

☐ 2107 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-3006
(202) 225-4671

☐ 504 BROADWAY
LONG BRANCH, NJ 07740
(732) 571-1140

☐ 67/69 CHURCH STREET
NEW BRUNSWICK, NJ 08901
(732) 249-8892

pallone.house.gov

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3006

March 5, 2020

Superintendent Jennifer T. Nersesian
Gateway National Recreation Area
210 New York Avenue
Staten Island, NY 10305

Dear Superintendent Nersesian,

It has come to my attention that Sandy Hook at Gateway National Recreation Area has received a proposal from Stillman Development International to lease and develop Officers Row for private residential and light commercial purposes. While I appreciate the National Park Service's mission to preserve the historical buildings located in the park, I am adamantly opposed to any development for residential purposes and strongly encourage you to prevent this private development at Sandy Hook.


Sandy Hook at Gateway National Recreation Area is both a historical and natural treasure in New Jersey. It is of the utmost importance that we preserve it for area residents and visitors for generations to enjoy its beauty and appreciate its history. It is my fear that allowing private residential development at the Hook, even with the intent of historical preservation, would only encourage future development and the ultimate demise of the Park's natural surroundings.

I'm not opposed to visitors staying at Sandy Hook for overnight stays. The National Park Service has experience with bed and breakfast and lodges that enhance the experience of visitors and complement the Park's mission. I cannot support a plan that permits the construction of permanent residential units be they rental or ownership.

This plan is contrary to the mission of the National Park Service and the purpose for which it was founded. The Organic Act of 1916 created the National Park Service to conserve natural and historic objects and wildlife in the United States. It also sought to protect the beauty of our country and ensure that all Americans would be able to enjoy it. With that mission in mind, Sandy Hook at Gateway National Recreation Area was established in 1972 for our area. I have worked tirelessly during my time in Congress to preserve Sandy Hook for future generations.

I hope that we share a common goal of preserving the historical and natural beauty of Sandy Hook. I ask that you join me and strongly oppose any private residential development of the Park. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Frank Pallone, Jr.
Member of Congress