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Congress of the United States House of Representatives

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WILDLIFE AND OCEANS
NATIONAL PARKS, RECREATION

February 13, 2004

Mr. Louis Cannon Fraternal Order of Police 711 4th St NW Washington, DC 20001

Dear Mr. Cannon:

Thank you for sharing with me your concerns about the Administration's decision to put US National Park Service Police Chief Teresa Chambers on administrative leave.

The House Resources Subcommittee on National Parks, Recreation and Public Lands has jurisdiction over the National Park Service (NPS) administration of the statutes providing the agency with its authority. As a member of the subcommittee and the Bipartisan National Parks Caucus, I am monitoring the situation and in touch with subcommittee chairman George Radanovich. The subcommittee has requested copies of the formal complaint against Chief Chambers and other related information and is currently treating this as a personnel and not a policy matter. The federal government, as you know, has a process through which employees and agencies can work through personnel issues. This process is still underway and must be allowed to continue. If the subcommittee investigation reveals an indication that this in any way violates the statutory obligations or functioning of the NPS, rest assured we will take steps to correct it.

I am disturbed by media reports of Chief Chambers' circumstances but must reserve judgment until I and the subcommittee have reviewed the administrative record. Rest assured I will do so and will certainly keep your views in mind.

Thank you again for taking the time to contact me. Please keep in touch.

Sincerely,

Wayne T Gilchrest Member of Congress

WTG/et

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