



National Parks Conservation Association®

Protecting Our National Parks for Future Generations®

National Headquarters

VOTE "YES" ON S. 22: THE OMNIBUS PUBLIC LAND MANAGEMENT ACT OF 2009

February 9, 2009

Dear Representative:

On behalf of our more than 340,000 members of the National Parks Conservation Association (NPCA), I urge you to **support S. 22, The Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009**. S. 22 is a compilation of bills that enjoy broad bipartisan support, many of which are important for the protection and interpretation of America's National Park System. If passed, S. 22 would represent one of the most sweeping conservation laws in recent years. NPCA urges you to vote yes on S. 22, and to oppose any efforts to amend the bill through a motion to recommit or by other means.

Examples of provisions benefiting the National Park System include:

- Ice Age Floods National Geologic Trail (Hastings): to designate our nation's first geologic trail, stretching from Missoula, Montana in the East to the mouth of the Columbia River in the West. The Ice Age Floods National Geologic Trail would interpret the catastrophic floods that ripped through the northwest at the end of the last Ice Age, roughly 10 to 15 thousand years ago. These floods, which some scientists believe numbered in the hundreds, stripped the land down to the bedrock, changed the course of rivers and strew boulders and other material across the four state region.
- Green McAdoo School Study Bill (Wamp): to study the feasibility and suitability of designating the Green McAdoo School in Clinton, TN as a unit of the National Park System. In 1956, 12 students from Green McAdoo became the first African Americans to integrate a state-operated school. Their legally mandated action preceded the desegregation of Little Rock High School in Arkansas by 12 months.
- Minute Man National Historical Park boundary revision (Tsongas): to include the farm of Colonel James Barrett, commander of the Middlesex Militia. The British troops that marched to Concord on April 19, 1775 were sent to search Barrett's farm and confiscate all the munitions found there. Barrett was notified in advance of the British intentions and was able to hide the munitions, but this did not prevent the conflict at the North Bridge that triggered the American Revolution.
- Little River Canyon National Preserve boundary expansion (Rogers): to alleviate the threat that adjacent development is posing to the cultural, ecological, and

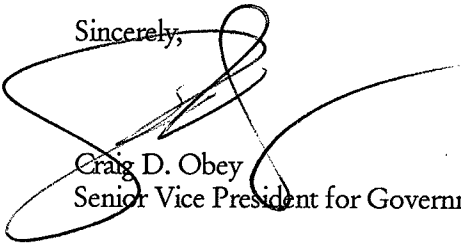
scenic integrity of the preserve area. By adjusting the boundary, the bill will open a reasonable portion of land to preserve scenic views of the canyon, and allow the National Park Service to complete the work that the state of Alabama started over 72 years ago to protect the Little River Canyon.

- Eastern Sierra and Northern San Gabriel Wilderness Bill (McKeon): to designate the Amargosa River as Wild and Scenic, providing much-needed protection to water resources at Death Valley National Park. This bill would also provide essential habitat for the critically endangered California Condor.
- Fort Davis National Historic Site boundary expansion (Rodriguez): to expand the boundary for the purpose of protecting the park's historic 19th century viewshed in perpetuity. Fort Davis is one of the best surviving examples of an Indian Wars' frontier military post in the Southwest. The Fort Davis of the mid-19th century was home to Mexican entrepreneurs, Irish and German immigrants and settlers, American Indians, soldiers, civilians, and adventurers of all stripes. It was a microcosm of the American west and continues to serve today as our premier classroom on the western frontier.
- Rocky Mountain National Park Wilderness Act (Markey): to designate as wilderness the remarkable landscape within Rocky Mountain National Park that has been managed as wilderness since President Nixon recommended immediate designation in 1974.

Some other examples of provisions that NPCA strongly supports include: the Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historical Park, Competitive Status for Federal Employees in Alaska, Women's Rights National Historical Park, Funding for Keweenaw National Historical Park, Walnut Canyon National Monument, and Martin Van Buren National Historic Site.

NPCA considers S. 22 a significant bill to protect America's priceless heritage found in our national parks, and may use votes associated with it in our biennial "Friends of the National Parks" scorecard for the 111th Congress. Thank you for considering our views.

Sincerely,



Craig D. Obey
Senior Vice President for Government Affairs