

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

TASKING PROFILE

ACCN #: 356705 Status: O Fiscal Year: 2007
Document Date 03/02/2007 Received Date 03/05/2007 Due Date 03/20/2007 Action Office PMB Signature Level A/S Doc Source CM

Addressee: Dirk Kempthorne

From: McConnell, Mitch
U.S. Senate
Washington
DC 20510

Subject Text: Writing to express support for ongoing funding for the Cumberland Gap National Park's effort to purchase Fern Lake, which is near Middlesboro in the Commonwealth of Kentucky, and asks that an additional \$2.8 million is provided in the FY07 spending plan for the next phase of the acquisition project.

Required Surnames: OCL

Mail Carrier: FX

Mail Track#:

Route to POB

Cross Reference:

Copies To: SIO-Exsec; OCL; PMB

Status Tracking:

MF Correspondence Specialist:
MFeeney

Corresp. Specialist Phone:
513-0705

Closed Comments:

Signed:

3/6/07

MITCH McCONNELL
KENTUCKY

REPUBLICAN LEADER

COMMITTEES:
AGRICULTURE

APPROPRIATIONS

RULES AND ADMINISTRATION

361-A RUSSELL SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1702
(202) 224-2541

United States Senate

March 2, 2007

The Honorable Dirk Kempthorne
Secretary
Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240-0002

Dear Secretary Kempthorne:

I write to express my support for ongoing funding for the Cumberland Gap National Park's effort to purchase Fern Lake, which is near Middlesboro in the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

As you may know, Fern Lake is located just southeast of Middlesboro, Kentucky and serves as the primary water source for the community. The owners of the lake and surrounding watershed have decided to sell the property, including 150 acres that comprise the lake. More specifically, Fern Lake is visible from the Pinnacle Overlook, which is a popular visitor attraction at the Cumberland Gap National Park, and efforts have been made by the National Park Service since 1997 to prevent surface coal mining of the watershed and to protect the watershed and the viewshed of the lake. This natural resource creates a beautiful vista, and I believe that this pristine lake would be best protected by the management of the National Park Service.

I sponsored legislation, therefore, in cooperation with Congressman Harold Rogers to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to acquire Fern Lake and the surrounding watershed. Congress passed our Fern Lake Conservation and Recreation Act on January 22, 2004 (P.L. 108-401). The Fiscal Year 2005 Interior Appropriations bill included \$1 million to support this project, and I understand that these funds recently were used to protect the first 950 acres of the target property.

In accordance with Section 113 of P.L. 110-5, I understand that you are working to prepare a spending plan for Fiscal Year 2007. I am told that an additional \$2.8 million is necessary for the next phase of the acquisition project, so I respectfully request that you provide this amount in the Fiscal Year 2007 spending plan.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

MITCH McCONNELL
UNITED STATES SENATOR

MM/bdb

107 PB : - 0 -
House : - 0 -
Senate : \$ 640K
107 Jt Res : \$ 950K (based on current #)
108 PB : - 0 -

U.S. Senator

MITCH McCONNELL

Room 361-A
Russell Senate Office Building

Phone: (202) 224-2541
FAX: (202) 224-2499

FROM: *Bruff Brooks*
TO: *Matt Eames*
RE: *FYI. Thanks*

PAGES TO FOLLOW: 1

005789

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT

2007 MAR -5 AM 9:18 2007 MAR -2 PM 10:08

RECEIVED

DEPT. OF JUSTICE
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT
PRIORITY MAIL



W A S H I N G T O N

