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March 8, 2006

Fran Mainella
Director
National Park Service
1849 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Fran:

I enjoyed meeting with you concerning the new National Park Service approach to its Guiding Policies and Principles.

As I understand from the process you outlined, a copy of which is attached, you have decided to take another six months to undertake a review of the management policies. The comments that you will receive during this time period will also be shared with the National Park System Advisory Board and the National Park Service National Leadership Council. I look forward to the comments of these two important organizations.

I also look forward to a draft of the Guiding Principles and, specifically, to ensuring that in those Guiding Principles, your second bullet point "Prevent Impairment," remains the steadfast principle to the management of the National Park System. I think that principle is essential to our commitment to "do no harm" to our national treasures.

I would also ask that the revised rules be circulated for public comment before they are made final. I look forward to working with you.

Respectfully,



Ken Salazar
United States Senator