

Public Comment on the FKNMS Sanctuary Advisory Council Agenda Topic: Concentrated Uses and Marine Events

Public comment received via email on August 14

Greetings Council members,

Thank you for taking the time to review my thoughts on an issue that has gained attention and concern over the last few years. I understand that there is a full agenda for this meeting, I plan to make a positive contribution to the conversation about creating Social Gathering Areas and extending Sanctuary lines and regulations.

There has been a discussion to create some sort of regulation/ extend sanctuary boundaries to include locations such as Boca Grande, Snipes and Marvin Key, Picnic Island etc... (Please excuse me if I misquote any material).

This discussion has become a hot topic between locals from different parts of the Florida Keys. As our community has grown over the past two decades we have seen an increase in tourism, snowbirds, and the destruction of our environment. I admire what the Council is trying to do, to protect our unique and significant backyard from further intrusions, but I believe there is a way to preserve these areas without excluding the local community from visiting them.

These locations are some of the only places that locals can "escape" to during our high tourist season. Many of us grew up at these sand bars, a safe place for families to gather and a unique landscape for our childhoods. I have never seen any locals trashing these places, if anything, most people bring extra trash bags on their vessels to pick up excess garbage that has been left behind. What I have seen are tourists, and people from out of the Keys, using these locations as an adult playground. I have seen them leave trash, drop anchor where they are not permitted, and other violations that have led to this discussion being necessary. Now, maybe these violators don't know the waters, the sanctuaries, the rules. But this is where the problem exists.

My proposal, instead of making these locations off limits to everyone, requires that every vessel that visits must have a permanent Monroe County resident on board. This would not exclude tourists from experiencing these beautiful places, they would just need to hire a guide or a local charter to avoid violating this rule. By creating this requirement, we would protect these areas without taking something away from those who work to preserve them. We would increase local guide and charter business and emphasize the importance of each location.

If the Council doesn't see a positive impact after five years of this requirement being enforced then a discussion should begin about making these places off limits to people. My proposal is a compromise, please consider giving the locals a chance to keep our locations of "escape time" before making them off limits to all. Thank you again for your time and dedication to our environment.

Have a great one,

Lea Di Salvo Moeller

TWSS Tournament Director

Public comment received via email on August 16

Hello, I won't be able to attend the meeting on Aug 18th but I do not think our sandbars should close. While I understand the concern I think other steps should be taken before the decision to close out sandbars is made. I think educating companies who send tourist to these locations via boat rentals on steps they can take to protect our environment and tools they need to keep these areas clean is one good step also signage on the sandbars themselves with posted laws and legal penalties would discourage people from making bad decisions. Just like "no texting", "no drunk driving", and other warnings are given on the sides of our roads the same could be used for this subject.

There are many options to avoid closure of these areas, let's take them.

Luis Santana

Ms. Dieveney,

I hope this finds you well. I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself, I am a first generation conch, graduate of KWHS, class of 2000 and a proponent of the environment. I believe in a strong balance between "heads in beds" and the preservation our unique ecosystem, but the idea of staunch, draconian regulation of a sand bar such as Snipes Point is extremely baffling. Would you please elaborate on the proposed new regulation regarding my favorite place on the planet? There has been a lot of speculation and hearsay, I would really appreciate hearing the word from quote, unquote the horses mouth.

Thank you for your time, and I appreciate your prompt response.

Sincerely,

Jana C.

Stock Island.

Public Comment received via email August 17

An open letter to NOAA.....

While I applaud your efforts to conserve our unique environment, I believe the sandbar closure idea is misplaced. In terms of overall impact, I would suggest that commercial operators who use our shared resource daily and intensively, such as head boats to the reef, cruise ships, head boats to the backcountry (for example, the Commercial boats who bring tourists to the woman key sandbar daily), jet ski tours, and dolphin watch tours, just to name a few, have a much greater negative impact than local boats who use the sandbar several weekends a year.

Leaving aside the enforcement questions, it would seem that limiting the number of private vessels to use specific sandbars would simply encourage those vessels to use other, less visited and more difficult to access areas, and thus defeating the original goal of the rule.

