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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
TASKING PROFILE

<u>ACCN #:</u>	356713	<u>Status:</u>	O	<u>Fiscal Year:</u>	2007
<u>Document Date</u>	<u>Received Date</u>	<u>Due Date</u>	<u>Action Office</u>	<u>Signature Level</u>	<u>Doc Source</u>
02/27/2007	03/01/2007	03/30/2007	FNP	DR	CM

Addressee: Dirk Kempthorne

From: Kennedy, Paul/Kerry, John F./Frank, Barney
Congress of the United States
Washington,
DC 20515

Subject Text: Three members of Congress request that DOI consider fully funding the amount needed to complete the Corson Building Rehab project in the New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park

Required Surnames: OCL

Mail Carrier: PM **Mail Track#:**

Cross Reference:

Copies To: OCL; SIO-Exec

Status Tracking:

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Closed Comments:

Signed:

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Congress of the United States

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February 27, 2007

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT

The Honorable Dirk Kempthorne
Secretary of the Interior
1849 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20240

The Honorable Mary A. Bomar
Director of the National Park Service
1849 C Street NW - Room 3104
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Secretary Kempthorne and Director Bomar:

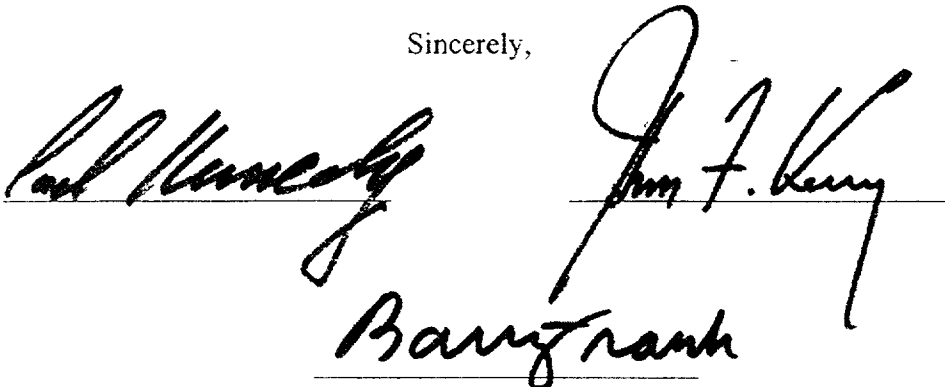
As you work to finalize National Park Service construction priorities for the fiscal year ending on September 30th, 2007, we hope you'll consider fully funding the amount needed to finally complete the Corson Building Rehabilitation project in the New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park.

This project, which would restore a fire-damaged historic building, create a visitor center, and complete the Whaling National Historical Park's 2001 General Management Plan, is of enormous importance to the Park and can be finished, after almost a decade of work, if the final \$700,000 is made available this year. That funding was included in the Senate's version of the Fiscal Year 2007 Interior Appropriations bill.

At the current time, the National Park Service has a construction contract for the Corson Building rehabilitation project with bid options that are good through April 2nd of this year. If the funding requested here is not provided, we understand the existing contract will leave the 2nd and 3rd floors of the building vacant without electrical, plumbing, or wall systems and only structural steel in place. We also understand that the Park Service would have to seek future funding to complete the facility at a likely total cost increase of at least 20-30 percent, and that until such funds are secured the Park Service will incur an unnecessary \$14,000 per year in private property leases.

Within the Continuing Resolution, Congress provided significantly more for the National Park Service's construction account than originally requested -- \$296.4 million versus \$229.2 million -- and, we're certain that needs of the Park Service warrant that increase. We're writing today to ask the Park Service to address one of those needs -- and a very critical need of the New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park -- within those increased funds, and eliminate the possibility of increasing the cost of this vitally important project in future years. Many thanks for your consideration of this worthwhile investment,

Sincerely,


Paul Hensley
Jim F. Kerry
Barry Rank