

Letter sent to Senator Allen via his web interface.

July 23, 2004

Dear Senator Allen,

I am writing to you today to ask for your help in ending the totally unreasonable ban on firearms in National Parks. As you know, the National Park Service, under the Department of the Interior, bans possession of any 'usable' firearms but for limited exceptions set forth in the Code of Federal Regulations Title 36 Section 2.4. Our National Parks are treasures that all citizens should be able to safely enjoy, but of late that has not been the case. Rising crime in National Parks has driven many people away. Many of these parks are very remote, and under-patrolled by law enforcement. Here in Virginia, Shenandoah National Park was the scene of a murder, and recently a woman was assaulted on the George Washington Parkway bicycle trail. I have included a newspaper article detailing the pitifully inadequate response of Law Enforcement in this case, underscoring the need for individuals to be empowered to once again protect themselves.

In the article below, it details how a woman was accosted and escaped, but it took Law Enforcement over 30 minutes to respond. This woman was very fortunate, and more importantly she could easily have been beaten, raped, or murdered in but a few seconds. She is someone's mother, daughter, wife or sister and a citizen who is entitled to be able to defend herself, as are we all.

Senator Allen, as a citizen of, Governor and Senator for the Commonwealth of Virginia, you have repeatedly shown great leadership, and support for the law-abiding citizens of Virginia. You have also repeatedly, and consistently shown the great support for the individual right of the citizens to keep and bear arms that so accurately represents the citizens of the Commonwealth of Virginia. I write to you today to ask you for your assistance in getting this ban on firearms in the National Parks overturned with immediacy so that law abiding citizens may defend themselves. There can be no justification for the National Park Service to prohibit law-abiding citizens from exercising their right to defend themselves.

The solution to this problem would be to amend Title 36 CFR section 2.4 to do away with the ban on firearms and weapons, and enforce the laws of the State, as the US Park Police are already entitled and empowered to do. This would be a simple, and efficient way to maintain order in the parks, while still preserving the resources of the parks themselves. This lifting of the ban on firearms would not necessarily impact hunting regulations, thus still keeping park visitors and wildlife safe. Additionally, it is my belief that the National Park Service should honor any license, or permit to carry a firearm issued by any state, or locality within the United States. These people have already proven themselves to be law abiding and honorable citizens and crossing political boundary should not cause those

persons to have their rights to defend themselves infringed.

Thank you for your continued service to the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Best Regards,

David *****