

**Betty Harper Wyatt  
Williamsburg, Virginia**

April 13, 2006

The Honorable Jo Ann Davis  
The United States House of Representatives  
1123 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Davis:

In 1961, Secretary of the Interior Stewart Udall designated Fort Monroe as a National Historic Monument. Now, forty-five years later, with the Army finally preparing to give up the post around 2011, it seems important to make the right decision about how that national treasure should be preserved for the nation.

I am one of a number of citizens in Hampton Roads who believe that Fort Monroe should be transformed into a national park. At one time, the City of Hampton said that the case of the Presidio National Park in San Francisco, with its federally chartered Presidio Trust might be applicable to Fort Monroe. However, there is no indication that Hampton has given the Presidio option any consideration. On the contrary, in discussing a variety of ways to keep the post open and accessible to the public, Hampton's position, as reflected on its website, is that "turning it into a national park may not be the most feasible."

Along with a number of like-minded citizens, I believe the best way to assess whether Fort Monroe should become a national park would be for Congress to authorize the National Park Service to conduct a study of both the *suitability* and *feasibility* of that course of action. I hope you will be willing to support this step by bringing together a coalition of the Hampton Roads delegation in the House, along with your colleagues in the Senate, to bring this matter before the Congress.

With many thanks.

Sincerely,

*original signed by:*  
Betty Harper Wyatt