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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
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**COMMITTEE ON
OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM**

SUBCOMMITTEES:

**RANKING MEMBER, TECHNOLOGY, INFORMATION
POLICY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS AND
PROCUREMENT REFORM**

**FEDERAL WORKFORCE, US POSTAL SERVICE,
AND LABOR POLICY**

**GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATION, EFFICIENCY
AND FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT**

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS

SUBCOMMITTEES:

TERRORISM, NONPROLIFERATION AND TRADE

MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA

September 28, 2011

Mr. Jon James
Superintendent
George Washington Memorial Parkway Headquarters
Turkey Run Park
McLean, VA 22101

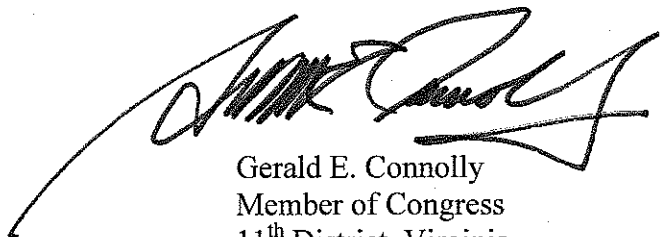
Dear Mr. James,

We are writing with respect to the Fort Hunt Park management plan revision. We appreciate your efforts to reduce total impervious surface area, increase pedestrian and bicycle access, and protect historic resources in the park. Specifically, the proposed pedestrian/bicycle loop trail will offer a safe facility for park users who wish to use facilities that are not shared with automobile traffic, and realigning road access for automobiles will protect the Potomac River and Chesapeake Bay by reducing total impervious surface area. Finally, we appreciate your efforts to protect historic resources and create a new interpretive trail to educate park users about Fort Hunt's history.

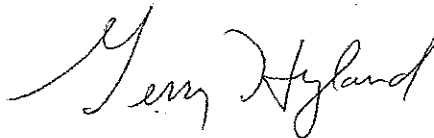
However, we have heard from many park users who are concerned about proposals to eliminate multiple picnic pavilions and one baseball field. Northern Virginia has a 19,000 acre parkland deficit, and the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors has worked for years to increase the number of sites for both active and passive recreation. While we appreciate the goal of eliminating facilities which are not in the most historically sensitive locations, we would appreciate consideration of preserving access to picnic pavilions and ball fields. Picnic pavilions are an important way to introduce citizens, including newer members of our community, to our remarkable system of public lands. Perhaps relocation of some pavilions could preserve historic resources while also preserving park access for constituents who use the pavilions. Finally, we would appreciate your consideration of improvements to the Mount Vernon Trail. As you know, the narrow width and geometry of the trail exacerbates pedestrian/bicyclist congestion, particularly on weekends. Trail user counts show that thousands of Northern Virginians use this trail, including for bicycle commuting. Any steps you can take to facilitate efficient use of this trail, including widening it and eliminating unnecessarily sharp turns or steep grades, would be appreciated.

To ensure that these suggestions and comments from the community are reviewed thoroughly, we would suggest extending the public comment period and holding public meetings to discuss the forthcoming Environmental Assessment. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gerald E. Connolly". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping initial "G" and a long, horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Gerald E. Connolly
Member of Congress
11th District, Virginia

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gerry Hyland". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "G" and "H".

Gerry Hyland
Fairfax County Board of Supervisors
Mount Vernon District