



Honorable John P. Murtha
PO Box 780
Johnstown, PA 15907-0780

January 29, 2005

Dear Congressman Murtha,

I wanted to update you on the progress of our request that the Interior Department eliminate its regulatory prohibition of firearms on National Park properties. Mr. Dave *****, Virginia Citizens Defense League Executive Member, met with Deputy Assistant Secretary Paul Hoffman of the Department Of The Interior Monday the 24th. Mr. David Jennings an aide to Congressman Virgil Goode was also in attendance. He expressed Congressman Goode's complete and enthusiastic support of the petition we submitted. Accompanying the VCDL was Chris Conte, Legislative Counsel for the NRA-ILA.

The meeting went well and was congenial according to Dave. Discussions covered broader concealed carry rights issues within park boundaries as well as potential park-specific issues. While Deputy Hoffman seemed to feel there may still need to be restrictions regarding concealed carry within "public gatherings" or at some park monuments, for example, Dave tried to reinforce our goal of simplification of regulations. We still maintain that National Park properties are simply taxpayer-owned properties that have unique regulatory property boundaries – nonetheless also under legal jurisdiction of states within which they reside.

Another significant issue discussed was the apparent conflict (or lack of clarification) between Regulation 2.4 and the recently passed HR218. Since only on-duty police are permitted to carry firearms, retired or vacationing law enforcement personnel are thus prohibited and just as vulnerable to crime as any other citizen.

On a side note, I also happened to receive an email from a person who had contacted Karen Taylor-Goodrich, the Associate Director of Visitor & Resource Protection at the Interior Department. Ms Taylor responded, "*Recently the Secretary of the Interior asked the NPS, together with Department staff, to review the history of this regulation and evaluate its continued application. This review is currently at the Department level.*" We hopefully interpret this as an indication the DOI is receptive to our request and has begun to make a genuine attempt at reconciling this Constitutional violation without implementing piecemeal relief from the current restriction

On behalf of Dave Yates, myself, the meeting attendees, the Johnstown Rifle and Pistol Club, and the VCDL, please accept our gratitude for your leadership and support for this issue. Your involvement has been pivotal and clearly influential.

Thank you again for your assistance and involvement.

Sincerely,

Rick *****
Johnstown Rifle and Pistol Club