The Nature Conservancy

Mr. Chairman and members of the Subcommittee, I appreciate this opportunity to present The Nature Conservancy's testimony in support of H.R. 182, legislation to authorize a Wild and Scenic River Study for the Eightmile River in Connecticut.

The Nature Conservancy is an international, non-profit organization dedicated to the conservation of biological diversity. Our mission is to preserve the plants, animals and natural communities that represent the diversity of life on Earth by protecting the lands and waters they need to survive. The Conservancy has more than 1,000,000 individual members and 1,900 corporate associates. We currently have programs in all 50 states and in 27 foreign countries. To date we have protected more than 12 million acres in the 50 states and Canada, and have helped local partner organizations preserve 60 million acres overseas. The Conservancy owns and manages 1,342 preserves throughout the United States, the largest private system of nature sanctuaries in the world. Sound science and strong partnerships with public and private landowners to achieve tangible and lasting results characterize our conservation programs.

As Director of the Tidelands Program, I lead The Nature Conservancy's efforts to conserve the Eightmile River system. The Tidelands Region, which includes the Eightmile River and its 39,900-acre watershed, is a top priority for The Nature Conservancy in Connecticut. The Tidelands contains extensive yet globally rare tidal marsh communities, globally rare and endangered species, and a regional landscape that is largely intact. The Nature Conservancy recognized this area in 1993 as one of the "40 Last Great Places in the Western Hemisphere." The Tidelands were designated in 1994 as containing Wetlands of International Importance under the Ramsar Convention and this area is recognized as one of the most outstanding areas within the boundaries of the Silvio O. Conte National Wildlife Refuge.

I also serve as Co-Chair of the Eighmile River Watershed Committee, a group of local officials and citizens charged with implementing the Eightmile River Watershed Project. The goal of this project is to enable the three communities, Lyme, East Haddam and Salem, to balance conservation and growth in order to maintain the integrity of the watershed. Passage of legislation to authorize a Wild and Scenic River Study on the Eightmile River will significantly enhance community-based efforts to conserve the unique resources of this globally significant region.

The Eightmile River

The Eightmile name is based on the distance between the location of its mouth at the Connecticut River and the mouth of Connecticut River at Long Island Sound. Extensive wetlands and watercourses combine to form the 10-mile-long East Branch, the 10 mile long West Branch, and the 5-mile main stem of the river. There are other major tributaries such as Beaver Brook, Harris Brook, and Fall Brook. The water quality throughout the river system is excellent. There are no known pollution sources. An old, minor source of potential pollution is the only reason the State has not classified the river at the highest drinking water classification. There has been no evidence of pollution.

The Eightmile River system is one of the most significant aquatic resources within the Lower Connecticut River watershed and contains a number of outstanding and remarkable ecological, historical, cultural and recreational resource values. Within Southern New England, and particularly coastal Connecticut, it is uncommon to find entire ecosystems intact throughout their range, particularly at the scale of the 39,900-acre Eightmile River Watershed. From species to natural communities to its extensive wetland and watercourse system to its unfragmented forest, the Eightmile is an outstanding national treasure.

Eighty-five percent of the Eightmile River Watershed is forested. Most notably this forest habitat is largely intact; it is the largest unfragmented forest region in coastal Connecticut. In total, about 65 percent or 26,000 acres of the watershed is completely unfragmented and the remaining 35 percent are only sparsely developed. The watershed benefits from a high level of protection. The State of Connecticut, The Nature Conservancy, each of the towns, the local land trusts and others have

conserved 9,375 acres or 23 percent of the watershed. The intact forest of the Eightmile River Watershed provides increasingly rare interior nesting bird habitat.

The Eightmile River is virtually free flowing throughout its extent. The only dams of any significance have both had fish ladders installed. The River contains the various forms of aquatic habitat types such as pools and riffles, rocky whitewater sections, sandy and gravelly bottoms, waterfalls, and wide, slow sections. The riparian zones are largely intact throughout the river system. The river is considered by the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection to be an exemplary occurrence of one of Connecticut's most imperiled natural communities—free flowing rivers and streams.

The River system is a haven for fish, both resident and migratory. There is a great diversity and abundance of fish species that use the river throughout their various life stages. It is one of Connecticut's best trout streams. The River contains native brook trout, brown trout and rainbow trout, plus minnows, suckers and small-mouthed bass. Anadromous species include alewife herring, blueback herring, sea lamprey, striped bass, and sea-run brown trout. Efforts are underway to restore Atlantic salmon and American shad.

Two globally rare plant species are known to exist in the Eightmile River system, Parker's pipewort and Eaton's beggar tick. The American bald eagle is also frequently found here. There are many more state rare species and habitats suitable for supporting such species. Hamburg Cove at the mouth of the river is an internationally recognized freshwater tidal marsh community.

Along with these species and communities there are other key indicators of a healthy aquatic system. Extensive, native beds of submerged aquatic vegetation exist. Freshwater mussels are present and exotic mussels are not. One in ten American mussel species has gone extinct over the last century, and almost three-fourths of the remaining species are globally rare. The Eightmile River contains both the brook floater and eastern pearlshell mussel; both are protected by the Connecticut Endangered Species Act. The Eightmile River is in the State's elite for other small aquatic organisms such as mayflies, damselflies, dragonflies, beetles, snails, etc. Among several categories of insect life, the Eightmile exceeds all other sites according to state aquatic biologist Guy Hoffman.

The Eightmile River and the watershed are highly prized by the three towns through which it flows—Lyme, East Haddam and Salem. The watershed is approximately one-third to one-half of the land area in each of these towns. It is a rural landscape with great scenic beauty and offers an abundance of recreational opportunities. It is one of the best rivers in Connecticut for fishing and it supports boating from canoeing and kayaking to power and sail in the river's downstream sections. Hiking, sightseeing, hunting, and nature observation are among popular activities within the watershed at a number of State Forest areas, Devil's Hopyard State Park, and three large preserves owned by The Nature Conservancy that are all open to the public.

Much of the watershed's existing development is historic and well integrated into the landscape. The river and watershed's high quality defines the character of these three towns. It is at the heart of the quality of life enjoyed by area residents. Economic interests also recognize this because economic vitality here, primarily tourism, is largely based on that quality.

The greatest threat to the special attributes of the Eightmile River and its watershed is incremental, unplanned growth. It results in landscape and habitat fragmentation, the loss of water quality, the loss of important species and natural communities, the intrusion of undesirable nuisance species, and obscures other qualities of this region. Change and growth is inevitable; for example, East Haddam is one of the fastest growing towns in the state. This issue is whether growth will be managed to protect and sustain the unique resource at the heart of this region. There are other potential threats such as the diversion of groundwater for water supply in distant towns or golf course irrigation that could leave the hydrology of the system seriously altered, especially during normally low-flow periods.

The Eightmile River Watershed Project and the Wild and Scenic River Study

About six years ago, the Eightmile River Watershed Committee was formed to pursue the Eightmile River Watershed Project. The group was comprised of local officials and citizens, with the University of Connecticut Cooperative Extension System (UConn) and The Nature Conservancy providing staff support and resource expertise. The EPA Region One and Silvio O. Conte National Wildlife Refuge provided funding. The project goal: balance conservation and growth in the watershed in ways that ensure the long-term social, economic, and environmental health of its communities.

The focus of the project thus far has been the development of educational resources to support good land use planning and thoughtful stewardship by local landowners. One of the first achievements was the signing by town leaders in December 1997 of the Conservation Compact. This was an agreement between the three towns that committed each town to work together to protect shared natural and cultural heritage.

Since that time, the thrust of activity has been in the use of computer-based geographic information system (GIS) technology to generate state-of-the-art maps and resource information about the watershed. Collectively these materials helped make it vividly clear just how unique and precious the Eightmile River Watershed is to those who live here. The results were shown to various audiences in the community through slide shows and presentations. They generated considerable interest and support for further action.

The Nature Conservancy has worked closely with the Eightmile River Watershed Committee, each of the three towns, community groups and individuals. During this past year, we have collectively looked at how best to take the information gathered and community interest generated to accomplish tangible on-the-ground results for protecting the river and watershed. Together we have recognized that going back to the communities to directly involve them in decisionmaking about the future of the river and watershed was the best course of action and that a Wild and Scenic River Study is the best vehicle for doing so. There are several reasons a Wild and Scenic River Study is the best way to protect the Eightmile River.

—The Eightmile River has the necessary outstandingly remarkable values to be eligible for designation.

—A Wild and Scenic River Study, and the process associated with it, provides the structure, expertise, funding and facilitation needed for the communities as a whole to come together and collectively identify the issues and goals they have for the resource, and to set forth the means for meeting those goals. This is the heart of the matter; the conservation needed is most likely to come through community-based self-determination. Despite strong interest, it is not likely that such a community process will happen without the incentive of the Wild and Scenic River designation process. As important as designation itself may become, the pursuit of a Wild and Scenic River study now is being sought as much for the opportunity it provides to support community-based action and self-determination as it is to achieve the designation itself.

—A Wild and Scenic River designation, if achieved, would offer important protections not otherwise available locally or through the State of Connecticut. Federally funded or permitted water resource related projects that would have a direct and adverse impact on the river would not be allowed under designation. There are several threats to the Eightmile where this may be important including, for example, adverse water diversions.

—The Study would provide a greater level of scientific information than we have currently, which might be especially useful for future decisionmaking.

—A Wild and Scenic River study represents the potential to bring in needed funds to support the community-based process that has been identified.

—The Wild and Scenic River designation process would be built on local control. The ability to maintain local control over land use decisions is key.

—The process would further facilitate coordination among the three towns.

There has been wide‘spread support at the community level for a Wild and Scenic River Study and for potential Wild and Scenic River designation. A concern for the future for the Eightmile River, a love of the Eightmile River Watershed area, and community pride have combined with a recognition that the Wild and Scenic River process offers an excellent tool to address these collective interests. Over 40 letters from all levels of local government, community groups and individuals, including riverfronting property owners, have been submitted requesting the Study. Leading newspapers have carried editorials endorsing the Wild and Scenic River effort. These are summarized in the attached exhibits.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to testify in support of H.R. 182. I urge the committee's favorable consideration of this important legislation. I would be happy to answer any questions from Members of the Committee.

LETTERS REQUESTING A WILD AND SCENIC RIVER STUDY OF THE EIGHTMILE RIVER:

SUBMITTED TO CONGRESSMAN ROB SIMMONS

Town Leaders:

1. Lyme Selectmen; Ralph Eno, First Selectman
2. East Haddam Selectmen; Sue Merrow, First Selectman

3. Salem Selectmen; Jim Fogarty, First Selectman

Town Commissions:

1. Lyme Conservation and Inland Wetlands Commission; Don Gerber, Chairman
2. Lyme Planning and Zoning Commission; David Tiffany, Chairman,
3. Lyme Open Space Committee; James Thatch, Chairman
4. East Haddam Planning and Zoning Commission; Harvey Thomas, Chairman
5. East Haddam Economic Development Commission; Edward Thereault, Chairman
6. East Haddam Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission; Randolph Dill, Chairman
7. East Haddam Conservation Commission; W. Nic Damuck, Chairman
8. East Haddam Open Space Commission; Jon Modica, Chairman
9. East Haddam Historical District Commission; Will Brady, Chairman
10. Salem Planning and Zoning Commission; David Bingham, Secretary
11. Salem Inland Wetlands and Conservation Commission; George Ziegra, Chairman

Community-based Committees:

1. Eightmile River Watershed Committee; Jim Ventres, Nathan Frohling, David Bingham, Anthony Irving, Co-Chairmen
2. East Haddam Community Planning Group; Deb Matthiason, Project Assistant

Community Civic Organizations:

1. Lyme Garden Club; Janet Cody, Secretary
2. Lyme Public Hall Assoc., Inc.; Parker Lord, President
3. Lyme Cemetery Commission; Linda Bireley, Secretary
4. East Haddam Civic Association; Timothy Johnson, Representative
5. Bashan Lake Association, East Haddam; Bruce Fletcher, President
6. Salem Historical Society; Dr. Milton Clark, Representative

Riverfronting Property Owners:

1. Marilyn Wilkins, Lyme
2. Betsy Woodward, Lyme
3. Vivien Blackford, East Haddam
4. John and Barbara Kashanski, East Haddam
5. Jack Bodman, Salem
6. Andrew Zemko, Salem
7. Dr. Richard Goodwin, Salem

Town Residents:

