May 13, 1969

The Honorable
Walter J. Hickel
Department of the Interior
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Attached is a bill introduced in the House of Representatives by every Member of the Illinois delegation to authorize the establishment of the Lincoln Home National Historic Site in the State of Illinois.

What this project actually calls for is the acquisition of an area including the home of Abraham Lincoln in Springfield, Illinois, to be designated as the Lincoln Home National Historic Site. I believe the acquisition contemplates about four city blocks all of which is to be beautified and improved and the whole property will be made generally available for the many tourists who now come to the home.

In addition to the Representatives from Illinois, 39 other House Members have introduced an identical bill indicating an interest in this project.

I am enclosing a brochure prepared by those who have developed this project showing generally what is proposed to be done.

I am advised that the initial outlay to acquire the property would be about $2 million and that complete development over a period of time another $4 million. Can you give me a hint concerning the position of the Department on this matter?

In a sense it seems to me this project is long overdue and should have approval. I am aware, of course, of the fact that there are always budget considerations, but notwithstanding that fact, I hope at least the first step can be taken. If so, I would urge the House Members to push for enactment of this measure and I will introduce it also in the Senate.

Sincerely,

Everett McKinley Dirksen

Enclosures

END:che
H. R. 9256

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 19, 1969

Mr. Kyl (for himself, Mr. Schadberg, Mr. Eshleman, Mr. Grover, Mr. King, Mr. Thomson of Wisconsin, Mr. Wiggins, Mr. Kleppe, Mr. Matsunaga, Mr. Olsen, Mr. Beall of Maryland, Mr. Williams, Mr. Brown of California, Mr. Schwegel, Mr. Blackburn, Mr. Helstoski, Mr. Pirkie, Mr. Wright, Mr. McClure, Mr. Sandman, Mr. Cormier, Mr. Robison, Mr. Vander Jagt, Mr. Daniels of New Jersey, and Mr. Widnall) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs.

A BILL

To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to establish the Lincoln Home National Historic Site in the State of Illinois, and for other purposes.

1 Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

2 That, in order to preserve and interpret for the benefit of the people the home of Abraham Lincoln in Springfield, Illinois, the Secretary of the Interior is authorized to acquire by donation, purchase with donated or appropriated funds, or exchange, the property at the northeast corner of Eighth
and Jackson Streets, in the State of Illinois, including
improvements thereon, together with such adjacent lands
and interests therein as the Secretary may deem necessary
for the establishment and administration of the property as
a national historic site. The Secretary is further authorized
to acquire by any of the above means personal property
used and to be used in connection with the national historic
site.

Sec. 2. The property acquired pursuant to the first sec-
tion of this Act shall be known as the Lincoln Home National
Historic Site, and it shall be administered by the Secretary
of the Interior in accordance with the Act of August 25,
1916 (39 Stat. 535), as amended and supplemented (16
U.S.C. 1, 2–4), and the Act of August 21, 1935 (49 Stat.

Sec. 3. There are authorized to be appropriated such
sums as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this
Act.