



# Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515

November 28, 2005

Secretary Gale Norton  
U.S. Department of Interior  
1849C Street, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Secretary Norton:

It has come to my attention that you have received a petition requesting that the National Park Service's current firearms regulations be amended to allow law-abiding citizens to carry handguns for personal protection in National Parks. I strongly support the Second Amendment right to keep and bear arms and would encourage you to act quickly in changing this regulation.

The current regulations regarding the transportation and possession of firearms in National Parks create a complicated and problematic situation for gun owners. As you know, National Parks, state parks and National Forests often have common borders. While an individual may enter a state park carrying a handgun for protection, that same individual becomes subject to arrest the moment he/she crosses a National Park boundary. Since many states allow the carrying of firearms for self-defense in state parks as long as permit requirements are observed for that state I see no reason why National Parks within that state should be any different.

At the same time, the National Park System has seen an upsurge in violent crime in recent years. As reported by the Executive Director of the United States Park Ranger Lodge of the Fraternal Order of Police, the parks are understaffed and must cope with an increasing number of illegal aliens, drug smugglers, poachers and encroaching urban crime. Those visiting National Parks deserve the right to feel secure at all times during their visit. Amending the requisite park regulation, 36CFR2.4, to allow individuals to carry legally permitted handguns for personal protection within National Parks would help provide this security. Again, I urge you to act quickly in changing this regulation.

Thank you for your attention to this request. Should you have any questions about this matter, please feel free to have your staff contact Rachel Dresen with my staff at 202 225-7751.

Sincerely,

Chris Cannon  
Member of Congress (UT-03)