1. Janice and Richard Anderson, Lyme
2. Mary Catherwood, Lyme
3. Leslie Shaffer, Lyme
4. Mary Platt, Lyme
5. Betty Cleghone, Lyme Garden Club member
6. Sebyl Martin, East Haddam

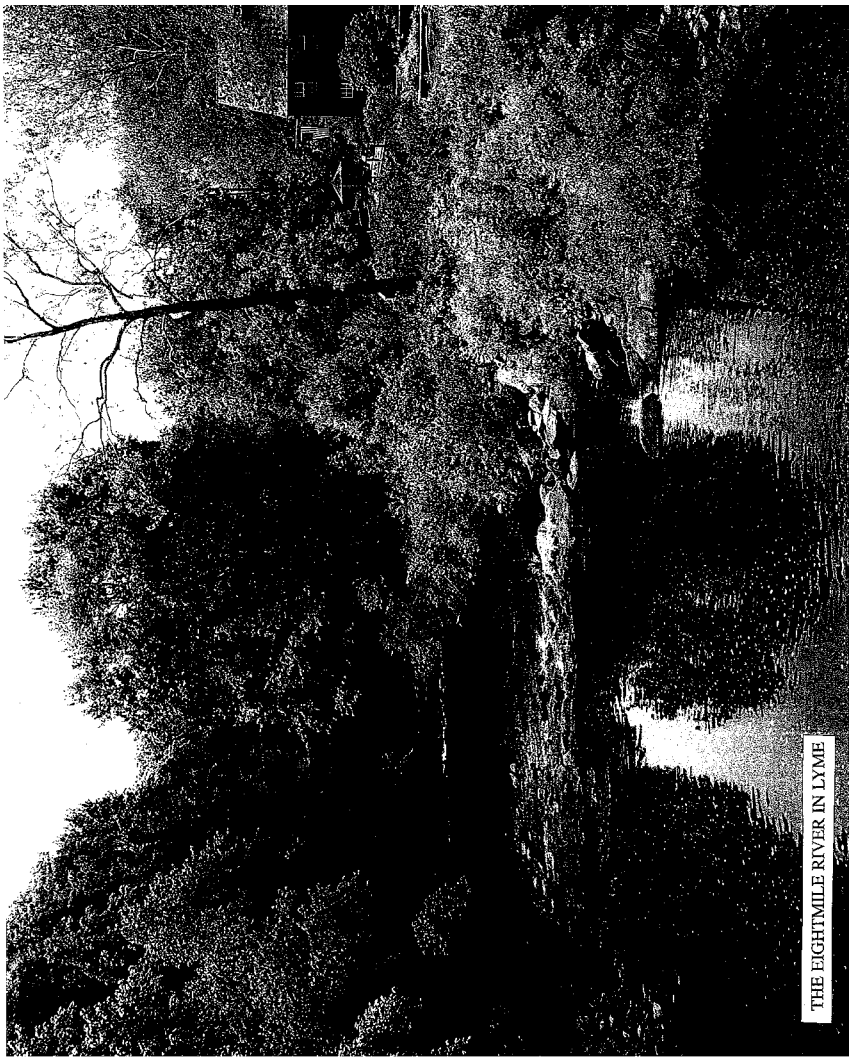
Conservation Organizations:

1. Lyme Land Conservation Trust; Anthony Irving, President
2. East Haddam Land Trust; Maureen VanDerStad, President
3. Salem Land Trust; David Wordell, President
4. The Nature Conservancy, CT Chapter; Nathan Frohling, Tidelands Program Director
5. Connecticut River Watershed Council; Thomas Maloney, River Steward
6. Potapaug Audubon Society; Dr. Milton Clark, Conservation Chairman

Leading Newspaper Editorial Endorsements:

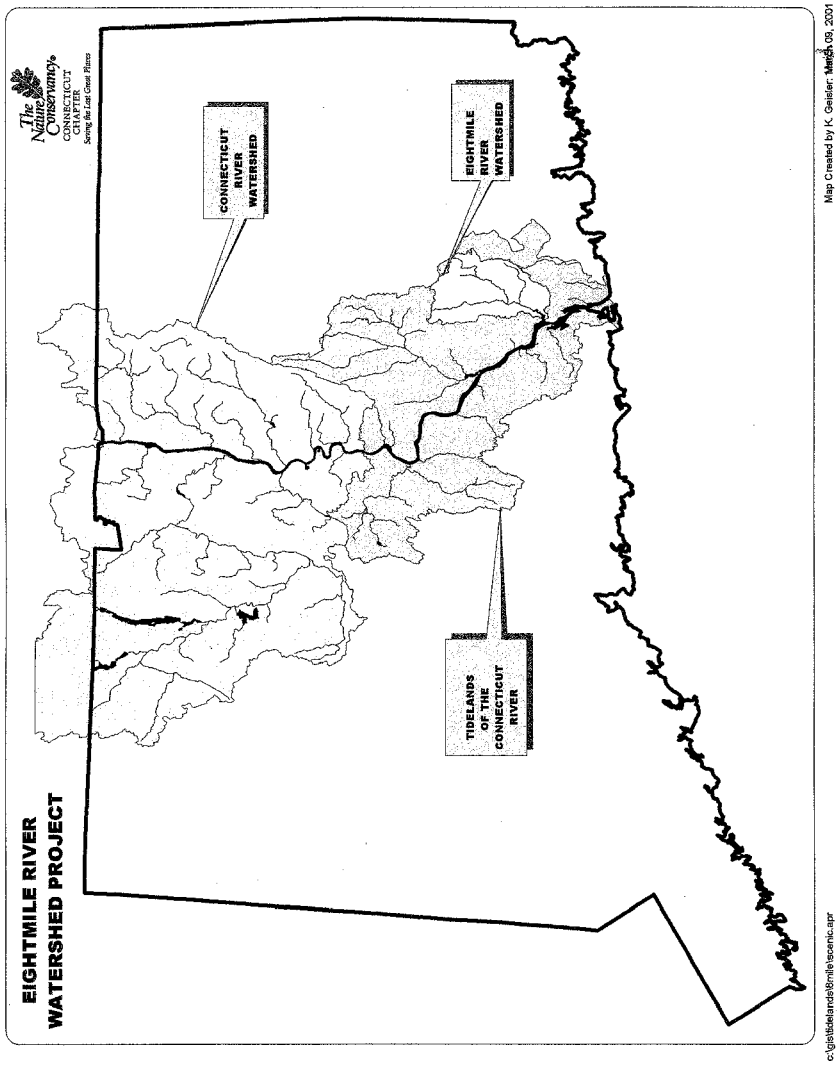
1. The Hartford Courant; November 2000
2. The Day; December 17, 2000

TOTAL: 43



THE EIGHTMILE RIVER IN LYME

EAST BRANCH OF THE EIGHTMILE RIVER


EIGHTMILE RIVER
WATERSHED PROJECT
The Nature Conservancy
CONNECTICUT
CHAPTER
Saving the Last Great Places
CONNECTICUT RIVER WATERSHED
EIGHTMILE RIVER WATERSHED
TIDELANDS OF THE CONNECTICUT RIVER
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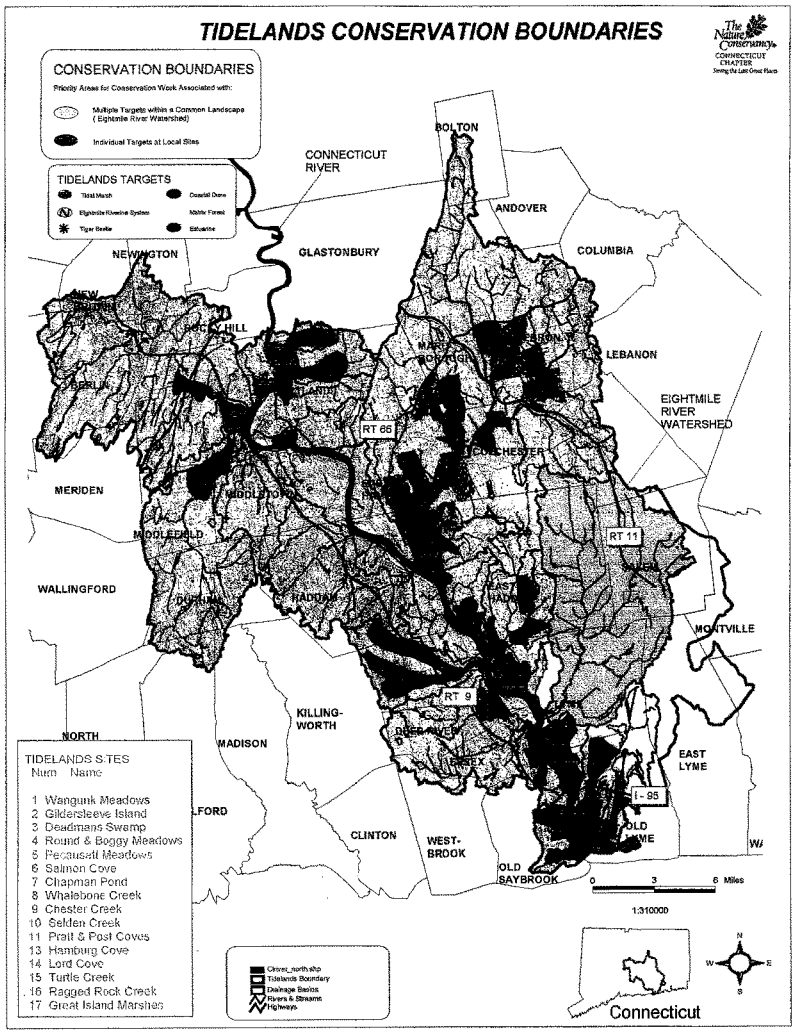
Map Created by K. Geisler: March 09, 2001



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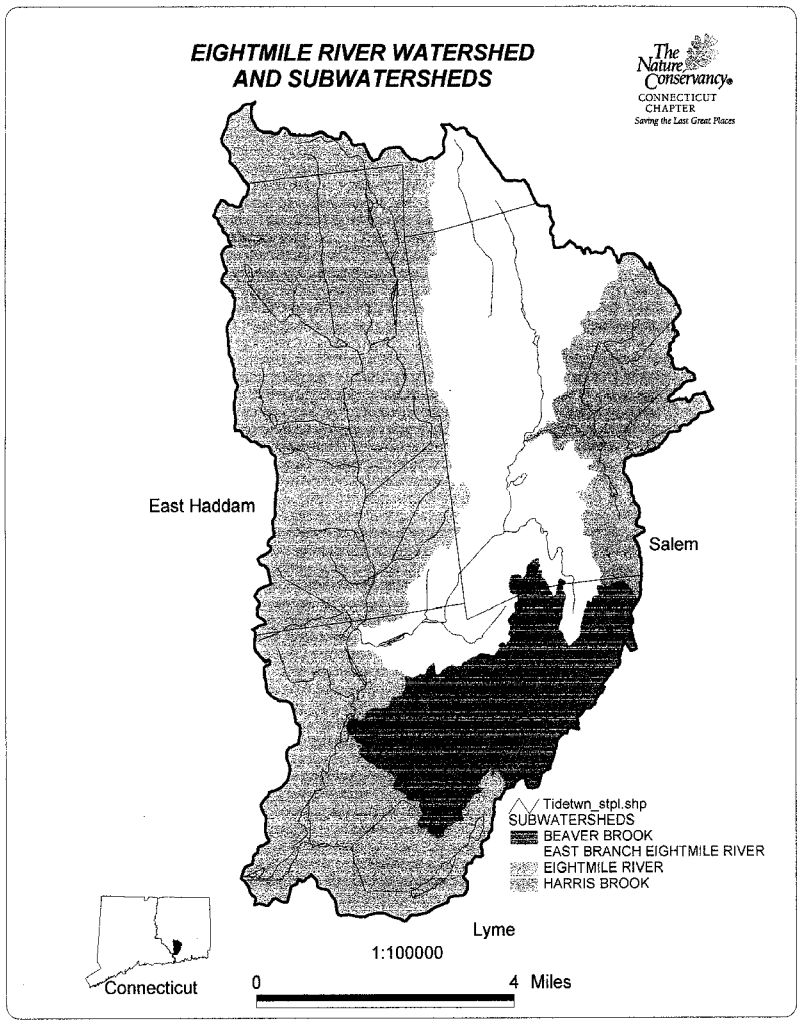

