

From: Dave ***** [Dave@bighammer.net]
Sent: Monday, December 12, 2005 12:34 PM
To: paul_hoffman@ios.doi.gov
Subject: VCDL petition status

Deputy Assistant Secretary for Fish, Wildlife and Parks Paul Hoffman
Department of the Interior.

December 12, 2005

Dear Mr. Hoffman,

I am writing to ask your assistance in getting CFR 36, Regulation 2.4 amended pursuant to the "VCDL Petition to allow weapons in parks", received by the Department of the Interior February 11, 2005.

On January 24th, 2005 I met with you at DOI headquarters to discuss the regulation change which would permit citizens and off duty law enforcement officers carry weapons for personal protection on National Park Service administered property. Also at the meeting was Congressman Virgil Goode's Legislative Assistant and 2 representatives of the NRA-ILA. At this meeting we discussed the need for this change, to allow only defensive weapons, carrying and possession within state and federal law, and only personal protection usage. These changes would respect the NPS authority to regulate firearms discharge, recreational usage and hunting as is now the case. It would simply assimilate the state law as is done in the National Forests.

Since our meeting, this petition has been assigned to Mr. Jerry Case, who last indicated this petition was "under review by the Solicitor's Office, and had very low priority". Repeated inquiries from the Petitioners and members of Congress including Representatives Murtha, Pombo, Taylor, Davis & Senators Burns & Allen have met with the same non responsive answer from Karen Taylor-Goodrich indicating "review at the Department level". This 'very low priority review' has been ongoing for 10 months now.

* In 1787 the Constitutional Convention convened on May 25th and lasted through September 17th when the Constitution's final draft was signed.

* December 7, 1787, Delaware became the 1st state to ratify the Constitution, and June 21, 1788, New Hampshire became the 9th state to ratify. Just over 6 months from the Constitution's agreement, until taking effect.

* Congress debated the Bill of Rights from June 8th, 1789 through September 25th, 1789 when the Bill of Rights was submitted to the states, or just about three and one half months.

The Founders conducted the Constitutional Convention, ratified the Constitution and debated the Bill of Rights all in less time than the Department of the Interior and National Park Service have been 'reviewing' the VCDL petition to amend CFR 36, Regulation 2.4. Surely the Department of the Interior and National Park Service can find a way to review and approve an amendment to the Code of Federal Regulations amounting to only TWO sentences for inclusion in the next Federal Register for the comment period and subsequent implementation.

Mr. Hoffman, I know that you are very busy, but would you please look into what is going on with the VCDL Petition to allow citizens and off duty law enforcement officers the ability to defend themselves in National Parks?

When will the Department & NPS be done with this review and have the amended 'regulation 2.4' published for comment and implementation? Please, no more Taylor-Goodrich letters, we already know it is "under review at the Department level" from her several 'response letters'. The petitioners only seek to change 2 sentences in the CFR, amounting to a change that would only allow a person to legally defend themselves.

Please let me know as time permits when this review will be complete and the amended regulation published for comment.

Thank you very much, I look forward to your response.

Best regards,

David *****

CC:

Chris Lopez, Legislative Assistant to Representative Tom Davis
Tack Richardson, Legislative Correspondent to Senator John Warner
Keith Cassidy, Legislative Assistant to Senator George Allen
Kelly Simpson, Legislative Assistant to Representative Virgil Goode