

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
SUBCOMMITTEES:
AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FOOD AND
DRUG ADMINISTRATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES
HOMELAND SECURITY
MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, VETERANS' AFFAIRS,
AND RELATED AGENCIES
CO-CHAIR, CONGRESSIONAL ORGANIC CAUCUS
CO-CHAIR, CONGRESSIONAL TRAVEL AND
TOURISM CAUCUS
CO-CHAIR, HOUSE OCEANS CAUCUS

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0517

January 26, 2012

The Honorable Doc Hastings
Chairman
House Natural Resources Committee
1324 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Edward Markey
Ranking Member
House Natural Resources Committee
1329 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Rob Bishop
Chairman
Subcommittee on National Parks,
Forests and Public Lands
House Natural Resources Committee
1324 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Raúl Grijalva
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on National Parks,
Forests and Public Lands
House Natural Resources Committee
1329 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Hastings and Ranking Member Markey:

We write to respectfully request that you markup H.R. 854 at the earliest possible time. As you may recall, H.R. 854 is a cost-free, bipartisan bill that authorizes the non-profit Peace Corps Commemorative Foundation to establish a modest commemorative on Federal land in our nation's capital to honor the formation of the Peace Corps and the ideals of world peace and friendship upon which it was founded. This legislation has been favorably reviewed by the National Capital Memorial Advisory Commission.


We appreciate the October 4, 2011 hearing the National Parks, Forests and Public Lands Subcommittee held on H.R. 854; the NPS testimony at that hearing further demonstrates the support for this legislation. As Stephen Whitesell, National Capital Region Regional Director for NPS, stated in his testimony: "We [NPS] share the [National Capital Memorial Advisory] Commission's support for the idea of commemorating volunteerism and international cooperation as worthy ideals and practice of the Peace Corps." In addition, S. 1421, similar bipartisan legislation introduced by Senators Portman and Mark Udall, passed out of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee by voice vote on November 10, 2011. Clearly, there is robust bicameral, bipartisan support for passage of this legislation.

As Returned Peace Corps Volunteers, we believe that H.R. 854 is a fitting way for our nation to recognize the formation of the Peace Corps and the ideals of world peace and friendship it has promoted for over 50 years. As you may know, this bill is a re-introduction of H.R. 4195, which passed out of the House Natural Resources Committee

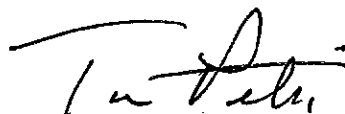
by unanimous consent and passed the full House by voice vote in the 111th Congress. The only modifications to this bill in the 112th Congress are the inclusion of a Findings Section and the addition of 'ideals of world peace and friendship' to reflect the National Capital Memorial Advisory Commission's suggestion that the legislation specify the ideals that the commemorative honor. At the House hearing, NPS noted that these changes further strengthened the legislation. This bill is in compliance with the Commemorative Works Act, and Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to Article I, Section 8 and Article IV, Section 3 of the United States Constitution.

We appreciate the Committee's attention to this legislation, and we request that you hold a markup on H.R. 854 at the earliest possible date.

Sincerely,



SAM FARR
Member of Congress
Peace Corps Volunteer, Colombia, 1964-66



TOM PETRI
Member of Congress
Peace Corps Volunteer, Somalia, 1966-67



JOHN GARAMENDI
Member of Congress
Peace Corps Volunteer, Ethiopia, 1966-68



MIKE HONDA
Member of Congress
Peace Corps Volunteer, El Salvador, 1965-67