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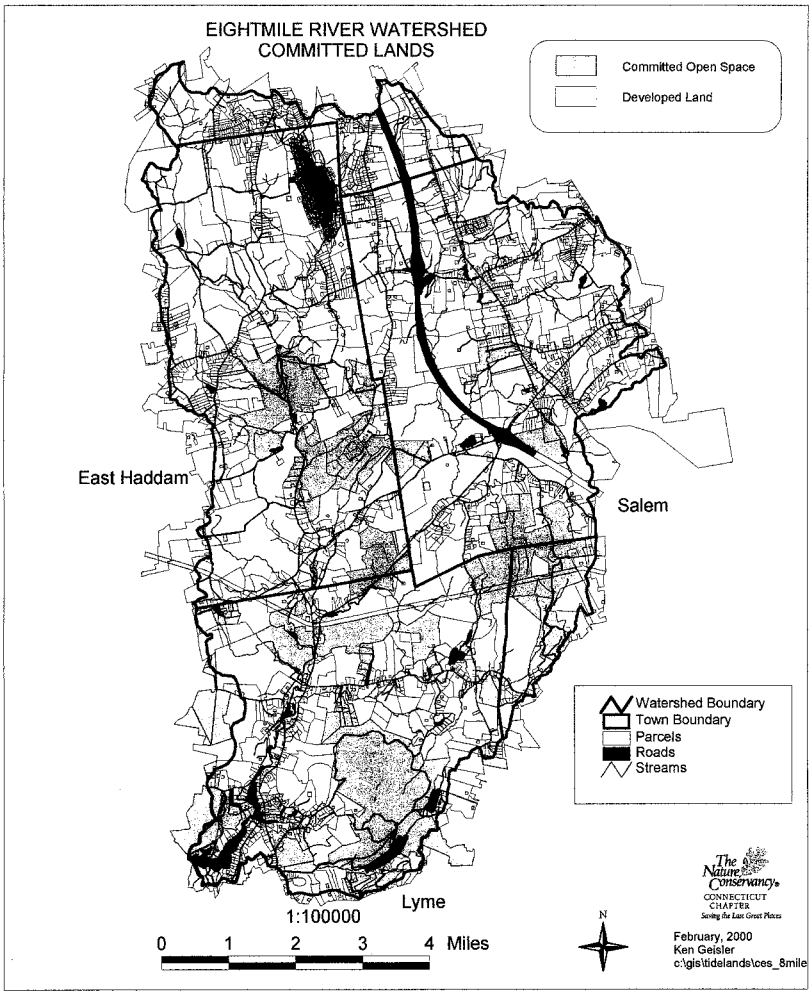
EIGHTMILE RIVER WATERSHED
COMMITTED LANDS
Committed Open Space
Developed Land
East Haddam
Salem
Lyme
Watershed Boundary
Town Boundary
Parcels
Roads
Streams
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The Nature Conservancy
CONNECTICUT CHAPTER
Saving the Last Great Places
February, 2000
Ken Geisler
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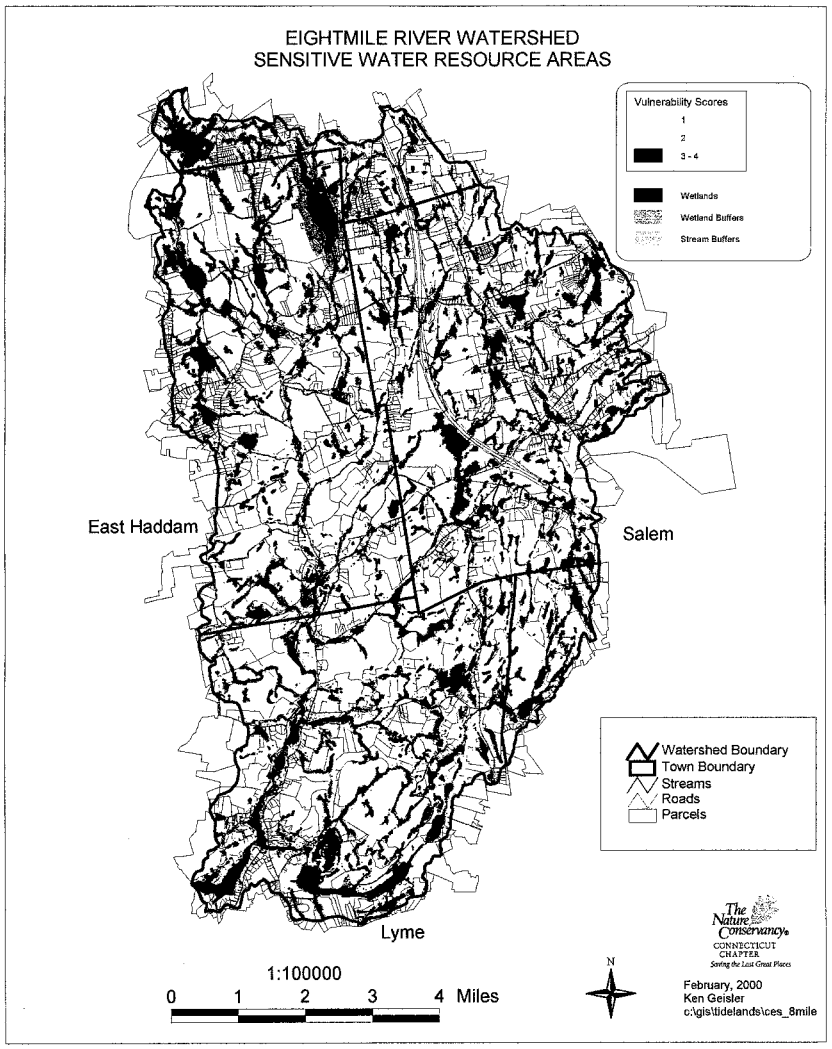
EIGHTMILE RIVER WATERSHED
SENSITIVE WATER RESOURCE AREAS
Vulnerability Scores
1
2
3 - 4
Wetlands
Wetland Buffers
Stream Buffers
East Haddam
Salem
Lyme
Watershed Boundary
Town Boundary
Streams
Roads
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The Nature Conservancy
CONNECTICUT CHAPTER
Saving the Last Great Places
February, 2000
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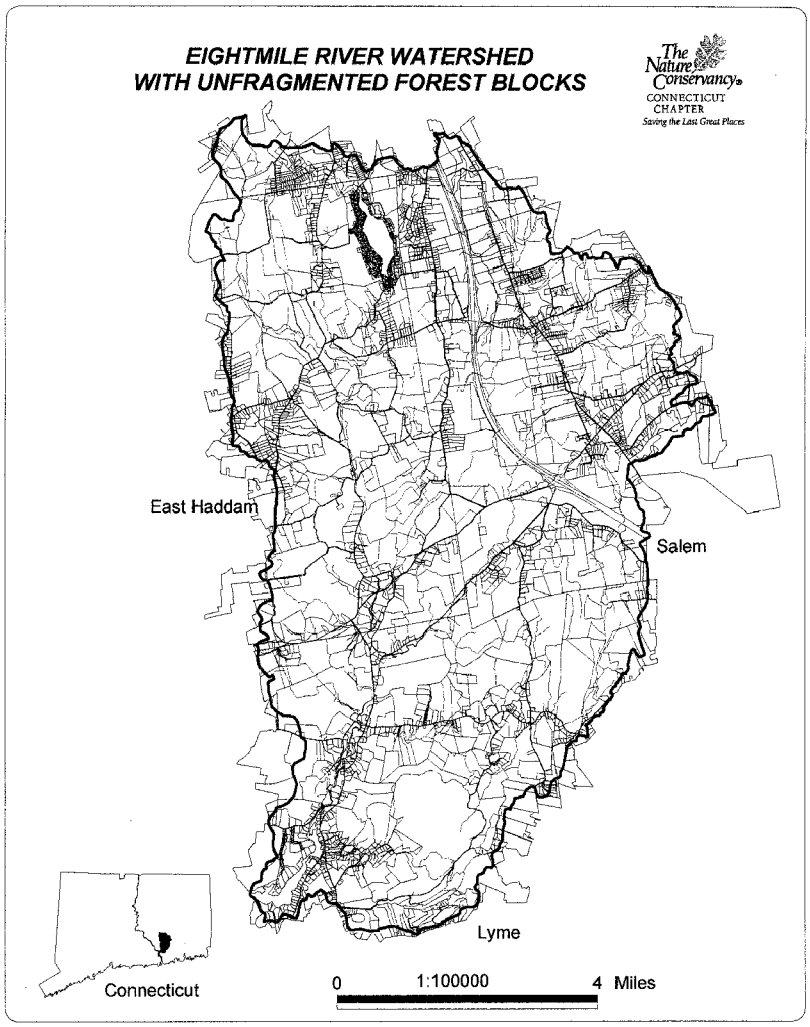

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Map Created by K. Geisler: February 21, 2001

Mr. HEFLEY. Thank you for that testimony.
Ms. Merrow?

STATEMENT OF SUSAN MERROW, FIRST SELECTMAN, EAST HADDAM, CONNECTICUT

Ms. MERROW. Good afternoon. Mr. Chairman, members of the Committee, thank you for this opportunity to speak to you today. My name is Susan Merrow. I am currently serving my fifth term as First Selectman of the town of East Haddam, and on behalf of the people of my hometown, I come here before you today to urge your favorable consideration of H.R. 182, to study the Eightmile River for possible inclusion in the Wild and Scenic River program. We believe this waterway is of exemplary significance to my town, to our region and to our State. To tell you a little bit about East Haddam, we are a town of 7,620 people spread out over 57 square miles that are bordered by the beautiful Connecticut River. We have many things to be proud of in East Haddam.

We are home to the Goodspeed Opera House, a restored Victorian theater that sent such well-known musicals to Broadway as ″Annie″ and ″The Man of La Mancha″. We are proud to be the home of U.S. Senator Christopher Dodd. We have beautiful old homes. We have a proud history of 19th-century water-powered mills. We have two handsome State parks. We have beautiful unfragmented forest, and we are very proud to be bordered once again by the Connecticut River and the tidelands that Nathan has mentioned.

Like any modern community, we balance these cultural and environmental resources against all the demands of a modern community, the need for a healthy economy, for jobs, for decent housing, for finding the money to build schools, yet over and over again, when asked, the citizens of my town speak out again and again, asking us to protect the natural resources of our town. They do this not just for reasons of nostalgia, but because we see it in our long-term economic best interest. We believe it just makes practical good sense. We believe that our tourism-dependent economy and we count as crucial to the quality of life that makes East Haddam a good place to live require that we do no less.

We have embarked on a several-year planning process that has at its heart the notion that our environment and our economy are inextricably linked. We are actively planning as a community for environmentally compatible economic development which acknowledges and enhances the unique natural and cultural attributes of our town. We have invited our citizenry together to establish a list of community values of things we hold dear as a town, and prominent on that list is protecting the natural environment.

All of this is by way of backdrop for my request of you that you give favorable consideration to our wish that you support funding for the study of what we believe is East Haddam's most remarkable natural resource, the Eightmile River. The main stem of the Eightmile River rises in my town and flows through hemlock gorges over a spectacular waterfall, alongside forest, fields and farms as it finds its way to the Connecticut River. The Eightmile River encompasses one-third of the land area of my town, and through a combination of great good luck and the fortunate

foresight of our forefathers, the Eightmile River flows unrestricted and pure through an almost completely untrammeled landscape, which is a remarkable greenway. Significant stretches of the watershed are permanently protected by the State and by land trusts, but most of the land is in the hands of private landowners. The people of East Haddam have teamed up with the people from the other two towns in the watershed to educate themselves and others about this resource. Our theory is that if people know the resource, they will love it, and if they love it, they will make good decisions about it.

We have worked with The Nature Conservancy and the University of Connecticut to amass a very large database of information about this river, about the forest and the wildlife habitat and the water quality. I have joined the First Selectmen of the other two towns in the watershed to create an agreement to work together to protect this resource. We have signed a compact. You will find a picture in this little booklet of the three of us signing the compact, which speaks of our commitment to balance conservation and growth by ensuring the long-term social, economic and environmental health—and the vitality of our communities in the watershed.

I carry with me today the wishes and hopes of my colleagues in the other two towns in this watershed. Support for studying the Eightmile River for possible inclusion in the Wild and Scenic River program is broad and deep in all three watershed towns, from boards and commissions, to civic groups to the land trusts, we bring with us, as you know, today 43 letters of support from the people of our region.

