



IN REPLY REFER TO:

## United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
National Capital Region  
1100 Ohio Drive, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20242

W24 (NCR-LRP)

AUG 2 2011

Honorable Jeff Bingaman  
Chairman, Committee on Energy and Natural Resources  
United States Senate  
304 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I am pleased to report to you the findings of the National Capital Memorial Advisory Commission (Commission) which met on June 23, 2011, to review S. 253 and S. 883, two bills now under consideration by your Committee. The Commission was established under the Commemorative Works Act of 1986 (40 U.S.C. 89, et. seq.). This letter is intended to fulfill the requirements of Section 8903(d) of that Act, which states that the Congress shall solicit the views of the Commission in considering legislation authorizing commemorative works within the District of Columbia and its environs.

**(b) S. 253, a bill to establish a World War I National Memorial Commission and reestablish the District of Columbia World War Memorial as the National World War I Memorial.**

The Commission considered testimony from Congressman Ted Poe, Edwin Fountain, Director, World War I Memorial Foundation, Joseph Grano, President of the Rhodes Tavern-D.C. Heritage Society, Nelson Rimensnyder, Historian of the Association of the Oldest Inhabitants of the District of Columbia, and William Brown, President of the Association of the Oldest Inhabitants of the District of Columbia.

The Commission recognized that the District of Columbia World War Memorial has a unique significance to the citizens of the District of Columbia and recommends that this memorial not be reestablished as a national memorial. The Commission noted that memorials can achieve prominence and high visitation without being located directly on the Mall, and recognized that the Memorial to General Pershing and the fighting forces in World War I was authorized by the Congress and built by the American Battle Monuments Commission on Pennsylvania Avenue as the national memorial to World War I. The Commission discussed Mr. Grano's and Mr. Rimensnyder's recommendations that the site, design, and national character of this memorial could better support the enhancements intended by S. 253. The Commission concluded that enhancements intended to provide a greater commemoration of World War I may be better suited at the National World War I Memorial in Pershing Park, but cautioned that the

