

U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Natural Resources
Washington, DC 20515

May 4, 2017

President Donald Trump
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Trump:

Understanding the historic, economic, and political factors that led to the U.S. Civil War (1861 – 1865) can be challenging. While excellent programming relating to the War Between the States is available on cable television, visiting sites that conserve and interpret Civil War history could provide a more informative and lasting experience.

Over the years, Congress has made a concerted effort to protect sites associated with the Civil War, many of which are managed and interpreted by the National Park Service (NPS). As the Ranking Member of the House Committee on Natural Resources, which has jurisdiction over most of the relevant sites, I would be honored to work with NPS staff to arrange a tour for you and your family. For example:

- The Jefferson National Expansion Memorial in St. Louis includes the Old Courthouse building where the Dred Scott case was decided – a decision that hastened the start of the War.
- Harper’s Ferry National Historical Park in West Virginia is the site of John Brown’s infamous raid on the U.S. Armory and Arsenal in 1859.
- Fort Sumter National Monument in South Carolina preserves the site where the Civil War began.
- The Fort Scott National Historic Site in Kansas offers insights into “popular sovereignty” in the Kansas Territory and “Bleeding Kansas.”
- And of course, the National Park System includes significant Civil War battlefields like Gettysburg and Antietam.
- Your tour could conclude at the Appomattox Courthouse National Historical Park in Virginia, where the War came to its official end with the surrender of General Lee to General Grant.

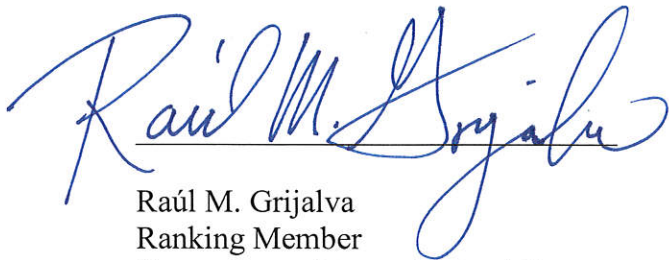
On a largely unrelated topic, the National Park System also includes several sites that were significant during the Presidency of Andrew Jackson and the War of 1812 that might be of interest.

In my experience, NPS provides excellent interpretive materials and I feel certain the agency would welcome a visit from the current occupant of the office once held by Abraham Lincoln.

At a minimum, I urge you to visit these or other NPS sites in person to gain a more detailed understanding of the impacts your proposal to cut the Interior Department's budget by 12% will have on the National Park Service, its resources, employees, and visitors.

As an aside, it has been reported that the Trump National Golf Course in Virginia features a plaque commemorating a Civil War battle that historians say did not occur. I am certain NPS experts could assist in resolving this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Raúl M. Grijalva". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Raúl M. Grijalva
Ranking Member
House Committee on Natural Resources