We feel very strongly that this is a very unusual and valuable resource, worthy to be listed alongside the great rivers of our country. My community and the others in the Eightmile watershed stand ready to do the work required to support a study and to make use of the information that will be developed. Ours has been a completely grassroots effort. We have brought our project a long way and we offer you now an opportunity to leverage that effort. We look to this program to help us take the next step, to help us retain control of our project locally, to help build the partnerships and to gain deserved recognition for this very special bit of unspoiled nature that graces my town and that we deeply hope will do so for generations to come. Thank you very much for this chance to speak to you today.

[The prepared statement of Ms. Merrow follows:]

Statement of Susan D. Merrow, First Selectman of the Town of East Haddam, Connecticut, on H.R. 182

My name is Susan Merrow. I am currently serving my fifth term as First Selectman of the Town of East Haddam, Connecticut, about 30 miles southeast of Hartford. For those unfamiliar with old-fashioned New England small town government, the First Selectman is the Chief Elected Official, and in many towns like mine, also the Chief Executive Officer. I know that Connecticut is commonly regarded as a bedroom community for New York City. It comes as a surprise to many I meet from other parts of the country that eastern Connecticut is a remarkable swath of green and surprisingly open, rural land between Boston and Washington. On behalf of the people of my town, I come before you today to urge your favorable consideration for H.R. 182, a bill which would amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to include a study of the Eightmile River, a waterway which we believe to of exemplary significance to my town, our region, and our state.

East Haddam itself is a town of 7,620 people and 57 square miles, bordered by the magnificent Connecticut River. We have many things of which to be proud in East Haddam. We are home to the Goodspeed Opera House, a restored Victorian Theater that sent such well known musicals to Broadway as "Annie" and "Man of La Mancha." We are proud to be the home of U.S. Senator Christopher Dodd. We have venerable old homes and farms, and a proud history of nineteenth century water-powered mills. We have two handsome state parks. One of these, which is called Gillette's Castle, draws thousands of visitors from all over the world to view the unusual stone mansion of actor William Gillette, made famous by his portrayal of Sherlock Holmes, and to gaze down upon the Tidelands of the Connecticut River as they stretch away to the south, toward Long Island Sound. These Tidelands have been identified under the Ramsar Treaty as "wetlands of international significance." We have three handsome lakes, large stretches of unfragmented forests, and fishable, swimmable streams. Like any community, we balance these cultural and environmental resources against all the demands of a modern community the need for a healthy economy, for jobs, for decent housing, for funding to build schools. Yet, over and over again, when asked to help town planners strike a balance between stewardship and development of our natural resources, the people of my town speak out clearly for preserving and protecting the natural environment. We do this not just for reasons of nostalgia, but because we see it in our long-term economic best interest. We believe that our tourism dependent economy and what we count as crucial to the quality of life that make East Haddam a good place to live require that we do no less. We have embarked on a several-year planning process that has at its heart the notion that our environment and our economy are inextricably linked. We are actively planning as a community for environmentally compatible economic development, development which acknowledges and enhances the unique natural and cultural attributes of our town. Our planning process began with involving our whole citizenry in establishing a list of community values, things we hold dear, as a town such as our history, our education system, our tradition of volunteerism, and our love of the arts and protecting the natural environment is prominent among them. We have agreed as a community to take these values into account as we weigh plans for future direction and development. All of this is by way of backdrop for my request of you that you give favorable consideration to our wish that you support funding for the study of East Haddam's most remarkable natural resource, the Eightmile River, for possible inclusion in the Wild and Scenic River system. The main stem of the Eightmile River rises in East Haddam and flows through hemlock gorges, over a spectacular waterfall, alongside forests, fields, and farms as it finds its way to the Connecticut River. The Eightmile River watershed encompasses about a third of the land area of East Haddam. Through a combination of serendipity and the fortunate foresight of our town forefathers, the Eightmile River flows unrestricted and pure through an almost completely untrammeled landscape, a remarkable greenway. While significant stretches of the watershed are permanently protected from development by the State and by land trusts, most of the watershed is in the hands of private landowners. The people of East Haddam have teamed up with people form the other two towns in the watershed to educate themselves and others about this resource. Our theory is that, if people know the resource they will respect it, and if they respect it they will make good decisions about it. Toward this end, working with our state university and The Nature Conservancy, we have amassed a large data base of information about this river the forest resources of the watershed, the development patterns, its water quality and more. We have learned that our river is essentially free-flowing, has high water quality, excellent riparian habitat, extensive fresh water wetlands and submerged aquatic vegetation, healthy populations of fresh water mussels and native and stocked trout, and it supports a high diversity of fish species and healthy runs of migratory fish. On behalf of my townspeople, I have joined the First Selectmen of the other two towns in the watershed in creating an agreement to work together to protect this resource. I and my fellow First Selectmen from Lyme and Salem signed a compact which states in part, " the Towns of East Haddam, Lyme and Salem enter into this voluntary Conservation compact that acknowledges our commitment to balance conservation and growth by:

1. Protecting and enhancing the water resources of the watershed, including both the quality of the water and the integrity of normal stream and groundwater flows;
2. Connecting and maintaining habitats and rural landscape throughout the watershed; and
3. Ensuring the long-term social, economic, environmental health and vitality of the communities in the watershed.

I carry with me today the wishes and hopes of my colleagues in the other two towns and their constituents. Those of you who have labored long in the fields of

government will recognize how difficult it can be to make agreements that span political boundaries. "Home Rule" is practically carved into the seal of each of Connecticut's 169 municipalities. Any agreement that suggests putting the interests of a region first is commonly regarded with suspicion. In the case of this compact to protect the Eightmile River, our citizens readily grasped the notion that since rivers do not conform to political boundaries, neither can we think only of our short term self-interest if we care about this river. Support for studying the Eightmile River for possible inclusion in the Wild and Scenic River program is broad and deep in all three watershed towns. From Boards of Selectmen, to Planning and Zoning Commissions, to Wetlands Commissions, to Land Trusts even to Economic Development Commissions and even the Historic District Commission in one town, our towns speak with one voice about how strongly we feel that this is a very unusual and valuable resource, worthy to be listed alongside the great rivers of our country. My community and the others in the Eightmile watershed stand ready to do the work required to support a study and to make use of the information that will be developed. Please consider these thoughts and wishes as you weigh the merits of H.R. 182. Please help us to gain deserved recognition for this very special bit of unspoiled nature that graces my town and that we deeply hope will do so for generations to come.

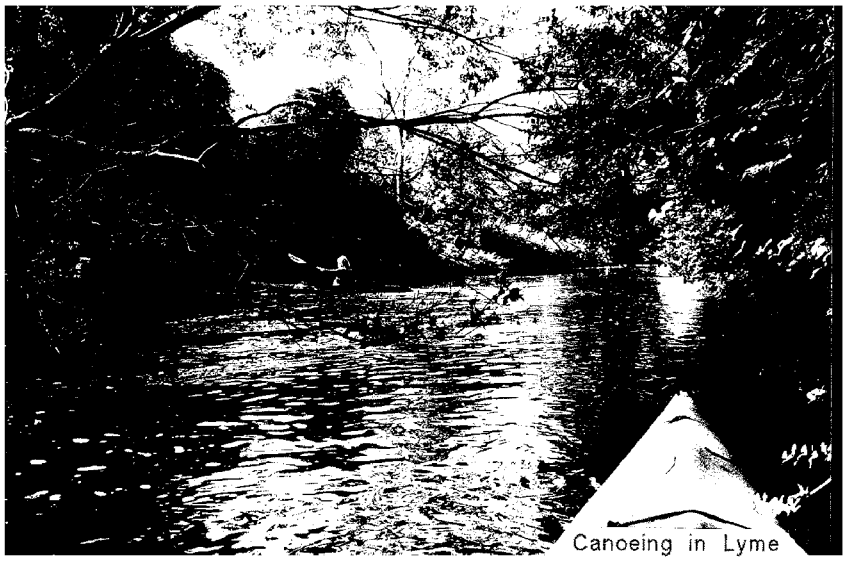
HR 182

Eightmile River

Lyme, Salem,
East Haddam, Ct.

Devil's Hopyard State Park

East Haddam



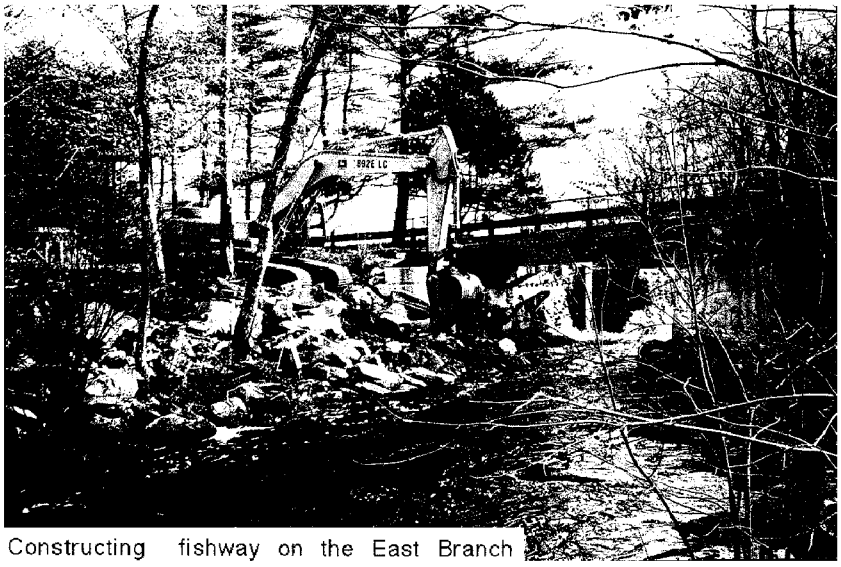
Canoeing in Lyme

East Haddam Land Trust property

First grade fishing lesson, swimming hole, Lyme

Lyme

Salem, East Branch in winter



Constructing fishway on the East Branch

Mr. HEFLEY. Do you have any idea how the private landowners along the river feel? The people in town want it, but how about the private landowners along the river?

Ms. MERROW. Well, we have made a significant effort to reach out to private landowners. We invited all the private landowners with personal invitations to public information sessions. Among the 43 letters of support today are letters from a number of those private landowners, and some of the support has come from surprising quarters, from some of those old Yankees that we felt would be highly suspicious of this activity, but they have embraced it and I believe that we can say that we have very strong support from the private landowners.

Mr. HEFLEY. Mrs. Christensen?

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I do not really have any questions. It is apparent from all of the testimony today that both of the areas have put in a lot of time and effort over a long period of time, to bring us to the point of H.R. 146 and H.R. 182. They appear to have broad community support and they certainly have a rich and varied history to justify the request. I agree with you that even if there is a moratorium for however long, that should not preclude us from having studies done.

I look forward to working with you. I think maybe between us we may be able to work with the Administration to support these requests.

Mr. HEFLEY. Thank you.

Mr. Simmons?

Mr. SIMMONS. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think I have taken enough of the Committee's time with my questions and comments. I think you know where I am coming from, and I appreciate the courtesy extended to me and to my friends from eastern Connecticut, and I appreciate the courtesy of the Committee.

Mr. HEFLEY. Thank you very much.

Let me ask, Mr. Frohling, in your testimony, you indicated that among its other attributes, a segment of the Eightmile River is also an outstanding recreational resource. Could you describe in greater detail the recreational activities that take place on the river, and would Wild and Scenic River designation have an adverse impact on the ability of the public to continue to engage in these recreational activities? Would the designation have any positive impact on the public future recreational use of this river?

Mr. FROHLING. It certainly would not have any negative impact, and I think it would only have a positive impact, both again in terms of the support for the local efforts, to continue to shape the future of this watershed, to hold on to these recreational resources that we currently have today, and to help expand public access to some of the sites. I would say that if you can imagine a recreational opportunity, it is there on the Eightmile. The ones that stand out—fishing is probably the most famous on the Eightmile. It is one of the top trout fishing rivers in the State of Connecticut, including particularly the native trout that makes it so desirable to fishermen.

But you will also find the full range of boating activities, from canoeing and kayaking both, to power and sailboating activities in the lower portion of the river, which is wider and slower, but you

also have lots of hiking and biking and sightseeing and bird-watching and all the other kinds of activities. We even have snowshoeing and cross-country skiing when the snow falls down. There is just about any activity you can imagine, in the Eightmile.

Mr. HEFLEY. And it would continue to be, if this designation was made?

