

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

July 23, 1980

The Honorable Robert C. Byrd
133 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Byrd:

I am writing to urge the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on the Interior to maintain the funding levels for the Lowell National Park and the Lowell Historic Commission contained in H.R. 7724.

The amounts contained in the House Bill reflect the President's January budget requests for both the Park and the Commission. In his revised budget message last March, the President recommended deletion of the \$1.5 million construction budget for the Lowell National Park, however the House Appropriations Committee voted to restore those funds.

The funding levels contained in the House bill are critical to the revitalization work which is taking place in Lowell. Of particular importance is the rehabilitation of an historic mill building, which will combine elderly housing, commercial space and a visitor center. This project represents a unique combination of public and private investment, and work can not be completed on the project without the full funding for the Park and the Commission for FY 81.

I hope that the Committee will take favorable action on this request, and would be pleased to provide any further information that you or your staff might require.

Sincerely,

PAUL E. TSONGAS
United States Senator

PET/mgt