Honorable Morris K. Udall  
Chairman, Committee on Interior  
and Insular Affairs  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

MAR 29 1984

Dear Mr. Chairman:

This responds to your request for our views on H.R. 2638, a bill "To  
preserve, protect, and maintain the original boundary stones of the Nation's  
Capital."

We recommend against the enactment of this legislation.

The boundary stones that are the subject of the bill were erected pursuant  
to the Act of July 16, 1790, authorizing the President to appoint three  
Commissioners to survey a permanent seat of government. On January 21, 1791,  
President George Washington designated the location of the Federal District,  
and directed the Commissioners to survey and define a 10 mile square District.  
The boundary stones were subsequently placed to mark the District boundary.

Since 1915, the Daughters of the American Revolution have undertaken the  
responsibility of protecting the stones. We understand that this organization  
may no longer be able to do so.

In 1981, the National Park Service estimated that approximately $360,000 would  
be required to carry out the provisions of previously proposed legislation  
similar to this bill. Approximately $245,000 would be needed to survey the  
stones, prepare a conditions report, and prepare a relocation, replacement,  
and marker plan. Another $115,000 would be needed to carry out such a plan.

We do not believe such expenditures can be justified in a period of budgetary  
constraints, and we therefore recommend against the enactment of H.R. 2638.

The Office of Management and Budget has advised that there is no objection  
to the presentation of this report from the standpoint of the Administration's  
program.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

G. Ray Annett
98TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2638

To preserve, protect, and maintain the original boundary stones of the Nation's Capital.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 20, 1983

Mr. FAUNTROY introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs

A BILL

To preserve, protect, and maintain the original boundary stones of the Nation's Capital.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-

tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

That this Act may be cited as the “National Capital Boundary Stones Act”.

SEC. 2. (a) Congress finds that because of the deterio-
rating condition and neglect of the forty original boundary stones delimiting the ten-mile square first set aside by the State of Maryland and the Commonwealth of Virginia as the “seat of government of the United States”, there is a need to
provide for the preservation, protection, and maintenance of such stones.

(b) The purposes of this Act are to—

(1) assign responsibility for the preservation, protection, and maintenance of the boundary stones;

(2) assure perpetuity of these important historic boundary stones for future generations of Americans to view and enjoy;

(3) provide an adequate mechanism for ensuring that the boundary stones are protected and maintained;

and

(4) to make available to the public, information, data, and items involving or pertaining to the history of the original survey of the Nation's Capital, including the surveyors, and the instruments and techniques used in connection therewith.

SEC. 3. (a) The Secretary of the Interior, acting through the National Park Service, shall have the responsibility for the preservation, protection, and maintenance of the boundary stones referred to in section 2 of this Act.

(b) Within the twelve-month period following the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of the National Park Service shall prepare and submit to the Secretary for his approval a program for preserving, protecting, and maintaining such boundary stones. Such program shall include—
(1) a location and condition survey of each cornerstone and boundary stone, conducted in consultation with the District of Columbia Daughters of the American Revolution, which shall be referenced to the appropriate State plane grid coordinate system with appropriate ties to property lines and which shall provide for the results to be shown on plats of survey in such form as may be suitable for recording purposes;

(2) with respect to each boundary stone located at each of the four cardinal points of the compass at the corners of the ten-mile square delineating the original site of the Nation’s Capital a plan for preserving, protecting, and maintaining such cornerstones;

(3) with respect to each of the other boundary stones, a plan to preserve, protect, and maintain each such boundary stone;

(4) a relocation, replacement, and marker plan for those boundary stones which have been moved or which are missing or which cannot be placed in their original location;

(5) alternative plans for the long-term care, protection, and maintenance of the boundary stones which may include agreements among private individuals, the Federal Government, local governments of areas within the State of Maryland or the Commonwealth of
Virginia within which such boundary stones are located, and the governments of the State of Maryland, the Commonwealth of Virginia, and the District of Columbia;

(6) a schedule and financial plan for providing such preservation, protection, and maintenance of such boundary stones; and

(7) in coordination with the Smithsonian Institution, a plan setting forth a display on the history of the survey of the District of Columbia conducted during the years 1791 and 1792, the original surveyors, the instruments and techniques used by such surveyors in conducting the survey of the District of Columbia, and surveying methods and techniques currently in use.