Mr. FROHLING. Absolutely, and I think it would further encourage organizations like The Nature Conservancy when we are involved and working with willing landowners to protect land, to make those lands available for public access, which we are beginning to do, and there are already a number of locations in the Eightmile that are available to the public. There are two large State forests. There is a State park. The Nature Conservancy also has three preserves in the Eightmile that are open to the public, as well, and it is through these sites and others, including land trust properties and so forth, where the public can gain access to the river for fishing and hiking and so forth.

Mr. HEFLEY. Well, all four of you must be good witnesses, because you have convinced me that I need to go both to the Eightmile River and to Paterson, New Jersey, to see for myself, to see if you are telling me the truth. I could do that on the Eightmile River better with a fly rod in my hand, I think. That would help me understand better what the resources are there.

Do you have any questions or comments, Mr. Simpson?

Mr. SIMPSON. Yes, a couple, Mr. Chairman.

First of all, is most of the land on the Eightmile River currently privately owned?

Mr. FROHLING. Yes.

Mr. SIMPSON. Would there be any changes in the current use of that land if this designation is made?

Mr. FROHLING. No.

Mr. SIMPSON. I appreciate that. The reason I asked that is just to show you there are differences between the east and the west, to some degree. Whenever you start talking about Wild and Scenic Rivers in Idaho, you had better run for cover, because we do not want most of those designations because of the restrictions they put on. But I understand. I have been there, and it is a beautiful area and deserving of preservation, and making sure it does not get degraded in the future.

About the Great Falls Historic District, I am wondering, as I read this testimony from Joseph Doddridge, in 1992, $4.147 million in Urban History Initiative funds to be administered by the National Park Service were given to the area with an agreement with the city to protect historic resources while fostering compatible economic development. Then, in 1996, the Great Falls Historic District was authorized for $3.3 million in matching grants and assistance to develop and implement a preservation and interpretive plan for the district and permit development of a market analysis with recommendations of the economic development potential of the district. Has all that been done?

Ms. DOPIRAK. Actually, the latter part, we have not received that money. That has only been authorized. It has not been appropriated. But we are still continuing to work with the National Park Service on the Urban History Initiative.

Mr. SIMPSON. Is the reason the $3.3 million in the latter part has not been received is that it has not been appropriated because it required matching funds and those have not been raised yet?

Ms. DOPIRAK. No, I do not think so. I believe it just has not been appropriated.

Mr. SIMPSON. Why do we take it from a National Historic Landmark to a part of the Park Service? I mean, does not the National Historic Landmark designation protect the area?

Ms. DOPIRAK. No, it does not. It only gives it a form of protection if Federal funds or State funds were to be used in a way that would be detrimental to a protected resource. It does not provide the kind of interpretation, preservation and educational activities that we believe being a unit of the National Park Service would bring to us.

Mr. SIMPSON. I guess the reason I ask that is—are we trying to just put something into the National Park Service to make more funding available for it, so that we can do some things? I mean, is that basically the reason we are doing it?

Ms. DOPIRAK. I do not think I quite understand your question.

Mr. SIMPSON. Are we looking at making it a part of the National Park System because that would effectively make more funds available to do some preservation that you want to do? Is that basically the reason?

Ms. DOPIRAK. Yes, I think the study would lead us to that conclusion, and we believe it is only with the National Park Service, who have superior technical expertise and resources available, to assist us in making the complete story of the historic district known to everyone and assisting us in the interpretation of our resources.

Mr. SIMPSON. I guess I should express some concern, and it is not about this or anything else. In fact, I may support this fully. I do not know yet. But we do have a backlog, as has been mentioned, in maintenance of our National Park System, and there are areas all over this country that you could designate as significant historically and so forth. You can go to Colorado and I am sure there are mining areas that were significant. In Idaho, I know there are areas where events occurred that are significant in our history and so forth. If we are going to start adding all of these to the park system, are we going to soon run out of funds? I mean, when we have already got a $4 billion backlog?

Ms. DOPIRAK. We think the Great Falls Historic District has a different story to tell. I have been in the San Juan Mountains of Colorado and I do believe that you have interesting stories to tell, and I have seen these old mining towns which are literally baking in the sun and they are not being protected, and they are deserving of protection, but we believe that in Paterson, we tell the story from the beginning of this country, and that is a story of national merit. It involves very famous people and people who were not famous, and it is such a unique story that has such far-reaching significance to our Nation that we think it should be told. If I might just quote, there was a very nice letter submitted to the Committee, and I would like to read one sentence. It was submitted by Ed Smyk, who is the Passaic County historian. He says ″the Great Falls Historic District transcends parochial and State concerns, and I do not exaggerate by saying that the continued preservation,

enhancement and interpretation of the district is essential to an understanding of America's industrial history," and I think that says it all.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Smyk follows:]

OFFICE OF THE
PASSAIC COUNTY HISTORIAN
DISTRICT COURT HOUSE
71 HAMILTON STREET
PATERSON, NEW JERSEY 07505

E.A. SMYR
COUNTY HISTORIAN

TELEPHONE
(973) 881-3192

7 March 2001

Honorable James V. Hansen, M.C.
Chairman
Subcommittee on National Parks and Public Lands
House Committee on Resources
140 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Subject: *Historical Significance of Great Falls (New Jersey) Historic District in relation to Great Falls Historic District Study Act of 2001*

Dear Representative Hansen:

It is with considerable pleasure that I offer comments on the historical significance of the Great Falls Historic District in relation to the legislation that is now before your subcommittee. This legislation, if enacted, would be a significant first step in placing the Great Falls Historic District under the aegis of the National Park Service, a goal first enunciated more than 30 years ago by public officials, historians, researchers and informed community members who recognized the District's rightful place in the development of American manufacturing.

I. *A site of enduring national significance.*

Efforts to place the Great Falls of the Passaic under public control can be traced to 1911, when the Industrial Committee of the City of Paterson's Board of Trade (Chamber of Commerce) undertook what proved to be an unsuccessful effort in arousing public support for purchasing the cataract and adjacent property. Interest in the District accelerated in the early 1970's with the celebration of the nation's bicentennial. On 6 June 1976, President Gerald R. Ford, standing before the majestic, 77-foot high, 280-foot wide waterfall, proclaimed the District a National Historic Landmark. It was here, more than 184 years before, that Alexander Hamilton, the nation's first Secretary of the Treasury and an ardent proponent of home industries, in concert with a group of prominent investors, organized the Society for Establishing Useful Manufactures, or as it was locally known, the "S.U.M.". The mission of the S.U.M. as a pioneer industrial corporation was highly significant. In 1917, one researcher said the S.U.M. was "somewhat more than an episode in the career of Alexander Hamilton." Joseph Stancliffe Davis, the corporation's definitive scholar, noted that the project was "a favorite enterprise of Hamilton." The historical

facts are convincing: At the Great Falls of the Passaic, Hamilton and his colleagues devised an ambitious plans to create what is considered the nation's first planned industrial center. Historian William H. Pierson, Jr. has characterized the experiment on the banks of the Passaic River as "probably the first systematic attempt to develop extensive water power for manufacturing purposes in this country."

Hamilton himself was optimistic over the future of the corporation which brought about the establishment of the town of Paterson. He believed that manufacturing would have, in his words, "a moral certainty of success." The S.U.M. would manufacture and derive profits from cotton textiles, wearing apparel, and various other products that the expanding economy needed. Although the S.U.M. was soon criticized for its monopolistic privileges, Hamilton (who was considered by one of his foremost biographers as the "apostle of free competition") thought otherwise. In the context of an emerging economy, he believed the S.U.M. might become the model for future corporations.

II. *Selection of Passaic Falls and early history.*

The Passaic Falls was chosen as the site for this national undertaking largely because of its 2000 horse-power potential, as well as for the abundance of surrounding lands that could be used for industrial purposes, and the proximity of the Falls to markets and investors in New York and Philadelphia. The site was obviously well chosen. According to the S.U.M.'s still extant minutes, the corporation's Directors, on 17 and 18 May 1792, unanimously resolved with the concurrence of the Secretary of the Treasury to locate "the Town of Paterson... upon the Waters of the River Passaick ...." Shortly thereafter, a committee of the Board "judged it most prudent to fix the principal seat of the factory at Great Falls," and promptly authorized the purchase of lands. Thereafter, events moved rapidly. On 3 July, the Directors met at the Falls, and the following day Hamilton himself arrived, and the report of the committee was accepted. The first chapter in Paterson's long industrial history had opened.

I must stress that the national significance of this project can never be underestimated. In 1973, Russell I. Fries, Project Historian for the National Park Service's Historic American Engineering Record (HAER), documented for the federal government the S.U.M.'s early engineering efforts. Fries also prepared the successfully received National Register of Historic Places nomination for the Great Falls Historic District. In assessing the importance of the S.U.M.'s water power, or "raceway" system, Fries concludes "it was the first attempt within the United States to harness the power of an entire river," and further said it was "the engineering embodiment of a political principal." According to Fries, Hamilton and his colleagues "established the S.U.M. in order to demonstrate the profitability of American manufacturing." In recognition of the engineering component of the S.U.M. project, the American Society of Civil Engineers, and the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, on 20 May 1977, designated the Great Falls raceway and power system as a National Historic Mechanical and Civil Engineering Landmark.

III. *The rationale for continued preservation and interpretation.*

It is indeed regrettable, considering the undeniable importance of the Great Falls Historic District to the nation's industrial heritage, that it was not made a unit of the national park system years ago. Hamilton's role in this undertaking is indisputable, as well as his efforts to engage the services of Pierre Charles L'Enfant, planner of the nation's capital, in laying out the town of Paterson, and supervising the construction of its hydraulic facilities. This system of raceways, designed by L'Enfant, and modified by his successor, Peter Colt, was extended and further modified four times between 1792 and 1838.

Although the spirit of free enterprise animated the Paterson project, the financial panic of 1792, coupled with the corporation's inattention to business practicalities, and various management problems, eroded investor confidence in the venture. The S.U.M. did prove successful in later years, but in a manner much different than first envisioned by Hamilton and Tench Coxe, his able Assistant Secretary of the Treasury. Controlling interest in the corporation was acquired by the Colt family, and henceforth the corporation promoted manufacturing by leasing its real estate and water rights. (The S.U.M. was in existence until 1945. Its assets, mill properties and hydroelectric and steam generating stations in the Passaic Falls basin, constructed in the early

20th century, were purchased outright by the City of Paterson and thus came under public control.)

Despite the criticisms levied at the Society for Establishing Useful Manufactures, it created the foundation for industrial greatness in Paterson, and its legacy is the Great Falls Historic District. Over the last three decades, numerous studies have told us much about the history of the District's mill structures, and the relationship of these industrial artifacts to American manufacturing. Should Congress authorize a feasibility study of the District - and I hope this is indeed the case - the National Park Service will find an abundance of documentation in preparing its report. I would also like to emphasize that in addition to the corporation's minutes, its early correspondence files have survived the vicissitudes of the last two centuries. This material has been in the custody of the Passaic County Historical Society since 1933. It constitutes a largely untapped resource and merits a careful evaluation and analysis by Park Service historians. This collection, known as the Gledhill papers, has not been systematically studied in relation to the Great Falls Historic District and early American industrial history as a whole. The work of the historians would be materially aided by the excellent abstract and index of the Gledhill papers, prepared under the auspices of the Depression-era, Federally sponsored Historical Records Survey.

IV. *Necessity of Great Falls Historic District Study Act of 2001.*

From the perspective of one who is familiar with the richly textured history of the Great Falls Historic District, and the national implications of that history, I believe the legislation authorizing the Park Service to undertake a feasibility study is of singular importance. The Great Falls Historic District transcends parochial and state concerns, and I do not exaggerate by saying that the continued preservation, enhancement and interpretation of the District is essential to an understanding of America's industrial history. It has long been my opinion that the District should be made a unit of our national park system. I do not say this in the expectation that the Park Service would be a panacea for the difficulties that have beset the District in recent years. The National Park Service, with its superior expertise and technical resources, could properly develop and maintain the District, and thus protect for generations to come its educational and patriotic value.

TOTAL P.05

Honorable James. V. Hansen, M.C.
Chairman
Subcommittee on National Parks and Public Lands
Page 5
3/7/01

Chairman Hansen, I again wish to thank you, the members of the Subcommittee on National Parks and Public Lands, and the sponsors of this Congressional legislation for the opportunity to offer my comments.

