

JOHN L. MICA, FLORIDA
MICHAEL R. TURNER, OHIO
JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR., TENNESSEE
PATRICK T. McHENRY, NORTH CAROLINA
JIM JORDAN, OHIO
JASON CHAFFETZ, UTAH
TIM WALBERG, MICHIGAN
JAMES LANKFORD, OKLAHOMA
JUSTIN AMASH, MICHIGAN
PAUL A. GOSAR, ARIZONA
PATRICK MEEHAN, PENNSYLVANIA
SCOTT DesJARLAIS, TENNESSEE
TREY GOWDY, SOUTH CAROLINA
BLAKE FARENTHOLD, TEXAS
DOC HASTINGS, WASHINGTON
CYNTHIA M. LUMMIS, WYOMING
ROB WOODALL, GEORGIA
THOMAS MASSIE, KENTUCKY
DOUG COLLINS, GEORGIA
MARK MEADOWS, NORTH CAROLINA
KERRY L. BENTIVOLIO, MICHIGAN
RON DeSANTIS, FLORIDA

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM

2157 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6143

MAJORITY (202) 225-5074

FACSIMILE (202) 225-3974

MINORITY (202) 225-5051

<http://oversight.house.gov>

CAROLYN B. MALONEY, NEW YORK
ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON,
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
JOHN F. TIERNEY, MASSACHUSETTS
WM. LACY CLAY, MISSOURI
STEPHEN F. LYNCH, MASSACHUSETTS
JIM COOPER, TENNESSEE
GERALD E. CONNOLLY, VIRGINIA
JACKIE SPEIER, CALIFORNIA
MATTHEW A. CARTWRIGHT, PENNSYLVANIA
MARK POCAN, WISCONSIN
L. TAMMY DUCKWORTH, ILLINOIS
ROBIN L. KELLY, ILLINOIS
DANNY K. DAVIS, ILLINOIS
PETER WELCH, VERMONT
TONY CARDENAS, CALIFORNIA
STEVEN A. HORSFORD, NEVADA
MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM, NEW MEXICO

LAWRENCE J. BRADY
STAFF DIRECTOR

October 3, 2013

The Honorable Jonathan B. Jarvis
National Park Service Director
National Park Service
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Mr. Jarvis:

The Committee on Oversight and Government Reform is conducting oversight of the National Park Service's activities during the federal government's partial shutdown. Numerous media outlets have reported that NPS has erected barricades to keep people from entering the National World War II Memorial and other monuments.¹ In one example, veterans on an Honor Flight trip seeking access to the World War II Memorial were only able to enter the memorial after NPS barricades were removed by visitors while NPS employees stood by.² The World War II Memorial, located on the National Mall and flanked by the Washington Monument to the east and the Lincoln Memorial to the west, is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Access to the memorial is unimpeded by fences, barricades, or other obstructions.

The Committee is concerned with NPS's allocation of resources during this time of lapsed funding. Our concerns are heightened due to NPS's suspicious decisions during the lead-up to the sequester. This past spring the Committee uncovered evidence that NPS's budgetary decisions were designed to intentionally cause the most disruption to the public in a time of reduced funding. The Committee wrote to you on March 27, 2013, when federal departments and agencies were subject to spending reductions resulting from sequestration.³ Information presented to the Committee suggested budget adjustments resulting in obvious hardship or displeasure for the public were chosen in lieu of more prudent measures. Specifically, the Committee received information that proposed budget adjustments submitted by an NPS official in the field to deal with sequestration impacts were rejected by NPS superiors in favor of cuts that would be more visible and disruptive.⁴

¹ "World War II Veterans Cross Memorial Barricades Despite Shutdown," *ABC News*, October 1, 2013. Available at <<http://abcnews.go.com/Politics/world-war-ii-veterans-cross-memorial-barricades-shutdown/story?id=20432719>>.

² *Id.*

³ Letter from Hon. Darrell Issa, Chairman, H. Comm. on Oversight and Gov't Reform, to Hon. Jonathan Jarvis, Director, Nat'l Park Service, Mar. 27, 2013.

⁴ *Id.*

The Honorable Jonathan B. Jarvis
October 3, 2013
Page 2

To help the Committee better understand the facts about NPS's operations during the federal government's partial shutdown, please provide the following information as soon as possible, but no later than noon on October 17, 2013.

1. All documents and communications referring or relating to NPS's decision to close all NPS-operated sites in the vicinity of the National Mall, including but not limited to those referring or relating to the barricading and closure of the National World War II Memorial, from September 1, 2013, to present.
2. Documents detailing all costs associated with the closure of all NPS-operated sites in the vicinity of the National Mall, including but not limited to costs associated with erecting barricades to impede access.

The Committee on Oversight and Government Reform is the principal oversight committee of the House of Representatives and may at "any time" investigate "any matter" as set forth in House Rule X.

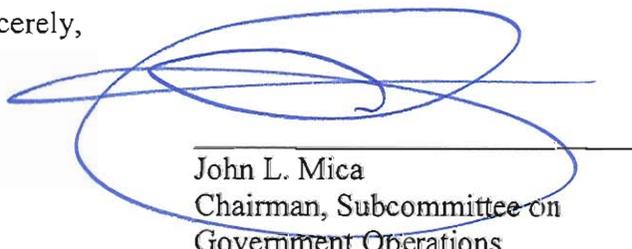
When documents are produced to the Committee, production sets should be delivered to the Majority Staff in Room 2157 of the Rayburn House Office Building and the Minority Staff in Room 2471 of the Rayburn House Office Building. The Committee prefers, if possible, to receive all documents in electronic format. In preparing your answers to these inquiries, please answer each question individually and include the text of each question along with your response.

Should you have any questions, please contact Tyler Grimm or Drew Colliatie of the Committee staff at (202)-225-5074. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Darrell Issa
Chairman



John L. Mica
Chairman, Subcommittee on
Government Operations

cc: The Honorable Elijah E. Cummings, Ranking Minority Member

The Honorable Gerald E. Connolly, Ranking Minority Member
Subcommittee on Government Operations