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United States Department of the Interior

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W24 (NCR-LRP)

AUG 2 2011

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

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I am pleased to report to you the findings of the National Capital Memorial Advisory Commission (Commission) which met on June 23, 2011, to review four bills now under consideration by your Committee, H.R. 854, H.R. 938, H.R. 1559, and H.R. 1619. 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.

H.R. 854, A bill to authorize the Peace Corps Commemorative Foundation to establish a commemorative work in the District of Columbia and its environs to commemorate the establishment of the Peace Corps and to honor the ideals upon which it was founded.

The Commission considered testimony by Representative Sam Farr, sponsor of H.R. 854.

The Commission noted that a similar proposal had been reviewed on April 21, 2010 (H.R. 4195, 111th Congress). At that time, the members saw merit in the proposal, but also recognized that there was a risk of unwelcome precedent if the Commission did not insist that a very explicit description be provided in proposals to commemorate ideals, and that only ideals clearly identified as being exemplary of America's highest and best nature should be considered.

The Commission concluded that H.R. 854 clarifies the special nature of the Peace Corps, clearly describes the Peace Corps ideals, and connects the ideals to the exceptional aspects of American character that are exhibited in the ideals of the Peace Corps. H.R. 854 addresses the concerns expressed by the Commission on April 21, 2010, and clearly identifies that the ideals proposed to be commemorated are exemplary of America's highest and best nature, and the Commission supports the legislation as drafted.

