

Chairman Hal Rogers Statement Before the  
Subcommittee On Public Lands And Environmental Regulation  
Committee on Natural Resources  
On H.R. 298 Mill Springs Battlefield Feasibility Study  
October 3, 2013

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Mr. Chairman, thank you for holding this important hearing today, and I am grateful for the opportunity to speak before this subcommittee.

Our nation has been truly blessed. We have a remarkable array of natural beauty which people from all over this country, and from all over the world, flock to see. Additionally we have a great number of historical sites, which have been dutifully and faithfully preserved so that new generations can appreciate what this country has been through, and what their forefathers cared for.

I am proud today to introduce to you my friend, Bill Neikirk. It seems like only yesterday, but more than 20 years ago, Bill and a group of citizens in Wayne and Pulaski Counties in Kentucky, grew concerned that the site of an important Civil War battlefield in our backyard was in danger of being lost forever. It was at that time that the U.S. Department of Interior classified the site of the Battle of Mill Springs, one of the most important battles in the western theater of the war, as one of the most endangered battlefields in Kentucky. Today, thanks to Bill and the group he founded, the Mill Springs Battlefield Association, hundreds of acres of battlefield land have been diligently preserved. Through a partnership of public and private funds, the Association has constructed a fantastic 10,000 square foot Mill Springs Battlefield Visitor Center and Museum, established interpretive signage, and led driving and walking tours of the battle. Above all, they have created a vibrant tourist

attraction which hosts thousands of visitors and students each year, preserving the memory of this historic battle for generations to come.

Mr. Chairman, the Mill Springs Battlefield Association has expressed its desire to turn over their tireless preservation work to the National Park Service and the people of the United States, so the joy of learning, and of history, will be enjoyed by many more people through the years. My bill, H.R. 298, will start this process by evaluating the feasibility of adopting this important site into the Park Service. I am proud to associate myself with this effort and to have this battlefield and generous group of citizens in my district. I thank this subcommittee for favorably considering this legislation and I hope it will be passed to the full committee as soon as possible.

Thank you again, and I yield back.