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April 1, 2019

Chairman Raúl Grijalva
Natural Resources Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
1511 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Ranking Member Rob Bishop
Natural Resources Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
123 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Grijalva and Ranking Member Bishop:

On behalf of the American Battlefield Trust, the nation's premier battlefield preservation organization, I write today to express our strong support for H.R. 306, the Kettle Creek Battlefield Study Act. This legislation would begin the process of elevating this Revolutionary War battlefield site to the ranks of a National Park Service unit, further protecting this hallowed ground while encouraging visitation to this unique heritage destination. As a key partner in the preservation of this battlefield, along with many local advocates over the years, I am happy to express our support for this legislation.

The battle fought at Kettle Creek, Georgia, on February 14, 1779, played an important role in the Revolutionary War by demonstrating the difficulty the British faced in holding the interior of the colony. After a surprise attack on a Loyalist camp by Patriot forces, a pitched battle resulted in the Loyalist forces retreating from the battlefield. This clash of arms ensured control of the Georgia backcountry by the Patriots until the 1780 Siege of Charleston.

A portion of the battlefield was preserved by the Daughters of the American Revolution, and a monument was erected by the War Department atop War Hill in 1930. Much of the battlefield remained unpreserved until the American Battlefield Trust, through a grant from the American Battlefield Protection Program and in partnership with the Kettle Creek Battlefield Association (KCBA), acquired an additional 180 acres of hallowed ground. The KCBA and the local community have worked together for years to ensure that this site is interpreted and open to the public, but this special resource study by the National Park Service will take preservation efforts to the next level and make certain that the work done by generations of Americans to protect the battlefield continues well into the future.

The Trust applauds the efforts of Congress to further preserve the Kettle Creek Battlefield and wholeheartedly supports H.R. 306, the Kettle Creek Battlefield Study Act. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to me at (202) 367-1861. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Jim Lighthizer, President

AMERICAN BATTLEFIELD TRUST CIVIL WAR TRUST REVOLUTIONARY WAR TRUST

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