As a lifelong resident of Key West, homeowner, business owner, and voter, I would strongly suggest that you take a scientific approach to the environmental issue and tackle the areas where the most intense use is occurring, which is in the commercial sector. Further, if you consider that anchoring is the biggest hazard, perhaps providing mooring balls for recreational use would be a good solution.

Please do not take away one of the primary reasons why we choose to live in this beautiful place.

Best Regards,
Cole Harrison

Beth,

I am opposed to the closure or regulation of any water/beach in the Florida Keys. Especially Snipes, Boca Grande or any other place you would like to regulate. The government does not have any right to put animals above the right of human enjoyment.

Although I do agree with limited regulation and care for the environment there is a point where your agencies have overstepped their bounds. This is the case in your regulation of the sand bars. Just like everything in life moderation is important but enough is enough! It is time for all the citizens to unite and cripple your agency or reduce funding.

As you are well aware over 70 percent of the world is water and hence in my humble opinion your department should be more concerned with exploring other areas of the ocean. Instead of harassing the citizens of Key West your budget and resources should be spent elsewhere.

Why would I as tax paying citizens live in Key West with over regulation? It is my right of a citizen of the United States to be able to enjoy the ocean without the government micro managing where I can park my boat.

I will not be able to make the meeting but I wanted to share my views on this matter.
Tyler Goodere

Beth,

I hope you are well and have had a good weekend. I am sure you are reading over many emails like this one. I will give you another with my own account and viewpoint. While I applaud your efforts to conserve our unique environment, I believe the sandbar closure idea is misplaced. In terms of overall impact, I would suggest that commercial operators who use our shared resource daily and intensively, such as head boats to the reef, cruise ships, head boats to the backcountry (for example, the Commercial boats who bring tourists to the Woman Key sandbar daily), jet ski tours, and dolphin watch tours, just to name a few, have a much greater negative impact than local boats who use the sandbars on several weekends a year. The only days you see a conglomerate of private boats in these areas would be on weekends and holiday's. The rest of the time we are working our tails off, to be able to afford and enjoy the beauty that we call home. Isn't it our right as taxpayers and appreciative people of our surroundings to enjoy them, without the hassle of being on a commercial boat with 100 other people? This is why we leave the island and escape to the back country. It's the only thing we have left that local government hasn't taken away. You take this what is going to be left? I can tell you from experience that people that visit these areas are the most footprint cautious of any residents of the Florida Keys and Key West.

Leaving aside the enforcement questions, it would seem that limiting the number of private vessels to use specific sandbars would simply encourage those vessels to use other, less visited and more difficult to access areas, and thus defeating the original goal of the rule. This rule would be self-defeating, spreading out the boats over a larger area, and possibly into neighboring areas with fragile seagrass.

As a 4 year resident of Key West, business owner, and voter, I would strongly suggest that you take a scientific approach to the environmental issue and tackle the areas where the most intense use is occurring, which is in the commercial sector. Commercial boats are not supposed to operate in the Snipes and Woman Key areas, but we see it on a daily and report it with no action taken. Please do not take away one of the primary reasons why we choose to live in this beautiful place, and one of the areas I document photographically for my own enjoyment!

Best regards,
Mike Freas

Hello Beth,

I won't be able to make it to the meeting tomorrow night, so I just wanted to voice my concern directly.

I am all for closing the sandbars to massive events like the boat races and all of the 50-100 boats that congregate at Boca Grande, god knows the damage taking place during something like that.

What I find to be much more concerning, is the thousands upon thousands of LEGAL lobster

pots that are live and or ghosted in these areas, all while it is illegal to touch the pots. I've live here my whole life and have seen the damage from every spectrum.

Lobster Traps, high water temps, bleaching, sedimentation, beach renewal programs, runoff from key west streets, cattle boats to the reef, kids shooting birds. Seen it all.

