



P. O. Box 15264 Washington, D.C. 20003

The Honorable Rob Bishop, Chairman
Committee on Natural Resources
The Honorable Raul M. Grijalva, Ranking Member
Committee on Natural Resources
The Honorable Tom McClintock, Chairman
Subcommittee on Federal Lands
The Honorable Colleen Hanabuse, Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Federal Lands
US. House of Representatives
1324 Longworth House Office Building
Washington DC 20515

Dear Members of Congress:

I write to request that you ask for placement of the attached statement from Capitol Hill Restoration Society in the official record of the Subcommittee on Public Lands' hearing of October 11 on HR 3373, the Norton bill to extend the lease on the RFK stadium campus. The Capitol Hill Restoration Society (CHRS) is the largest civic association on Capitol Hill, and for over 60 years we have advocated on behalf of the Capitol Hill Community.

Thank you for your consideration. I can be reached at 202 543-0425, email: caphrs@aoll.com.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Nelson, President

cc:

Deputy Director Bob Vogel, NPS

Bob_Vogel@nps.gov

President and CEO Gregory O'Dell

GODell@Events DCPrez
The Honorable Charles Allen
callen@dccouncil.us
The Honorable Vincent Gray
vgray@dccouncil.us

Attachment

Statement of the Capitol Hill Restoration Society Concerning HR 3373

The current lease between the National Park Service and the District of Columbia government states that the property can only be used for sports or recreation purposes. The Capitol Hill Restoration Society (CHRS) supports the bill, which would extend the lease on the RFK Stadium an additional 50 years.

The current lease will help to meet urgent needs for public recreation. Capital Space Partners, a study conducted by the National Park Service, National Capital Planning Commission, and DC government found that:...

Washington, like many cities and suburban communities across the country, faces pressure to increase the number of playfields for team sports, including soccer, football, and baseball. The growing population in Washington, along with the demands for active recreation spaces, is exerting pressure on the existing fields. As such, meeting needs for active recreational fields in Washington's urban environment is becoming challenging. ... Locating new fields is both difficult and expensive because of the limited amount of available land.

Capital Space Partners, (2017), p. 64 Capital Space (2010). www.ncpc.gov

Capital Space cites a growing population and with it, a growing need for recreational areas. p. 29. " When compared to where Washington's parks and open space are located, population growth will put pressure on existing park resources." Office of Planning projects population growth from 672,228 (2015) to 800,000 in 2030 and 987,200 in 2045. We would note as well that a commitment to sports fields would be particularly attractive to young families with children. In conjunction with the NPS's plans for balanced management of Anacostia and Kenilworth Parks, HR 3373 will contribute significantly to the emergence of the Anacostia corridor, on both sides of the river, as a vibrant and diverse community based on the unique resource of a fully accessible riverfront in the heart of the nation's capital. With the new soccer stadium on Buzzard Point, Nats Park on the lower Anacostia, Kingman Island, the Arboretum,

Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens, the arc of potential playing fields along its entire length, accessibility for marinas and water sports, and hiking and biking trails paralleling the river, the Anacostia promises to emerge as one of the nation's finest urban waterfronts and a youth sports hub for the entire region. Appropriate redevelopment of the RFK site for youth sports purposes – a comparatively large site with metrorail access precisely in the center of the envisioned Anacostia sports and park arc -- is essential to fulfilling this promise.

The Capitol Hill Restoration Society urges that any modifications to the RFK Stadium lease be limited to the following provisions;

1. That any uses of the property be compatible with the Park Service goals and objectives for the surrounding Park property.
2. That the maximum amount of surface paving be removed and converted to sports fields for use by the public.
3. That the existing 250 foot buffer between the leased property and the Anacostia River be extended from 250 feet to 600 feet
4. That the District of Columbia will be responsible for demolition of the existing stadium and that either an indoor cultural use or sports facility (but not a football stadium) and an RFK Memorial be allowed, based on a master plan, approved by NCPC and the National Capital Memorial Advisory Commission.