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**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515-3703**

June 7, 2011

Mr. Jonathan Jarvis  
Director  
National Park Service  
1849 C Street NW  
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Mr. Jarvis,

I am writing with serious concerns about the use of federal resources in conjunction with the "One Nation" partisan political tour conducted by former Gov. Sarah Palin through SarahPAC. Many of the press accounts of stops included in this tour, which provided personal and political benefits to former Gov. Palin, suggest that National Park Service resources were made available to an extent beyond that which an average American family would receive.

For instance, the *Washington Post* reported<sup>1</sup> on June 1 that the National Park Service had to spend additional time preparing for and accommodating the "One Nation" tour's crowds and unpredictable schedule:

*The bus tour has also required some planning and preparation by the historic sites that received her. Left as much in the dark about her itinerary as were the public and the media, officials with the National Park Service began preparing for a possible Palin visit when they began reading news reports about her planned bus tour.*

According to the *Post*, these accommodations included a "private guided tour of Mount Vernon, early admission into the National Archives, and private tours at all the federally managed National Park Service properties [the bus tour] visited but one." Additionally, ABC News reports<sup>2</sup> that the Palin family received a 10-person escort at the Statue of Liberty consisting of park rangers and New York City police officers.

I respectfully request that you provide a written explanation of the Park Service's policies on the use of taxpayer-funded resources for publicity events, as well as an accounting of Park Service resources that have been utilized by the "One Nation" tour. For cases in which the Park Service

<sup>1</sup> [http://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/palins-bus-tour-filled-with-short-glimpses-of-history/2011/06/01/AGLNakGH\\_story.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/palins-bus-tour-filled-with-short-glimpses-of-history/2011/06/01/AGLNakGH_story.html)

<sup>2</sup> <http://blogs.abcnews.com/thenote/2011/06/sarah-palin-confirms-tour-will-go-national.html>

did not have additional personnel on duty as a result of the tour, was manpower diverted from regularly-scheduled services to accommodate the Palin family's visits and is this a routine practice for visiting celebrities?

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Earl Blumenauer". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Earl Blumenauer  
Member of Congress