Sincerely yours,

Edward A. Smyk
Passaic County Historian

EAS/cg

[Additional materials supplied for the record follow:]

Mike Simpson
United States House of Representatives
1440 Longworth Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20515

March 5, 2001

Mike Medberry,
Wilderness Circuit Rider
and Idaho Representative
Phone 208/429-1005
910 West Main Street
Suite 228
Sonna Building
Boise, ID 83702
mmed@micron.net
www.americanlands.org

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Kieran Suckling
Tucson, Arizona
Susan Tixier
Denver, Colorado
Bethanie Walder
Missoula, Montana
Chuck Willer
Corvallis, Oregon

Dear Representative Simpson:

Thank you for meeting with Katie Fite and me last week. It was a good dialog and I wanted to share with you my support for HR 601.

I support bill HR 601, concerning management of Crater's of the Moon National Monument. We agree that something must be put into the legislation to assure access for hunting and to continue the use of the Taylor Grazing Act for grazing in the expansion of Crater's of the Moon. For everything else the three year management plan for Crater's will suffice.

As you know this area is a place of magnificent beauty and well deserved its designation. I understand that you may hold a hearing on the issue and I would be pleased to testify on behalf of this bill.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Mike Medberry
Idaho Representative
American Lands
1407 E. Franklin St.
Boise, ID 83712

BUTTE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
COURTHOUSE
P.O. BOX 737
ARCO, IDAHO 83213
(208)527-3021
FAX (208)527-3295

SETH E. BEAL
MARK L. STAUFFER
DONALD G. NORTHROP

The Honorable Mike Simpson
U.S. House Second District
490 Memorial, Suite 103
Idaho Falls, ID. 83402

March 5, 2001

Dear Representative Simpson,

As Butte County Commissioners, we appreciate your efforts towards legislation allowing hunting on the expanded boundary of the Craters of the Moon National Monument.
Last year, when then Secretary of Interior Bruce Babbitt held a public meeting in Arco, Idaho, he assured all present that hunting and grazing would not be affected on any acres that were going to be added outside of the original monument boundary. We were told that the grazing would be managed by the BLM, and that fire suppression and noxious weed control would not be curtailed. Most in attendance were satisfied that the proposal would have no negative impacts on the surrounding areas.
We were surprised, as you were, when the final proposal came out with hunting not permitted. We were told one thing would happen, and then find out something different to be the case.
Also in attendance at that public meeting were former Governor John Evans, and former U.S. Representative Richard Stallings.
Again, thank you for your efforts and hope we can be of assistance to you in this matter.

Sincerely,

Mark Stauffer
Butte County Commissioners

POWER COUNTY
STATE OF IDAHO

Ken Estep, Chairman
Valerie Hoybjerg
Janet S. Chapman

543 Bannock Avenue
American Falls, Idaho 83211
Phone: (208) 226-7610
Fax: (208) 226-7612

March 2, 2001

Representative Mike Simpson
490 Memorial Drive
Suite 103
Idaho Falls, ID 83402

Dear Representative Simpson:

I attended the meeting in Arco, Idaho, last year with Secretary of the Interior, Bruce Babbit. I actually went up there expecting the worst, after some of the reports I had heard out of Utah and other places involved in similar situation. Secretary Babbit had everyone totally disarmed from any controversy.

1. He promised private property owners that there would be no infringements on their lands or on their private property rights if they would allow the park to go in.

2. He told public land grazers that they didn't have any thing to worry about as far as their grazing rights on the lands involved with the proposed park system. He also told the public land grazing users that they would be able to use their vehicles and four-wheelers even if it was in road less areas if they were doing the work they had always done to run their cattle, i.e. fencing, round up or redistributing their livestock.

3. He told citizens and elected officials there that there could be Federal monies available to assist in businesses and monies for the entities to strengthen their services that would be required because of the park and the increased people.

4. He said the public land users wouldn't lose their rights on the land, except there would be road less areas and they would have to access them by foot or by horseback. He included hunting in these allowed activities as long as the rift was protected from vehicles and mining.

He truly had almost everyone eating out of his hand with these promises. However, that won't mean much if it wasn't in the declaration.

I am writing to strongly support Representative Simpson's Bill (HR 601), as I believe it will make sure the things told to residents of Southeastern Idaho will be allowed.

If I can help in any way, please let me know.

Sincerely,

Ken Estep

KEN ESTEP, Chairman
Power County Commissioners

KE:cs

REGION SIX
IDAHO WILDLIFE COUNCIL

Honorable Mike Simpson
Idaho 2nd Congressional District
1440 Longworth Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Simpson:

The Region 6 Idaho Wildlife Council enthusiastically pledges our endorsement and full support for H.R. 601. We want you to pursue the legislation because we were assured that the Executive Order creating an expansion of the Craters of the Moon National Monument would include a provision to allow a continuation of wildlife management including hunting by the State of Idaho. Provisions for the use of this element of state power were not included in the Executive Order.

Therefore, in understanding the 10th Amendment's reserve powers protecting state legislative acts relative to wildlife, we petition you to engender the support of Congress to bring the legislation to fruition.

Respectfully,

J. Kent Marlor, PhD

Honorable Mike Simpson
Idaho 2nd Congressional District
1440 Longworth Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Working Together

Dear Representative Simpson:

This letter is written in support of H.R. 601 which proposes to expand the Craters of the Moon National Monument by six times. We were assured that two elements of the Executive Order would include: (1) continuation of the Taylor Grazing Act provision on included lands; (2) a provision for wildlife management, including hunting to be administered by the State of Idaho on the expanded monument.

Neither of these provisions appear to have been included in the Executive Order. Our state is composed of ~~six~~ sixty-four percent federal lands. We can ill afford additional federal land acquisition. The only way that we can reluctantly accept the Craters expansion is through a mitigation of the lost acreage through the inclusion of the above listed two elements.

The 10th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution reserves to the states the power to legislate relative to natural resources (including wildlife) of the states. The 10th Amendment provisions must be honored by the U.S. Government.

This legislation is an excellent vehicle to reaffirm the intent of Congress and the President relative to the Constitution.

Our Statutory Committee, composed of six agricultural and six wildlife representatives unanimously endorses this legislation.

Respectfully,

J. Kent Marlor, PhD

Idaho Fish and Game Advisory Committee
J. Kent Marlor Ph D., Chairman 600 S Walnut, Boise, ID 83707

State of New Jersey
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
PO Box 001
TRENTON NJ 08625-0001

DONALD T. DIFRANCESCO
Acting Governor

March 9, 2001

The Honorable James V. Hansen
Chairman of the Subcommittee on
National Parks and Public Lands
140 Cannon House Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Hansen:

As Acting Governor of the State of New Jersey, I am writing to express my support for H.R. 146, sponsored by Congressmen Pascrell. This bill authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to study the suitability and feasibility of designating the Great Falls Historic District in Paterson, New Jersey, as a unit of the National Park System.

I am hopeful that this study will lead to options that will result in the creation of a destination that will spur economic development in Paterson, create jobs, grow businesses and draw in tourists and residents. A study of this nature is clearly appropriate in light of the historic importance of the Great Falls, which attracted cotton, textile, silk, and locomotive industries and produced a huge skilled labor force in the 19th century.

On behalf of the citizens of the State of New Jersey, I thank you for considering this important bill.

Sincerely,

Donald T. DiFrancesco
Acting Governor

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PASSAIC RIVER COALITION

246 MADISONVILLE ROAD, BASKING RIDGE, NJ 07920 (908) 766-7550
FAX (908) 766-7550 email prch2o@aol.com

Statement for the Record, House of Representatives Committee on Resource's Subcommittee on National Parks and Public Lands
Re: H.R. 146, "Great Falls Historic District Study Act of 2000"
By: Ella F. Filippone, Ph.D., Executive Administrator

The Passaic River Coalition (PRC), a watershed association, established in 1969 to serve the public within the Passaic River Watershed with regard to water resources management, supports H.R. 146.

Since the early 1970's Congress has made available billions of dollars to improve water quality. During this time period, the Passaic River was considered one of the most polluted rivers in the United States. However, through the efforts of the people within this watershed, water quality has improved considerably so that today we have a much greater diversity of fish and benthics in the river. The water flowing over the Great Falls is of much higher quality and getting better. People throughout the region are joining the watershed management effort of the State of New Jersey, and will be participating in planning and implementing improvements.

Now is the most appropriate time to move forward on deliberations on having the Great Falls Park under the stewardship of the National Park Service.

The Great Falls of the Passaic River are more than just a pretty picture. The role of this natural resource is unique in the world. They served as the power that brought forth industry to a fledgling nation. The proximity of Paterson to the greater New York metropolitan area assured that a market place was nearby to enhance the commercial ambitions of the founding fathers. While other early industrial areas exist in the United States, none harnessed water power as was done in Paterson. The unique element of this industrial city was its diversity and the expansion of industrial growth, which

emanated from it. The Passaic River from the Great Falls to Newark Bay was during the 19th and early 20th centuries a hub of industrial activity.

The National Park Service (NPS) is the ideal agency of the federal government to manage the Great Falls Park and its visitor's center. The NPS has a long and distinguished record of providing the American people with quality sites, both natural and historical, for their educational benefits and for enjoyment. In the Great Falls of the Passaic River, both components are met --- natural resource and historic significance.

However, there is an overriding reason for the federal government through the NPS to pursue the program outlined in H.R. 146. The City of Paterson needs a point on which to build its rehabilitation. An incentive is needed. Bringing the Great Falls Park to the standard required by the NPS will cause a rippling effect throughout the city. This economic incentive will allow for a rebirth of an aging urban area. Many other cities in the United States have received federal assistance with such a goal in mind. Now is the time for Paterson and its Great Falls.

As a watershed association concerned with the plight of this natural resource, we are proud to support H.R. 146, and urge its speedy enactment.

THE ALEXANDER HAMILTON NATIONAL MEMORIAL
THE CENTER OF HISTORIC PATERSON NEW JERSEY
HAMILTONMEMORIAL.ORG

Congressman James V. Hansen
Chairman, Committee of Resources
Room 242
Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

NICK SUNDAY
DIRECTOR
P.O. BOX 20631
CHEROKEE STATION
NEW YORK, NY 10021-0072
NICKSUNDAY@HAMILTONMEMORIAL.ORG
(212) 794-3268

Tuesday, March 6, 2001

Subject: Paterson New Jersey's Seven Wonders

Congressman Hansen,

Paterson, New Jersey's wonders number seven, and are distinctly different from the wonders found in other American industrial cities. I list them.

Nature has provided Paterson with its first wonder: **(1) the Great Falls of the Passaic River**, a beautiful natural spectacle where an entire river plunges *77* feet into a narrow chasm.

The walking bridge that spans the chasm connects to two more Paterson wonders. Paterson's second wonder is found on one side of the walking bridge and is connected through a walk along the river to another walking bridge. It is **(2) a park designed by Frederick Law Olmsted, Sr. the designer of New York's Central Park. Westside Park** holds Paterson's oldest house, a pre-revolutionary Dutch brownstone. Both the park and the house are listed on the State and National Registers of Historic Places.

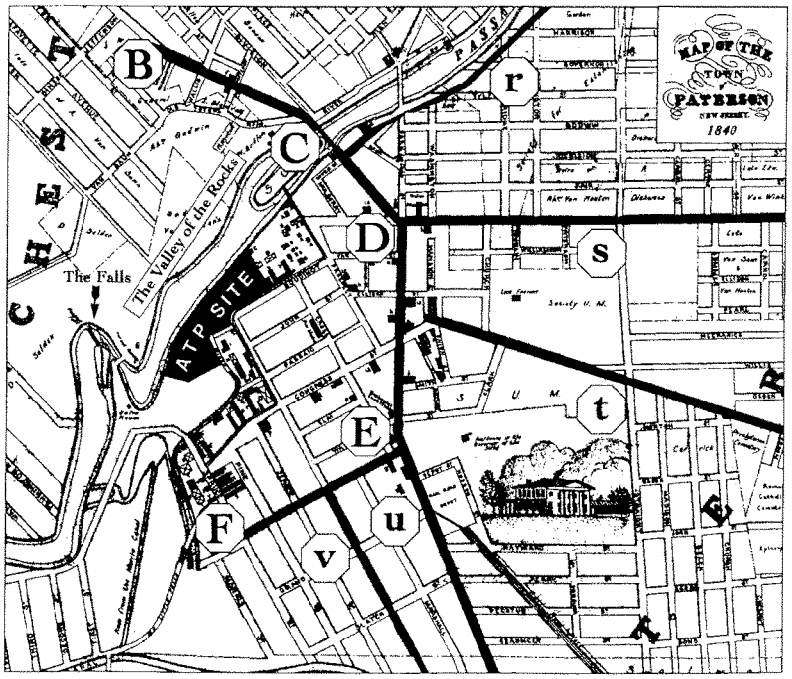
Paterson's third wonder is located on the other side of the walking bridge. It is **(3) a narrow wooded wilderness named the Valley of the Rocks.** It is situated below the Falls along the Passaic River.

