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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
TASKING PROFILE

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Addressee: Dirk Kempthorne
From: Inhofe, James M./Cole, Tom
Congress of the United States
Washington,
DC 20515

Subject Text: Two members of Congress recommend that \$250,000 be provided to repair Wintersmith Park dam, through the Historic Preservation Fund and "Save America's Treasures" account.

Required Surnames: OCL

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

Cross Reference:

Copies To: OCL, SIO-Exsec

Status Tracking:

Correspondence Specialist: CHoward **Corresp. Specialist Phone:** 208-6701

Closed Comments:

Signed:

355441

RECEIVED
Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515
004169

2007 JAN 18 PM 4:19
OFFICE OF THE
EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT

January 9, 2007

The Honorable Dirk Kempthorne
U.S. Secretary of the Interior
1849 C St. NW
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Mr. Secretary:

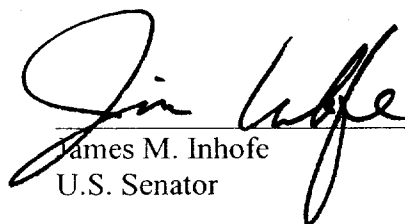
We call your attention to a meritorious project identified by the U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations in its Fiscal Year 2007 Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations bill and ask your assistance to ensure project award and completion. The Committee recommends that the National Park Service provide \$250,000 to protect human life and property by repairing Wintersmith Park dam in Ada, Oklahoma, through the Historic Preservation Fund, Save America's Treasure's account.

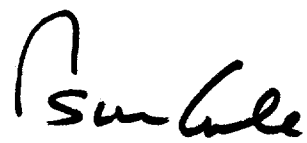
Wintersmith Park Historic District is a federally-constructed municipal park area listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Constructed from 1934-1935 by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) under NPS supervision, Wintersmith Park's 150 acres comprise a 100-year-old, 15-acre water supply lake; walking paths; picnic pavilions; and other features. It is the first municipal park designed by NPS and constructed by the CCC in Oklahoma. However, both this historic property and nearby taxpayers are now at grave physical risk due to erosion and undermining of the dam's concrete spillway apron. Dam safety engineers say the dam will fail unless the concrete spillway apron is replaced. Dam failure would damage or destroy many historic features and six homes below the spillway, as well as pose a grave threat to any taxpayers below the dam. Meanwhile, the costs of replacing the spillway apron today are estimated to be 10 to 15 times less than estimated post-failure costs.

We are well aware that the decision to fund FY 2007 Department of Interior operations through a continuing resolution creates difficulties for this project. However, due to the potential for loss of life and property should the federal government fail to act, we respectfully request that you identify a funding mechanism by which to ensure project completion.

We appreciate your consideration of this important request and look forward to your response. Should you or your staff have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Suzanne Meledeo with Senator Inhofe at (202) 224-4721 or Chris Caron with Congressman Cole at (202) 225-6165. Once again, thank you for your consideration of these worthy projects.

Sincerely,


James M. Inhofe
U.S. Senator


Tom Cole
Member of Congress



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

1849 C Street, N.W.

Washington, D.C. 20240

IN REPLY REFER TO:

H30(2256)

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355441

Honorable Tom Cole
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Cole:

Thank you for your letter of January 9, 2007, to Secretary of the Interior Dirk Kempthorne, requesting assistance from the National Park Service through the Federal Save America's Treasures Grant Program, to preserve the Wintersmith Park Dam in Ada, Oklahoma. I have been asked to respond to your request.

I understand that the U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations recommended that \$250,000 be awarded to the Wintersmith Park Dam in Fiscal Year (FY) 2007 through Save America's Treasures. It appears, however, that the continuing resolution providing funding for the Department of Interior in FY 2007 will include \$8 million to fund only the competitive grants through the Save America's Treasures Program, but not any congressionally earmarked projects.

Applications for 2007 Save America's Treasures grants are available on the National Park Service's Historic Preservation Grants Division website: <http://www.cr.nps.gov/hps/treasures/index.htm>. Applications are due on April 26, 2007. I encourage your constituent to apply.

The National Park Service administers the Save America's Treasures grant program in collaboration with the National Endowment for the Arts, the National Endowment for the Humanities, and the Institute for Museum and Library Services. A national selection panel, which is comprised of senior staff with expertise in the appropriate disciplines and representing noncompeting Federal agencies, evaluates applications and makes recommendations for funding to the Secretary of the Interior. By law, the Secretary must consult with the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations prior to commitment of grant funds.

An identical letter is being sent to Senator James M. Inhofe. Thank you for your interest in the Save America's Treasures grant program.

Sincerely,

Janet Snyder Matthews, Ph.D.
Associate Director, Cultural Resources