(c) Within the twenty-four-month period following the date of the approval by the Secretary of the Interior of the program pursuant to subsection (b) of this section, the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the National Park Service, shall, in consultation with the District of Columbia Daughters of the American Revolution, implement such program and provide for the preservation, protection, and maintenance of such boundary stones.

SEC. 4. In carrying out the program approved pursuant to section 3 of this Act, the Secretary of the Interior is authorized to acquire, by donation, purchase with appropriated
or donated funds, exchange, or condemnation, such lands and
interests therein (including easements), together with im-
provements thereon, as may be necessary to carry out such
program.

Sec. 5. Whoever willfully damages or removes any
boundary stone referred to in this Act shall be fined not more
than $500, or imprisoned not more than six months, or both.

Sec. 6. There are authorized to be appropriated such
sums as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this
Act.
To preserve, protect, and maintain the original boundary stones of the Nation's Capital.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 23, 1983

Mr. Mathias introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

A BILL

To preserve, protect, and maintain the original boundary stones of the Nation's Capital.

1. Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-
2 tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,
3 That this Act may be cited as the "National Capital
4 Boundary Stones Act".
5 Sec. 2. (a) Congress finds that because of the deterior-
6 rating condition and neglect of the forty original boundary
7 stones delimiting the ten-mile square first set aside by the
8 State of Maryland and the Commonwealth of Virginia as the
9 "seat of government of the United States", there is a need to
provide for the preservation, protection, and maintenance of such stones.

(b) The purposes of this Act are to—

(1) assign responsibility for the preservation, protection, and maintenance of the boundary stones;

(2) assure perpetuity of these important historic boundary stones for future generations of Americans to view and enjoy;

(3) provide an adequate mechanism for ensuring that the boundary stones are protected and maintained; and

(4) to make available to the public, information, data, and items involving or pertaining to the history of the original survey of the Nation's Capital, including the surveyors, and the instruments and techniques used in connection therewith.

Sec. 3. (a) The Secretary of the Interior, acting through the National Park Service, shall have the responsibility for the preservation, protection, and maintenance of the boundary stones referred to in section 2 of this Act.

(b) Within the twelve-month period following the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of the National Park Service shall prepare and submit to the Secretary for his approval a program for preserving, protecting, and maintaining such boundary stones. Such program shall include—
(1) a location and condition survey of each corner stone and boundary stone, conducted in consultation with the District of Columbia Daughters of the American Revolution, which shall be referenced to the appropriate State plane grid coordinate system with appropriate ties to property lines and which shall provide for the results to be shown on plats of survey in such form as may be suitable for recording purposes;

(2) with respect to each boundary stone located at each of the four cardinal points of the compass at the corners of the ten-mile square delineating the original site of the Nation's Capital a plan for preserving, protecting, and maintaining such cornerstones;

(3) with respect to each of the other boundary stones, a plan to preserve, protect, and maintain each such boundary stone;

(4) a relocation, replacement, and marker plan for those boundary stones which have been moved or which are missing or which cannot be placed in their original location;

(5) alternative plans for the long-term care, protection, and maintenance of the boundary stones which may include agreements among private individuals, the Federal Government, local governments of areas within the State of Maryland or the Commonwealth of
Virginia within which such boundary stones are located, and the governments of the State of Maryland, the Commonwealth of Virginia, and the District of Columbia;

(6) a schedule and financial plan for providing such preservation, protection, and maintenance of such boundary stones; and

(7) in coordination with the Smithsonian Institution, a plan setting forth a display on the history of the survey of the District of Columbia conducted during the years 1791 and 1792, the original surveyors, the instruments and techniques used by such surveyors in conducting the survey of the District of Columbia, and surveying methods and techniques currently in use.

(c) Within the twenty-four-month period following the date of the approval by the Secretary of the Interior of the program pursuant to subsection (b) of this section, the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the National Park Service, shall, in consultation with the District of Columbia Daughters of the American Revolution, implement such program and provide for the preservation, protection, and maintenance of such boundary stones.

Sec. 4. In carrying out the program approved pursuant to section 3 of this Act, the Secretary of the Interior is authorized to acquire, by donation, purchase with appropriated
5 or donated funds, exchange, or condemnation, such lands and
6 interests therein (including easements), together with im-
7 provements thereon, as may be necessary to carry out such
8 program.
9 Sec. 5. Whoever willfully damages or removes any
10 boundary stone referred to in this Act shall be fined not more
11 than $500, or imprisoned not more than six months, or both.
12 Sec. 6. There are authorized to be appropriated such
13 sums as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this
14 Act.