



THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR
WASHINGTON

FEB 22 2008

The Honorable Michael D. Crapo
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510-1205

Dear Senator Crapo:

I am responding to letters signed by 50 other Senators and you concerning the transporting and carrying of firearms on lands administered by the National Park Service and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

The transporting and carrying of firearms is allowed under Federal regulations subject to limitations that generally require the firearm to be rendered inoperable. Since these regulations were adopted, many States have enacted new firearms policies, and some States have updated their firearms policies to specifically provide for lawful transporting and carrying of firearms by law-abiding citizens, including on state park and refuge lands. Since that time, Congress has also enacted new Federal laws concerning possessing, transporting, and carrying of firearms in Federal buildings.

This Administration supports the long-standing tradition of affording States the right to determine those who may lawfully possess a firearm within their jurisdictions while preserving an individual's right under the Second Amendment to the United States Constitution and the Federal government's authority to manage its lands, buildings, and facilities.

I have directed Assistant Secretary Lyle Laverty, who oversees regulatory matters for parks and refuges, to develop and propose for public comment by April 30 Federal regulations that will update firearms policies on these lands to reflect existing Federal laws (such as those prohibiting weapons in Federal buildings) and the laws by which the host States govern transporting and carrying of firearms on their analogous public lands.

Assistant Secretary Laverty will conduct a regulatory process that will provide for full and complete public participation as well as the preservation of the values of our public lands, including the safety and enjoyment of all visitors, while enhancing local control and respecting an individual's Second Amendment right to bear arms. Thank you for your interest in this issue.

Sincerely,

DIRK KEMPTHORNE