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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515–0101

January 13, 2014

The Honorable Doc Hastings
Chairman
House Committee on Natural Resources
1324 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Hastings:

I write to you today regarding a bill before the Committee, H.R. 3131, the National Park Service Study Act of 2013. This legislation authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resources study of the Mobile-Tensaw River Delta, land that has been enjoyed for generations of sportsmen in my home district of Southwest Alabama.

I did not introduce this legislation, nor do I plan to cosponsor it. Put plainly, this legislation works in direct opposition to the interests of the people of Southwest Alabama, threatening access to this area for countless outdoorsmen across the Gulf region. This is truly a solution in search of a problem – the National Park Service already has more land than it can adequately manage, and the federal government certainly doesn't have any excess money to spend on managing new federal lands. More importantly, the federal government has no need to move into the backyard of South Alabamians and tell them how to use and care for their land.

If H.R. 3131 continues through the committee, I request that it be amended to remove section 2, subsection (a), line 9, that reads, "the Mobile-Tensaw River Delta in the State of Alabama."

Please do not hesitate to contact my office if I can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

Bradley Byrne
Member of Congress

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