

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 29, 2019

P. Daniel Smith
Acting Director
National Park Service
1849 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Acting Director Smith:

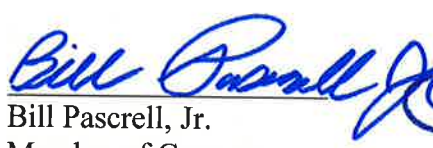
We write to you today to support the continued rehabilitation and revitalization of Paterson Great Falls National Historic Park as we approach the 10-year anniversary of the Park's founding. Specifically, we urge the National Park Service to prioritize the restoration of the historic raceway system within the park boundaries.

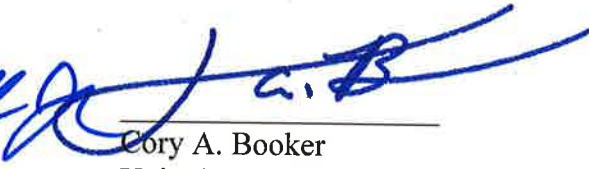
As you know, Paterson is our nation's first planned industrial center, and at its core sits the Great Falls and the raceway system that enabled the city to become the heart of early American manufacturing. Conceived of by Alexander Hamilton and designed by Pierre Charles L'Enfant—also known for designing our nation's capital—and Peter Colt, the three-tiered raceway system served as a critical power source to the area's mills and factories. Identified as a priority in the park's general management plan, the restoration of the raceways will not only provide additional scenic and recreational opportunities to area residents and park visitors, but will also greatly enhance the interpretive and educational mission of the park as the preeminent historic example of early American ingenuity in manufacturing.

While we understand that the raceway system itself is not currently on the NPS deferred maintenance backlog, we urge the NPS to work with its state and local partners, as well as private stakeholders, to identify federal funding opportunities to facilitate the rehabilitation of the historic raceway system in Paterson Great Falls National Historic Park. We appreciate your attention to this matter, and look forward to continuing to work with you to advance the effective implementation of the park's general management plan.

Sincerely,


Robert Menendez
United States Senator


Bill Pascrell, Jr.
Member of Congress


Cory A. Booker
United States Senator