

JIM WEBB

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COMMITTEE ON
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FOREIGN RELATIONS
COMMITTEE ON
VETERANS' AFFAIRS

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4605

JOINT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE

October 6, 2009

The Honorable Daniel Inouye, Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
S-131 Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Thad Cochran, Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
S-146A Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein, Chairman
Senate Subcommittee on Interior Appropriations
Committee on Appropriations
SD-131 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Lamar Alexander, Ranking Member
Senate Subcommittee on Interior Appropriations
Committee on Appropriations
SD-131 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

I am writing to respectfully request that during conference for the FY 2010 Interior-Environment Appropriations bill you consider funding the Civil War Battlefield Preservation Program (CWBPP) at the \$9 million level included in the House-passed bill.

As America prepares for the 150th anniversary commemoration of the Civil War, beginning in 2011, it is more important than ever that we preserve these memorials of that tragic and nation-defining conflict. The Civil War Battlefield Preservation Program is a matching grants program that has been used to preserve more than 15,300 acres of hallowed ground in fourteen states during the past decade. The program's matching grants formula encourages state and nonprofit investment in historic land preservation, making the program a model for public-private sector conservation partnerships.

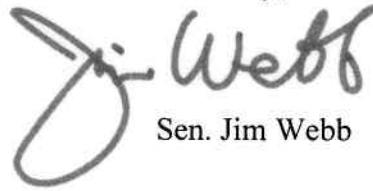
I recently had the pleasure of visiting a battlefield that has benefited from this successful program. The Third Winchester Battlefield in Virginia, consisting of 209 acres of rolling farmland, received a grant award in the amount of \$1.23 million to help fund the acquisition of this irreplaceable historic property. The remainder of the \$3.35 million needed to acquire the site came from nonprofit organizations and state and local government grants, leveraging the federal investment nearly 3-to-1.

The Civil War Battlefield Preservation Program has exhausted its entire FY 2009 appropriation, and with the new fiscal year about to begin, there are 15 applications requesting more than \$4.6 million in grant money already under consideration for the FY2010 appropriations cycle.

It is estimated that 30 acres of prime battlefield land are lost every day. Once protected, these sites offer a myriad of benefits, including serving as open space, tourist attractions and outdoor classrooms.

For these reasons, I respectfully request that you maintain the funding for the Civil War Battlefield Preservation Program at the \$9 million level as included in the House-passed FY 2010 Interior-Environment Appropriations bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jim Webb". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "J".

Sen. Jim Webb

CC:

The Honorable David Obey, Chairman, House Appropriations Committee

The Honorable Jerry Lewis, Ranking Member, House Appropriations Committee

The Honorable Norman Dicks, Chairman, House Subcommittee on Interior Appropriations

The Honorable Mike Simpson, Ranking Member, House Subcommittee on Interior Appropriations