

## United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3802  
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January 18, 2007

Mr. David Verhey  
Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Fish and Wildlife and Parks  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
1849 C Street NW  
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Assistant Secretary Verhey:

I am writing to you on behalf of Mr. Rick Povich of the Johnstown Rifle and Pistol Club. It is my understanding that Mr. Povich has been in contact with your office regarding the current prohibition to carry firearms in the vicinity of National Parks.

I also understand that previously the Virginia Citizens Defense League, and supported by the Johnstown Rifle and Pistol Club, attempted through a petition to make laws regarding firearms in National Parks follow State firearms laws, rather than being prohibited by Federal Law as is currently the case. Additionally, in the 109<sup>th</sup> Congress, Senator Allen introduced bill S. 4057, the "National Park Second Amendment Restoration and Personal Protection Act of 2006", which would have made it clear that an individual's second amendment rights should not be infringed upon within areas classified as National Parks.

As this bill did not advance out of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources to the full Senate before the 109<sup>th</sup> Congress adjourned, the Virginia Citizens Defense League and the Johnstown Rifle and Pistol Club are interested in addressing the current prohibition on firearms in National Parks through an internal policy change at the United States National Parks Service, rather than through legislation. I am advised this would be similar to instances where the National Forest Service allowed existing State Laws to take precedence on Federal land.

Accordingly, since this matter could be resolved without legislative action, I would urge you to give full and fair consideration to the position on firearms in National Parks being advocated by Mr. Povich. Thank you very much for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Arlen Specter

AS/sgs