

*Opening Statement  
Subcommittee Chairman Raúl Grijalva  
Subcommittee Legislative Hearing  
March 6, 2008*

**The Subcommittee will come to order.**

**Let me begin by welcoming our witnesses to the hearing today. The Subcommittee very much appreciates your making the time to join us to discuss these important pieces of legislation.**

**Our bills today address park, forest and public lands issues from Massachusetts and the District of Columbia, through the heartland in Indiana and Oklahoma, and on to the open spaces of Utah and Idaho.**

**H.R. 877, introduced by Representative Delahunt, would amend the Adams National Historical Park Act of 1998 to include the Quincy Homestead within the boundary of the Park. Located in Quincy, Massachusetts, the Park commemorates and interprets the lives and contributions of the Adams Family -- including John Adams, second President of the United**

**States, his wife, Abigail and their son, John Quincy Adams, the sixth President of the United States. It's difficult to overstate the impact this family had on the founding of this country, and I look forward to learning more from all the witnesses about these historic sites.**

**H.R. 1423, introduced by Representative Peter Visclosky, would authorize the National Park Service to lease space in a new visitor center in Porter County, Indiana, that serves the county and the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore. Although the visitor center lies outside the boundaries of the park, it is much more centrally located and convenient for park visitors than the old center.**

**H.R. 1693, sponsored by Representative Donald Payne, would authorize a private, non-profit organization to establish a memorial on Federal land at Constitution Gardens on the National Mall to honor free persons and slaves who fought during the American Revolution. Congress authorized a different organization to establish this memorial in 1986 but the project simply never got off the ground. We will listen**

**closely to the witnesses today to learn whether this new plan might be more successful.**

**H.R. 2675, introduced by our Subcommittee colleague Dan Boren, would convey approximately 140 acres of National Forest System lands to the Indian Nations Council of the Boy Scouts of America. We are pleased to welcome representatives of the Boy Scouts to today's hearing.**

**H.R. 3651 introduced by Ranking Member Bishop, directs the Secretary of the Interior to convey 258 acres of public lands, administered by the Bureau of Land Management, to the state of Utah for use by the Utah National Guard. We are eager to learn more about the Utah National Guard's needs.**

**Finally, H.R. 3734, introduced by Representative Mike Simpson, renames the Snake River Birds of Prey National Conservation Area after Morley Nelson, a noted advocate for birds of prey.**

**Again, I would like to thank all of our witnesses for being here today.**

**I would now like to recognize Ranking Member Bishop for any opening statement he may have.**