Across from the Valley of the Rocks lies Paterson's fourth wonder: **(4) America's oldest industrial park, known locally as the ATP Site.** It is a seven-and-a-half acre parcel upon which Hamilton's water-powered textile mills were built in 1792. Industrial activity proceeded for two hundred years on the ATP Site until it was abandoned in 1982.

The ATP Site holds the foundation of a 1792 water powered textile mill upon which is built another famous early textile mill known as the "Duck Mill." The ATP Site holds many early textile buildings and the ruins of the Colt Gun Mill where Samuel Colt's "equalizer" was first manufactured. "God made men but Colt made men equal." Paterson's silk industry was initiated in the Colt Gun Mill.

Flowing out from the tumult beneath the Great Falls the river runs quickly between the ATP Site on one side and the Valley of the Rocks on the other. The river at this point must be regarded as Paterson's fifth wonder. In the early 1800s it was **(5) the Head of Tide of the Passaic River.** The Dundee Dam altered this, but there is still an occasional seal that will swim its way from the ocean to Paterson. Before the Dundee Dam was erected Patersonians harvested sturgeon from the base of the Falls at the ATP Site. Before 1792, Native Americans built stone fish weirs, still evident all along the river in Paterson.

The ATP Site is only a few blocks from City Hall. But it does not lie at the edge of Paterson's architecturally rich downtown historic district. Rather, it lies at its center. This is due to the fact of Paterson's sixth wonder: **(6) Major Pierre Charles L'Enfant**, the architect of the city plan for Washington, is also the architect that developed the city plan for Paterson. Paterson has what may be called a "spoked wheel city plan." The central hub of the city **BCDEF** forms a good part of the Great Falls Historic District, Paterson's early industrial center. Paterson's major streets radiate from it like spokes from a wheel, **r, s, t, u and v**. The ATP Site lies at the center of this central hub. This map and further explanations can be read in MARY ELLEN, March 2001, which is enclosed and posted on the web at HamiltonMemorial.org.



2

L'Enfant's efforts in Paterson are detailed in his letters and the letters of Hamilton and others who were associated with the S.U.M., New Jersey's first corporation. Paterson's seventh wonder is **(7) Alexander Hamilton** who initiated industrialization in America in 1791 at the site in New Jersey. He named Paterson after every Scotsman's national hero, William Paterson, who founded the Bank of England and the Darien colony in Panama. Water power canals, buildings, and other mechanizations Hamilton funded through his Bank of New York. They can be seen on the ATP Site and in other parts of the Great Falls Historic District. America's eighteenth-century industrial period and all later periods of America's industrial evolution are fully represented in the Great Falls Historic District.

Paterson itself lies twelve miles from New York City. Designating the Great Falls Historic District a National Park would initiate the restoration and preservation of the Great Falls along with its natural settings that stretch out on either side. It would also stimulate the restoration of Paterson's eighteenth-century industrial ruins as well as those from the early nineteenth century like the Colt Gun Mill.

New York City's international tourists visit Paterson's lesser wonders when they visit the Metropolitan Museum of Art. Paterson's Jacob S. Rogers gave $5,000,000 to the Met in 1901. Its affluent visitors gaze upon art purchased by the Rogers Fund. They will likewise want to visit the Great Falls National Park owing to its rich history and close proximity to their hotels.

Paterson's lesser wonders include Hamilton's letters and the letters of those associated with him. They are located in the Passaic County Historical Society, which is an archive and museum that occupies Lambert's Castle in Paterson, a mansion built by a Paterson industrialist in the late nineteenth century. The antiphon of Lambert's Castle is the home of Mr. Botto, a silk worker. The Botto House Museum is operated by the American Labor Museum. (Congressman Pascrell married one of the Botto daughters.)

Nature remains Paterson's greatest wonder. As I have explained, nature remains intact blocks away from Paterson's City Hall and can be used with great advantage in telling the story of America's eighteenth-century industrialization. As for Paterson's lesser wonders, its accomplishments in aircraft engines, locomotives and submarines are well known.

Nick Sunday

Enclosures: MARY ELLEN and the NICK SUNDAY BULLETIN, Squeaky Chalk.

Copy to Mia Dell

THE WILDERNESS SOCIETY
NATIONAL PARKS CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION

March 21, 2001

The Honorable Joel Hefley,
Chair
Subcommittee on National Parks, Recreation and Public Lands
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Re: H.R. 601, To ensure the continued access of hunters to those Federal lands included within the boundaries of the Craters of the Moon National Monument in the State of Idaho pursuant to Presidential Proclamation 7373 of November 9, 2000, and to continue the applicability of the Taylor Grazing Act to the disposition of grazing fees arising from the use of such lands, and for other purposes.

Dear Chairman Hefley:

The Wilderness Society, Natural Resources Defense Council, and National Parks Conservation Association would like to take this opportunity to discuss H.R. 601, a bill to ensure continued access to hunting and the disposition of grazing fees within the boundaries of the Craters of the Moon National Monument expansion. We cannot support the bill as written. Section 1(b) of the act sets a dangerous and inappropriate precedent by mandating that hunting be permitted in a national monument administered by the National Park Service ("NPS").

Outside of the unique circumstances involved in the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (P.L. 96-457), Congress has never permitted hunting access in a proclaimed NPS monument, which monuments are administered generally in the same manner as national parks.

However, we understand that consideration is being given to the alternative of designating the monument areas now managed by the NPS as a "national preserve." In order to remedy our concerns, we would have no objection to legislation designating the NPS portion of the Craters of the Moon National Monument included in Presidential Proclamation 7373 as a national preserve unit remaining under jurisdiction of the NPS. If the above action is taken, the bill would then need to provide the Secretary of Interior the administrative authority to manage the NPS portion of the monument for hunting to be consistent with the Bureau of Land Management portion of the monument designation. Such an action would ensure the consistent protection of the resources, public safety and use and would allow NPS the authority it has to manage hunting just it has at other NPS preserve units.

Finally, H.R. 601 is the perfect vehicle to consider pending wilderness designation in this area including one of Idaho's special places, the Great Rift. The Great Rift system, the deepest known open volcanic rift on earth and the longest volcanic rift in the continental United States, is internationally significant and deserves wilderness designation. President George Bush recommended that Congress designate the 341,000 acres of the Great Rift as wilderness on

October 18, 1991, but that recommendation has never been acted upon. Craters of the Moon National Monument is one of the first of two NPS units with designated wilderness. In the 1970 Act creating the Craters of the Moon Wilderness, a strip of land along the boundary was excluded from wilderness designation as a buffer zone next to the adjacent nonwilderness area. If the Great Rift wilderness study area is designated wilderness, that strip of nonwilderness land along the boundary would be eliminated.

We urge the subcommittee to consider our proposal. Craters of the Moon National Monument expansion is worthy of monument designation but use of the public lands within the monument boundaries should in no way diminish the integrity of the National Park System. H.R. 601, as it is currently written, threatens the integrity by allowing unprecedented use.

Sincerely,

Rosalyn J. Fennell
Director, National Parks Program
The Wilderness Society

William J. Chandler
Vice President for Conservation Policy
National Parks Conservation Association

cc: Members, National Parks, Recreation and Public Lands Subcommittee

BHANU E.GOLDSMITH
ATTORNEY AT LAW
MEMBER N.J. & PA. BAR

(973) 357 1433
FAX (973) 345-8706

1107 MAIN STREET
PATERSON, N.J. 07503

Pat DiIANNI, ESQ
President, Passaic County Vision 20/20, Inc.
15 Manden Terr.
Hawthrone, NJ 07506

Re: Passaic Falls Park

Dear Mr. Di Ianni:

Please accept this letter on behalf of Indian Community in Passaic County and other counties also. I understand that you will be testifying before the Congressional Committee in Washington D.C. on March 13th. Please assure the said committee on behalf of Indian Community, as to how wonderful it would be to bring the Passaic park project to near completion.

I know for fact that in summer people from our community do go to Passaic falls for picnic and other recreational purpose, specially in summer when the major highways are crowded and we do not want to travel long distance, we just go to Passaic Falls and have fun. The idea of park would be nice specially for the children to play and have fun.

Sincerely yours,

Bhanu Goldsmith

BOROUGH OF PROSPECT PARK

RESOLUTION NO. _____ Adopted: March 12, 2001

Whereas, the Governing Body of the Borough of Prospect Park strongly supports the efforts to bring to the Great Falls Historic District the recognition it deserves; and

Whereas, U.S. Senator Robert Torricelli, U.S. Senator Jon Corzine and Congressman William Pascrell, Jr., NJ 8th District have introduced legislation to study the suitability and feasibility of designating the Great Falls Historic District in Paterson, New Jersey as a unit of the National Park System, and for other purposes (See Attached Bill H.R. 146); and

Whereas, the Mayor and Council is mindful that a national park could contribute substantially to the economic growth and development of Passaic county.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Governing Body of the Borough of Prospect Park hereby endorses and supports HR 146 attached hereto authorizing the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a suitability and feasibility study of designating Great Falls Historic District of Paterson, New Jersey as a unit of a National Park System.

BE IT FURTHER RESOVLED that a certified copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Members of the New Jersey State Congressional Delegation in the Congress of the United States, Members of the New Jersey State General Assembly and State Senate representing any portion of Passaic County, each Clerk of the municipalities in the County of Passaic and the President of Passaic County Vision 2000.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Governing Body of the Borough of Prospect Park hereby calls upon all of the above named person to express their support to the above stated feasibility study.

William Kubofcik, Mayor

Record of the Council Vote on Final Passage:	AYE	NAY	ABSTAIN	ABSENT	RES.	SEC.
Hassan F.	X					
Jefferson, T.	X					
Kasht K.	X					
Lembo, L.	X				X	
Pepe, J.	X					
Perez, E.	X					X
X-INDICATES VOTE	RES-RESOLUTION MOVED		SEC-RESOLUTION SECONDED			

This is to certify that this is a true and compared copy of a Resolution adopted by the Council of the Borough of Prospect Park on March 12, 2001

Wanda I. Santiago-Shabaka, Municipal Clerk

Arjun Mallik, Hindu Priest
2025/k Hamburg Turnpike, P.O. Box 4314, Wayne NJ 07474-4314
973-835-6938

March 6, 2001

PAT Di IANNI, ESQ
President, Passaic County Vision-2020, Inc.
15 MANDEN TERR
HAWTHORNE, NJ 07506-3205

Passaic Falls Park

Dear Mr. Di Ianni:

Please accept my felicitations to you, the members of your Historic committee & the trustees of Vision 2020, who have worked so diligently to bring the parks project to near fruition. I am aware that you have had the help of leaders like Congressman William Pascrell,Jr., Senator Robert Torricelli, Senator Jon Corzine, the Freeholders, the Mayors & other well wishers of Passaic County residents, in realizing this goal.

I understand that you will be testifying before the Congressional Committee in Washington D.C., on or about March 13th. Please assure the committee on behalf of the citizens, business people & others of the county, how grateful we are for the support of the congress for this noble cause. God will bless each & every one of the Senators & Congressmen and Congresswomen of USA for this noble act that is long overdue.

I can only conclude this letter with a prayer from the Hindu Scriptures which reads as follows:

- Text: *Kale' Varshathu Parjanyaha, Prithvee Sasyashalini, Deshoyam Kshobharahitho Brahmanah santhu nirbhayah.*

  Sarve' Janah sukhino bhavanthu, samastha sanmangalani bhavanthu.

- Translation: May rain & water flow at the appropriate season. May mother earth be full of crops & vegetables. May this country be free of famine. May the people (scholars included) be free from fear. May every one be happy & prosperous. May God Bless us with everything auspicious.

