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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM

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LAWRENCE J. BRADY
STAFF DIRECTOR

March 27, 2013

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

Dear Mr. Jarvis:

The Committee on Oversight and Government Reform is conducting oversight of the budget adjustments of federal departments and agencies under sequestration, pursuant to the Budget Control Act of 2011 (P.L. 112-25), as modified by the American Taxpayer Relief Act of 2012 (P.L. 112-240). Allegations that spending reductions at the National Park Service are being driven by politics instead of fiscal prudence have been brought to the Committee's attention. Information has come to light suggesting budget adjustments are being made with the intention of making cuts that will be most visible, and cause the most disruption, to the general public. Any decisions made in this manner would be highly inappropriate and would constitute a violation of the public's trust.

The information shared with the Committee alleges that proposed budget adjustments submitted by an NPS official in the field were rejected by his/her superiors in favor of cuts that would result in obvious hardship or displeasure for the public. If true, this runs contrary to public statements you made recently. Specifically, you stated, "This is a cutback on services across the system, and each of our park superintendents has had to make individual choices of that, and we're seeing those kinds of effects across the entire system."¹ The information brought to the Committee's attention raises the prospect that politicized sequestration adjustments will cause unnecessary inconvenience for NPS visitors.

The American people have a right to know how NPS is prioritizing and spending taxpayer dollars. To help the Committee better understand the facts about NPS's budget modifications, please provide the following information as soon as possible, but no later than noon on April 10, 2013.

1. A list of the names and titles of the individuals at NPS, who submitted, solicited, collected, or evaluated proposals related to the NPS's budget modifications resulting from sequestration.

¹ Geneva Sands, "Q&A with Director of the National Park Service Jonathan B. Jarvis," *The Hill*, March 21, 2013.

The Honorable Jonathan B. Jarvis

March 27, 2013

Page 2

2. All documents that refer to or instruct the NPS on the process by which proposals for budget modifications are to be handled at NPS due to sequestration. All copies of each budget modification and how they were solicited and evaluated.
3. All documents and communications, including handwritten notes, referring or relating to NPS's plans for budget adjustments under sequestration.

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 of the Committee staff at (202)-225-5074. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Darrell Issa
Chairman

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