

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

March 22, 2016

The Honorable Ken Calvert  
Chair, Committee on Appropriations  
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment and  
Related Agencies  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Betty McCollum  
Ranking Member, Committee on Appropriations  
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment and  
Related Agencies  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Calvert and Ranking Member McCollum:

As you consider the Fiscal Year 2017 (FY17) Appropriations Programmatic request, we respectfully request that you support the President's budget for the National Park Service (NPS) Civil Rights Initiative. Specifically, we ask your support for the following department of Interior National Park Service accounts to support the President's budget request:

1. **NPS Construction Account** - \$252 million for the construction appropriation, which funds construction projects, equipment replacement, management, planning, operations, and special projects. \$4.3 million would also support the Civil Rights Initiative by completing high priority facility projects at NPS sites related to the Civil Rights movement and the African American experience, including the Selma to Montgomery National Historical Trail.
2. **Historic Preservation Fund Account** - \$87.4 million in funding for the Historic Preservation Fund (HPF), including \$25 million for the Civil Rights Competitive Grants Initiative to preserve, document, and interpret the sites and stories of the Civil Rights movement and the African American experience. \$3 million is also included for competitive grants for Historically Black Colleges and Universities to document the stories and sites associated with the Civil Rights Movement.

The National Park Service Civil Rights Initiative is an important program that will not only preserve our nation's shared struggle for civil rights, but will also promote economic activity and development. We encourage you to support the President's funding levels for the NPS Civil Rights Initiative in the FY17 Interior Appropriations Subcommittee bill.

Thank you for your attention and your consideration of this request. If you need additional information, please do not hesitate to contact Robert Nuttall in Rep. Sewell's office at x52665 or by email at [robert.nuttall@mail.house.gov](mailto:robert.nuttall@mail.house.gov).

Sincerely,



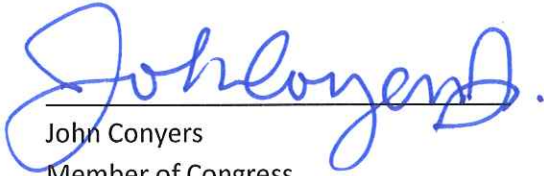
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Member of Congress



Earl Blumenauer  
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John Lewis  
Member of Congress



John Conyers  
Member of Congress



Gwen Moore  
Member of Congress



Elijah E. Cummings  
Member of Congress



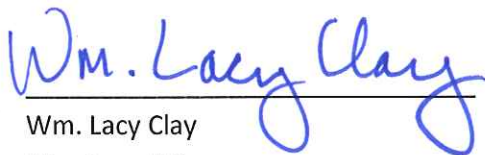
Stacey Plaskett  
Member of Congress



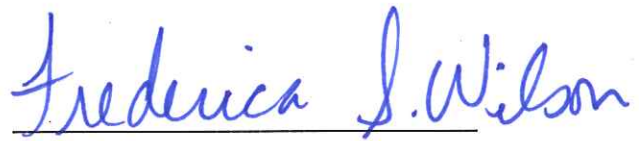
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