

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

October 19, 2005

The Honorable Gale Norton  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
1849 C St., N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Secretary Norton:

We are writing to express our appreciation to you for the Bush Administration's leadership to commemorate the bicentennial of the Lewis and Clark expedition by including land acquisition funding in the President's Fiscal Year 2006 budget request for the Lewis and Clark National and State Historical Park and to request your continued support for this initiative by including additional funding in the upcoming Fiscal Year 2007 budget request to Congress.

In the FY 2006 Interior, Environment and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, Congress fully funded the President's \$1.6 million budget request for the newly-expanded Park in Washington and Oregon. These funds will allow the National Park Service (NPS) to acquire all the remaining lands owned by willing sellers in Oregon along with lands at Clark's Dismal Nitch in Washington state. The FY 2006 funds will also enable the NPS to begin the pre-acquisition work to acquire a conservation easement from interested private landowners at the recently authorized Station Camp unit in Washington state.

The owners of lands at Station Camp trace their lineage directly back to the McGowan family, the original homesteaders and owners of the site. The current owners are interested in selling a conservation easement to the NPS to ensure that lands around Station Camp are permanently protected. Under this proposal, the lands would remain in private ownership.

In order to acquire the conservation easement at Station Camp, we respectfully request your support for the inclusion of \$2.2 million in funding in the President's Fiscal Year 2007 budget request to Congress. If approved, these funds would allow the NPS to protect the last remaining large tract of private land within the Lewis and Clark National Historical Park. These funds are especially needed to replenish the Park's land acquisition account in light of the recently completed sale of the Weyerhaeuser property to the NPS and the agency's pending commitment to obligate the FY 2006 funds.

In addition, these funds would complement the significant state funding commitments from the Washington State Historical Society to donate lands at Station Camp to the NPS and from the Washington State Department of Transportation to relocate a short section of Highway 101 to support this important project. In addition, these lands are immediately adjacent to Fort Columbia State Park under the management of the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission.

Local communities are especially excited about completing the Park's land acquisition program in light of the upcoming bicentennial celebration later this fall. Accordingly, we wish to extend

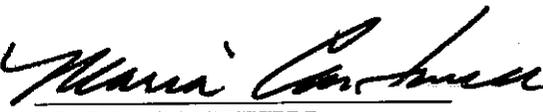
an invitation to you to participate in the "Destination the Pacific" celebration scheduled for November 11-15, 2005 along the lower Columbia River in Oregon and Washington. In the event that you are able to attend, we encourage you to visit Station Camp – the site of the Corps of Discovery's first sighting of the Pacific Ocean and its famous vote.

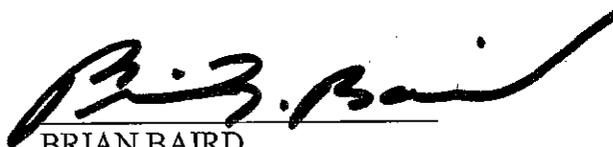
Your support for funding in the FY 2007 budget request will help complete this historic initiative and leave a lasting legacy to the American people and commemorate this vital chapter in our nation's history.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

  
PATTY MURRAY  
United States Senator

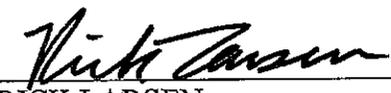
  
MARIA CANTWELL  
United States Senator

  
BRIAN BAIRD  
Member of Congress

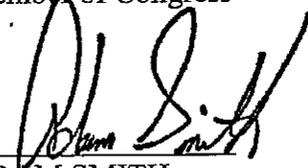
  
DAVID WU  
Member of Congress

  
EARL BLUMENAUER  
Member of Congress

  
PETER DEFAZIO  
Member of Congress

  
RICK LARSEN  
Member of Congress

  
JIM MCDERMOTT  
Member of Congress

  
ADAM SMITH  
Member of Congress

cc: The Honorable Josh Bolten, Director, Office of Management and Budget