



# United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY  
Washington, D.C. 20240

D18(2510)

JAN 12 2009

Honorable Jeff Bingaman  
Chairman, Committee on Energy  
and Natural Resources  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Pursuant to Public Law 106-516, the Harriet Tubman Special Resource Study Act, I am pleased to transmit the *Harriet Tubman Special Resource Study* (November 2008) to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. The study was undertaken by the National Park Service.

The study's most effective and efficient alternative (Alternative C) provides for the establishment of two potential units of the National Park System. The first would be located at the residence of Harriet Tubman in Auburn, New York and include the Home for the Aged and the Thomason Memorial AME Zion Church, in which she was an active participant. The second would be located on lands in Dorchester, Caroline, and Talbot counties in Maryland. Both potential units would involve partnerships, respectively, with the AME Zion Church in Auburn, New York and the state of Maryland, local governments and non-profit organizations in the above-referenced counties.

The study process concluded an extensive public involvement process with state and local governments, affected private property owners, and interested organizations and citizens. Comments received during the study's public review period indicate overwhelming support for the establishment of national historical parks at both locations.

As the study report indicates, Harriet Tubman's life spanned from her birth, enslavement and escape to freedom in Maryland, her assistance to the Union Army as a spy and nurse, and her later activities in progressive movements including the quest for women's rights from her home in Auburn, New York. She is an iconic personage in American history and truly worthy of national recognition for her contributions to this nation.

The Department's preferred management option is Alternative C. This recommendation is based on the selection of Alternative C as the most effective and efficient alternative for protection of resources and provision of visitor use and enjoyment, and the wide public support expressed for the establishment of national historical parks at the two locations.

An identical letter is being sent to the Honorable Lisa Murkowski, Ranking Minority Member, Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, United States Senate; the Honorable Nick J. Rahall II, Chairman, Committee on Natural Resources, House of Representatives; and the Honorable Doc Hastings, Ranking Minority Member, Committee on Natural Resources, House of Representatives.

Sincerely,



Lynn Scarlett  
Deputy Secretary

Enclosures

cc:

Honorable Benjamin J. Cardin  
United States Senate

Honorable Barbara A. Mikulski  
United States Senate

Honorable Charles E. Schumer  
United States Senate

Honorable Hillary Rodham Clinton  
United States Senate

Honorable Frank M. Kratovil, Jr.  
United States House of Representatives

Honorable Michael A. Arcuri  
United States House of Representatives



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JAN 12 2009

Honorable Doc Hastings  
Ranking Member, Committee on Natural Resources  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Hastings:

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Lynn Scarlett  
Deputy Secretary

Enclosures

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Honorable Lisa Murkowski  
Ranking Member, Committee on Energy  
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United States Senate  
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