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WILLIAMS LUMBER COMPANY

Columbus, Ga.

May 22, 1945.

Honorable Stephen Pace, M.C.
New House Office Building
Washington, D. C.

Dear Steve:

I have had a matter on my mind for some time and have been thinking I would take it up with you even before our great President died. Now that he is gone, I feel it is even a better time to discuss it, and I want you to know that my thought is really an unselfish one even though I am somewhat involved in the suggestion I am about to make.

I have in mind that the U. S. Government should create a Roosevelt National Park in Georgia, principally because Roosevelt lived here and called Georgia his second home and even before he became President, was very much interested in Warm Springs due to his affliction.

In the area I have in mind there are 200,000 to 300,000 acres of almost waste land, starting, we will say, 15 to 20 miles south of West Point and following the river south for some 3 or 4 miles in Muscogee County; then going east to about the Franklin Roosevelt Highway, which we know as the Warm Springs Highway, and then north past Warm Springs a short way and back west to the commencing point. This would take in all of Pine Mountain and some 200,000 to 300,000 acres of land. Most of this land is in Harris County, which is one of the poorest counties in the state. I believe 98% of this land is out of cultivation. A large majority of it has been cut over for timber, but it is one of the best growing timber sections in the South and our forests in this country are being almost depleted.

In that body of land we have several thousand acres which belong to the Georgia Power Company and lie along the Chattahoochee River around Bartletts Ferry and Goat Rock Lakes. I am sure the Power Company would be delighted to sell their holdings, retaining their riparian rights. They tried to sell part of it to me, but it was not a large enough deal to warrant going to the bondholders. However, condemnation proceedings by the Government could easily clear that up. Then there is my place of about 6000 acres and Cason Callaway's place of about 30,000 acres. Also, the Government owns a farm development they put on around Hamilton, but I don't recall the exact acreage. The rest of this general territory is uncultivated and, as I say, has been cut over for timber. The new growth would come along now about the same time and in my opinion - and my opinion is based largely on a study of the facts on my own land - in 20 to 25 years would be one of the nicest forests in the whole country and would produce a \$100.00 worth of timber to the acre, taking

the whole picture into consideration.

This country I am speaking of has some very nice small mountains, some of them as high as 1000 to 1100 feet above sea level, abounds in nice creeks, springs, quite a few lakes have been built, and produces an abundance of game. Of course, my place and Cason's have been rather highly developed and would be somewhat expensive, but the rest of the land would go from \$4.00 to \$10.00 per acre.

There is not a park in this section of Georgia that I know of, of this type. It would be a wonderful thing for Columbus, Newnan, and Atlanta - and even Macon would be benefited. I think it would bring a lot of people to the Southeast. It would relieve the poorer counties of supporting a lot of land that is not worth much to them and brings in very little taxes. At the same time it would not disturb Harris County's principal source of revenue, which is from taxes on Georgia Power Company developments but would relieve them of a tremendous amount of road expense. Cason doesn't have so much timber on his place, but he has some nice farm developments which would be along the lines of experiments President Roosevelt liked to carry on, and his place has sufficient acreage to do all they would want to do.

I am sure that Cason would feel the same hesitancy that I would in parting with our holdings, but I feel it would be a great thing for our part of the country.

I thought I would put this before you, as you might like to promote it since it is in your Congressional District. I haven't mentioned this to anybody and will not do so. Just wanted to talk with you about it.

Am looking forward to seeing you and Steve and his Cadet friends in June.

With kindest regards,

Sincerely yours,

(SGD) CHARLIE FRANK (Williams)
C. F. Williams.

CFW:mp

STEPHEN PACE
3d DISTRICT GEORGIA

COMMITTEE ON
AGRICULTURE

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

Washington, D. C.
May 25, 1945

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Honorable Harold L. Ickes
Secretary of the Interior
Washington, D. C.

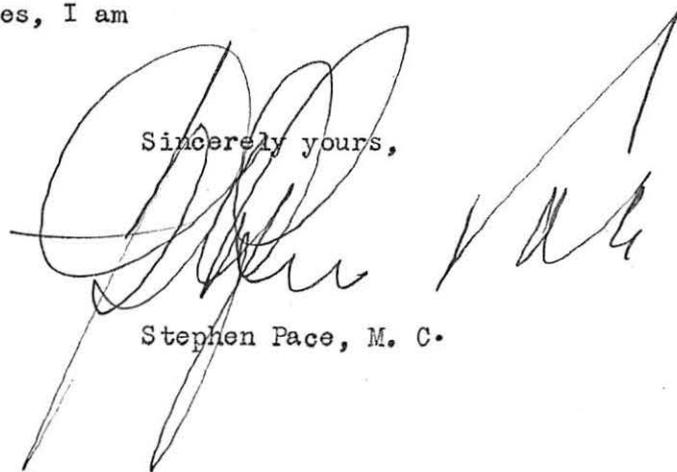
My dear Mr. Secretary:

INTERIOR DEPT.
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MAY 26 1945
PREPARE DRAFT
OF REPLY

The enclosed letter is from a very dear friend of mine and I would appreciate your reading it and giving me the benefit of your reaction and suggestions. Please also return the letter to me.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,



Stephen Pace, M. C.

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Enclosure

6/7/45
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THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR
WASHINGTON 25, D.C.

Name	Date
Jalson	6/6/45
Smith	6/6/45
Ratten	6/6/45

401
JUN 6 - 1945

Kennedy

Warm Springs



My dear Mr. Pace:

I have read with interest Mr. C. F. Williams' letter of May 22 to you in which he suggests the creation of a Roosevelt National Park in Georgia, and I am in accord with his sentiment that the site which meant so much to the late President should be perpetuated in his memory.

National parks are spacious land areas, essentially of primitive or wilderness character, which contain scenic beauty and natural wonders of such outstanding quality as to be distinctly national in importance and interest. The land mentioned in Mr. Williams' letter does not appear to possess the superlative aspects necessary to qualify it for establishment as a national park.

You are aware of the proximity of Warm Springs, Georgia, to Pine Mountain State Park and to the adjoining Pine Mountain Recreational Area. The latter has been developed by the National Park Service of this Department as a demonstration of proper recreational use of lands less suitable for other purposes, but with the expectation that it will ultimately be turned over to the State of Georgia.

Mr. Williams' letter is enclosed.

Sincerely yours,

(Sgd) HAROLD L. ICKES

Secretary of the Interior.

Hon. Stephen Pace,
House of Representatives.

Enclosure 577.

✓ cc: Director's Office, w/c of Mr. Williams' let. of May 22/45
Regional Director, Region One, ditto
ajk:nrs