Sincerely yours Arjun Mallik

[Chief Volunteer Priest & First Chairman; Worship Committee, Hindu Temple Society of NY[1972-74]. Life Member & President, Bharathi Society of NY [1972-73], Life Member, Trustee, Internal Auditor, Treasurer: Carnatic Music Assocn of North America.[1987-98]

BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS
OF THE COUNTY OF PASSAIC
STATE OF NEW JERSEY

I, CHARLES THOMAS, Clerk of the Board of Chosen Freeholders of the County of Passaic, do hereby certify that the annexed is a true copy of a Resolution, passed at a Special meeting of the Board of Chosen Freeholders held on the 8th day of March ~~XXXX~~ 2001

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and seal of the County of Passaic this 12th day of March ~~XXXXX~~ 2001

Clerk of the Board of Chosen Freeholders
of the County of Passaic

Copies to Counsel Administrator Members of the NJ State Congressional Delegation in the Congress of the United States-Members of the NJ State General Assembly and Senate representing any portion of Passaic County, Each clerk of the Municipalities in the County of Passaic and the President of the Passaic County Vision 20/20

R-01-138
3-8-2001

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS the County of Passaic is blessed to have within its borders THE GREAT FALLS OF PASSAIC RIVER, the second grandest waterfalls in the northeast; and

WHEREAS Alexander Hamilton and his colleagues foresaw the enormous power and potential of said Great Falls and established the City of Paterson in 1792, the first manufacturing city in the United States, the birthplace of America's industrial revolution and its greatness as a world power; and

WHEREAS Congressman Bill Pascrell, Jr., U.S. Senator Robert Torricelli, and U.S. Senator Jon Corzine have introduced legislation to study the suitability and feasibility of designating the Great Falls Historic District in Paterson, New Jersey, as a unit of the National Park System, and for other purposes (See Attached Bill H.R. 146); and

WHEREAS the Board of Chosen Freeholders of the County of Passaic strongly supports the efforts to bring to the Great Falls Historic District the recognition it deserves; and

WHEREAS said Board is mindful that a national park could contribute substantially to the economic growth and development of Passaic County.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Chosen Freeholders of the County of Passaic hereby endorses and supports HR 146 attached hereto authorizing the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a suitability and feasibility study of designating

Great Falls Historic District of Paterson, New Jersey as a unit of a National Park System; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this resolution be forwarded to the members of the New Jersey State Congressional delegation in the Congress of the United States, members of the New Jersey State General Assembly and State Senate representing any portion of Passaic County, each clerk of the municipalities in the County of Passaic and the president of Passaic County Vision 2020; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Chosen Freeholders of the County of Passaic hereby calls upon all of the above named persons to express their support to the above stated feasibility study.

Dated: March 8, 2001

JDP:lc

The foregoing Resolution has been Requested By:

Reviewed By:

APPROVED TO FORM AND LEGALITY

BY: Deputy County Counsel

COUNTY COUNSEL

DATE: March 4, 2001

RECORD OF VOTE

FREEHOLDER	Aye	Nay	N.V.	Abs.	Res.	Sec.	FREEHOLDER	Aye	Nay	N.V.	Abs.	Res.	Sec.
CUCCINELLLO	X				X		PORTER	X					
EAGLER	X						Rosado	X					
GALLAGHER	X						SCOTT	X					X
MECCA				X									

X – Indicates Vote Abs. – Absent N.V. – Not Voting
Res. – Resolution Moved Sec. – Resolution Seconded

HR 146 IH

107th CONGRESS

1st Session

H. R. 146

To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to study the suitability and feasibility of designating the Great Falls Historic District in Paterson, New Jersey, as a unit of the National Park System, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

January 3, 2001

Mr. PASCRELL introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Resources

---

A BILL

To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to study the suitability and feasibility of designating the Great Falls Historic District in Paterson, New Jersey, as a unit of the National Park System, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the 'Great Falls Historic District Study Act of 2001'.

SEC. 2. NATIONAL PARK SERVICE STUDY REGARDING GREAT FALLS HISTORIC DISTRICT, PATERSON, NEW JERSEY.

(a) DEFINITIONS- In this section:

(1) GREAT FALLS HISTORIC DISTRICT- The term 'Great Falls Historic District' means the Great Falls Historic District in the city of Paterson, New Jersey, established as an historic district by section 510 of the Omnibus Parks and Public Lands Management Act of 1996 (Public Law 104-333; 110 Stat. 4158; 16 U.S.C. 461 note).

(2) SECRETARY- The term 'Secretary' means the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Director of the National Park Service.

(b) STUDY- As soon as practicable after funds are made available to carry out this section, the Secretary shall commence a study regarding the suitability and feasibility of further recognizing the historic and cultural significance of the lands and structures of the Great Falls Historic District through the designation of the Great Falls Historic District as a unit of the National Park System.

(c) STUDY PROCESS AND COMPLETION- Section 8(c) of Public Law 91-383 (16 U.S.C. 1a-5(c)) shall apply to the study required by this section.

(d) SUBMISSION- The Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Resources of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate a report

describing the results the study.

(e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS- There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as are necessary to carry out this section.

END

NEW JERSEY GENERAL ASSEMBLY

NELLIE POU
ASSEMBLYWOMAN, 35TH DISTRICT
PASSAIC COUNTY
100 HAMILTON PLAZA, SUITE 1405
PATERSON, NJ 07505
(973) 942-7755
FAX (973) 942-1765

COMMITTEES
APPROPRIATIONS
WOMEN'S DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS
ASSEMBLY ADVISORY
COUNCIL ON WOMEN

Please submit to record

March 16, 2001

Honorable Joel Hefley, U.S. House of Representatives
Chairman, Subcommittee on National Parks, Recreation, and Public Lands
House Committee on Resources
140 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20575

Dear Chairman Hefley:

Senator Torricelli and Congressman Pascrell recently introduced H.R. 146. This is a marvelous piece of legislation which mirrors a proposal I have introduced in the New Jersey State Legislature (AR-182). Both H.R. 146 and AR-182 designate the Great Falls Historic District in Paterson as a unit of the National Park System. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for posting H.R. 146 on the subcommittee's agenda.

The Great Falls/S.U.M. National Historic Landmark district in Paterson, New Jersey is a 118-acre historic industrial site. It is located 12 miles west of New York City. Pierre Charles L'Enfant and Alexander Hamilton designed this unique waterpower system in 1791. It is home to the largest and best example of early manufacturing plants in the United States. It contains 18th, 19th, and 20th-century waterpower remnants, including a three-tiered raceway and an abundance of mills. At its core is the natural landmark of Great Falls, the second largest waterfall by volume east of the Mississippi River. The 77-foot tall falls, engineered raceways and mills form a complex that is America's first systematic attempt to develop extensive waterpower for manufacturing purposes. The planned industrialization of this historic site is the realization of the Hamiltonian vision of an industrialized American.

The Great Falls are embedded with rich history and grandiose beauty. Too often we see our national treasures lost to industry and development. This is a unique place, and it deserves to be recognized as such. I believe that its placement on the National Parks registry only fitting and

proper. It is a great pleasure to thank you for helping to protect this wonderful piece of our American Heritage, and I look forward to the day when the Great Falls are recognized for the cherished resource they are.

Sincerely,

Nellie Pou

Assemblywoman Nellie Pou
District 35

United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Washington, D.C. 20240

BY SPECIAL MESSENGER APR 25 2001

Honorable Joel Hefley
Chairman, Subcommittee on National Parks,
Recreation and Public Lands
Committee on Resources
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Enclosed please find additional information requested at the hearing before the House Resources Subcommittee on National Parks, Recreation and Public Lands, held on March 13, 2001, regarding H.R. 146, the Great Falls Historic District Study Act of 2001.

The enclosed information has been prepared for insertion in the record at the appropriate place.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this material to the committee.

Sincerely,

Joseph E. Doddridge
Assistant to the Assistant Secretary for
Fish and Wildlife and Parks

Enclosure

cc: Honorable Donna Christian-Christensen

Additional information requested at the March 13, 2001, hearing before the House Resources Subcommittee on National Parks, Recreation and Public Lands

Chairman Hefley: How many studies are out there right now for everything?

A: There are currently 41 studies in process. Of these 41 studies, 23 concern sites for potential addition to the National Park System, five concern sites for potential designation as National Heritage Areas, five concern trails for potential addition to the National Trails System, three concern river segments for potential addition to the National Wild and Scenic River System, one concerns a site for a potential boundary expansion, and the remaining four could fall under several different categories depending on the results of the special resource studies. We have provided a list of the studies for the record.

Mrs. Christian-Christensen: Last week, the Department testified in favor of a study for Ronald Reagan's Boyhood home in Illinois, yet now you are saying that Interior will not support any studies. Isn't this inconsistent? What criteria is the Department using?

A: On March 8, 2001, the Department testified on H.R. 400, a bill to authorize the Secretary to establish the Ronald Reagan Boyhood Home National Historic Site in Dixon, Illinois. The Department recommended amending the bill to authorize a study of the site rather than establishment of it as a unit of the National Park System.

Although the Administration supported a general moratorium on new studies back in March, this was a case where we thought an exception to the moratorium was appropriate. Many former U.S. presidents are represented in some manner in the National Park System, typically through a site that preserves a place a president lived for some period of his life. It seems very likely that at some point the Administration and Congress will want to consider establishing a unit in the National Park System that commemorates the life of former President Reagan. A study of the Reagan home in Dixon, Illinois would start the process of determining where and how it might be appropriate to have this former president represented in the National Park System.

Since the March hearings, the Department has reevaluated its general policy position on studies. The Department will develop its position on legislation authorizing new studies on a case-by-case basis. However, even where the Department supports legislation in concept, it will not consider requesting funding for any new studies in this or the next fiscal year. Furthermore, in order to better plan for the future of our national parks, we believe that such studies should carefully examine the full life cycle operation and maintenance costs that would result from each alternative considered. We caution that support of legislation authorizing a study does not mean that the Department, in the future, will support designations that may be recommended by the study.

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE STUDIES DIVIDED BY CATEGORY

Potential National Park System Units

Anderson Cottage, DC
Angel Island, CA
Battle of Homestead & Carrie Furnace, PA
Bioluminescent Bay, PR
Carter G. Woodson Home, DC
Chesapeake Bay Sites, MD & VA
Civil Rights Sites, Nationwide
Eakers Air Force Base, AR
Ferry Farm, VA
Fort Hunter Liggett, CA
Fort King, FL
Gaviota Coast Seashore, CA
Harriet Tubman Sites, NY, MD
Hot Springs High School, AR
Kate Mullaney House, NY
Loess Hills, IA
Nan Madol, Micronesia
Revolutionary War and War of 1812, Multi-State
Robert Moton High School, VA
Susan B. Anthony Home, NY
Walden Pond and Woods, MA
WW II Sites in Northern Marianas
WW II Sites in Palau
Sub-Total: 23

Potential National Heritage Areas

Androscoggin Valley, NH
Golden Spike Heritage Area, UT
Lincoln Highway, Multi-State
Northern Frontier, NY
Upper Housatonic River Valley, CT
Sub-Total: 5

Potential Additions to the National Trails System

Old Spanish Trail, NM to CA
Star-Spangled Banner NHT, NJ and MD
Vicksburg Campaign Trail, Multi-State
Washington & Rochambeau in the American Revolutionary War, Multi-State
Womens Rights Trail, NY
Sub-Total: 5

Potential Additions to the National Wild and Scenic River System

Musconetcon River, NJ
New River, VA and WV
Taunton River, MA
Sub-Total: 3

Potential Boundary Expansion

Grazing Use and Open Space, Grand Tetons NP, WY

Sub-Total: 1

Combination of Potential Categories

Crossroads of the American Revolution, NJ (NP Unit/Heritage Area)
Ice Age Floods, MT, WA, OR (Heritage Area/Trail)
Low Country Gullah Culture, SC, FL, GA (NP Unit/Heritage Area)
Shenandoah Valley Battlefields, VA (NP Unit/Heritage Area)

Sub-Total: 4

TOTAL STUDIES: 41

As of 3/22/2001

Mr. SIMPSON. Well, thank you, and thank all of you for your testimony, and I look forward to working on this legislation. My only question is was it Colt, the gun that won the west, or was it Winchester?

Ms. DOPIRAK. I think it was Colt.

Mr. SIMPSON. See, I thought it was the repeating rifle at Winchester. Thank you.

Mr. HEFLEY. Well, we certainly cannot act on that legislation till we get an answer to that. Thank all of you. It was excellent testimony and we appreciate you taking time to do it. This Committee stands adjourned.

[Whereupon, at 3:56 p.m., the Subcommittee was adjourned.]