I am curious to the motive behind the 10 boat closure of these sandbar areas. Besides some trash, which is inevitable I feel. What is the main reason for closing these areas? Bird migration? Is there a direct reason? Could it not be patrolled during particular events? Why not shut down mini season? Why not pull traps out of the area? It seems like a very specific thing to regulate, and a great way to make an enemy out of the locals. Any thoughts on this?

Would love to hear your perspective.
Concerned Citizen,
Louie Wray

Beth,

My name is Robert Spottswood Jr. My family has lived in Key West for 7 generations and going to the sandbar (sSipes, Marvin and Boca Grande) has been part of my families traditions for ages.

I am writing you to request the legal analysis that NOAA has done with regard to the passage of a law to ban the use of these locations. Primarily, I would like to know what the reason for these closures would be? Secondly, why there isn't a more reasonable method of achieving that goal?

Best,
Robert Spottswood Jr.

Do not regulate the sandbar!

There are famous raft up spots from Maine down and that's why places like Martha's Vineyard, Susquehanna Flatts, Chesapeake City, Ocean City, MD, Elliott Key, ect...are on the map. I have been boating for 42 years and have always rafted or congregated on the water and I consider it my heritage and my right as a citizen.

As for the Islamorada Sandbar: I go there regularly, conduct business there and have met some of my best friends there. A bunch of my clients are always there too and I there are volunteer clean ups a few times a year to keep it safe for seaside. Back when the food barge was there there was a place for trash and that was great.

The Islamorada Beer company purchased a barge just for marketing there and even named a beer after the sandbar. They are also a local business that invests in the community just like Matt Matt Bellinger who bases his radio show on the sandbar.

I would consider a rule or law that forbids me to anchor and congregate in a group a direct violation of my rights, after all there is always an American Flag up on someone's boat.

What we need are 2 or 3 businesses that sell ice & trash bags and then collect trash at the end of the day (which should eliminate trash because everyone will pay \$5 to get rid of their beer bottles before sailing home). They could even carry a stock of safety equipment to sell and everyone would be better equipped and that way we are generating more tax dollars back into the community.

It's a tourist and social driven economy in the FL Keys, it's just the way it is and that is why the masses choose to live here.

Gene Graham

I don't support our place of relaxation and peace being taken from us. We will create a movement to fight this till the end. Conch Republic II. We will not allow someone to keep us from enjoying our islands.

Rick Carn

My name is Tamrah and I am 3rd or 4th generation Conch. I grew up visiting the sandbars and are now taking my small children to local spots such as Snipes and Marvin Key. My kids are 4 and 7 and I feel that the best family time we get to spend together are in the boat and playing at the sandbars. We don't litter or mistreat the waters but instead have good quality family time.

Please don't shut down the only place that I can take my kids on the weekend that is electronic free. I am all for preserving the natural beauty of the oceans and islands but I think that there are other groups that need to be targeted such as the cruise ships and local jet ski companies that ruin the waters. Thank you for taking the time to read my email and I hope that you think about the locals that care and love the island so much.

Thank you.
Tamrah Hill

RONALD J. RAMSINGH, ESQ.

Dear Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council:

Good Afternoon. My name is Ron Ramsingh. I live in Key West and I strongly oppose any regulation that would prohibit or regulate anchorages in sand or the amount of boats that frequent our local area sandbars and beaches.

With the exception of college, law school, and my first job as an attorney, I have lived in Key West since I was 8 years old. I have been boating in the backcountry since I was in elementary school. I, along with my friends have always respected and appreciated the fragile environment that we are blessed to call our own and dreamed of the day that we would bring our own children to the same spots that we enjoyed as young boys. I was very saddened to read about Mr. Freza's proposed motion to limit anchorages within 300 feet of sensitive shorelines and within sensitive sea grass beds. As an Assistant City Attorney for the City of Key West, I am no stranger to controversial governmental regulations and how compromise can be found to satisfy all involved. I can tell you first hand that I know of no more than a small handful of instances out of the tens of thousands of boats that I have ever anchored anywhere near that has ever anchored in the sea grass while enjoying areas such as Snipes Point or Marvin Key. To do so defies the very reason why the overwhelming majority of visitors go there...to enjoy the sand. You will be hard pressed to see any pictures of anyone enjoying the water while standing in the sea grass. That simply defies logic. So, to say that such a regulation protects the sea grass from anchorages is pretextual at best. We anchor and stay in the *sandy* areas of Snipes, Marvin Key, etc.

