

STATEMENT OF MORRIS K. UDALL

ON H.R. 11662

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON RULES

APRIL 5, 1978

Mr. Chairman, thank you for the opportunity to present my views on H.R. 11662, a bill to create the Lowell National Historical Park in Lowell, Massachusetts. This is a unique piece of legislation that can plug a gap in this nation's national park system, and I urge you to give it favorable consideration. It would commemorate the cradle of the American Industrial Revolution, and give all Americans a chance to observe and experience life in this important era in our history. Just as our most pristine mountains and lakes deserve preservation and protection, so does this equally important aspect of the American heritage.

I applaud the efforts of my colleague, Paul Tsongas, in writing legislation that accomplishes the goal of preserving "a slice of 19th Century Lowell" in a way that is acceptable to representatives on both sides of the aisle. The bill that has been worked out includes the most unique feature of Lowell -- the 6 miles of canals that were used to power the textile mills for which the city became famous -- and the most important of the original mills and other buildings, in what will be the Lowell National Historical Park. This would be administered by the National Park Service,

an ardent supporter of the bill, in cooperation with state and local agencies. A larger area, much of which would remain in private ownership, would be designated as the Lowell Preservation District and managed jointly by the Park Service and the Lowell National Historical Park Commission. In this way, Lowell can serve as a living national museum to the early development of American industry.

I am proud to be a co-sponsor of H.R. 11662, and I look forward to visiting the Lowell National Historical Park in the near future. I have been impressed throughout the hearings and field inspections on this legislation, with the degree of commitment to this project that state and local government, civic, and industry groups have demonstrated. I agree with them that it is now time for the federal government to help them preserve 19th Century Lowell for future generations of Americans.