However, may I offer the following compromise in lieu of limited moorings or outright closure:

1. Increased law enforcement. Bobby Dube was quoted on 104.1 saying that the perceived issues that are currently being complained about could be addressed with increased law enforcement. Mr. Dube even indicated on Morning Magazine that such regulation would only spread boaters around to other, less popular venues and spread FWC resources even thinner. The FWC preference would be to confine boaters to the least amount of areas as possible to better monitor boaters for various law violations.
2. Create a permit system. Boaters would need to purchase a yearly decal to be able to access the designated sensitive anchorage areas. The fees generated from a decal system could be used to defray the costs of increased law enforcement to enforce the laws that we already have and fund cleanup efforts.
3. Ban commercial and charter operations in environmentally sensitive areas, if that is truly the concern of the Sanctuary. I believe that boaters who own and maintain their boats enough to

be able to access places like Snipes Point, Marvin Key, and Boca Grande are typically more invested in the quality and future of these areas for generations to come compared to others who jam onto a party barge for a few hours of debauchery with no real investment into the longevity or sustainability of these areas beyond the one tourist season that they live in the Keys. Alternatively, make commercial and charter operators pay a higher fee for having a higher impact.

As you can see, there can always be other ideas and solutions to outright closure or limited moorings. I have been going to Snipes Point, Marvin Key, and Boca Grande for decades and I have not personally witnessed any change in the amount of sea life, sea grass, or birds at these areas for all of these years, so I really question what has suddenly prompted this proposed measure. However, if it is in fact the will of the majority of the Council members to have some sort of further limiting regulation than what we already have, please consider my humble suggestions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'RRB', written in a cursive style. The signature is positioned above a horizontal line.

Ron Ramsingh

Public Comment Received via email on August 18

To Whom It May Concern,

It is most unfortunate that this progressive movement instigated by marine sanctuary advisors to consider rules against recreational boating use on historic sand bars and island shore waters has come to this.

I, along with many others I'm sure, are sympathetic to property owners who have been overrun with party spot activities taking place in their backyards. My wife and I too experience this every lobster season. However, this effort to systematically close access to popular boating spots located far away from residential neighborhoods is an excessive power grab that will only cause strife and protest among local property owners and out-of-towners that bring economic dollars to the area.

Several of the areas in question, Contents Keys, Marvin Key, Snipes Key and Picnic Island and others, as you know are not quintessential marine habitat areas nor harbor sea grass bottoms. Most of these areas are natural sandy bottoms created by the ever-changing tidal flow. Other places, in the case of Picnic Island, are scarified ones that have been this way as far back as the late 1960s when my wife and I grew up here.

Today, these areas are being discriminated against mainly due to boating accessibility, yet there are countless others that have come to be via public access directly from land. These areas feature the same scarified and natural flow characteristics as the areas aforementioned. To name but a few, these land access points include Bahia Honda State Park Beach, Veteran's Memorial Park on Missouri Key, Spanish Harbor boat ramp, Ohio Key, and even Anne's beach, which was named after Keys environmentalist, Anne Eaton. Many of these land areas harbor very obvious and extensive evidence of scarification to the bay bottom. These land access points too are accessible by boat. Why are these not included on the list?

As a local taxpayer, I am against closing any public access areas, with exception of those located within close proximity to residential areas. I have spoken to many uninformed people regarding the situation. These include taxpayers and vacationers as well as those who do not even frequent the areas in question, and all have been taken back by the fact that this grass roots effort is transpiring. They are tired of the taking away of our recreational areas. Many of the local working class who use these areas are not able to attend the resolution meeting today at the Hyatt Place Hotel and Faro Blanco Resort; therefore, they are unfairly represented at this preliminary meeting.

In closing, what I would like to see come out of this meeting today is simply a resolution to prohibit these areas from being created within a 300-foot shoreline distance from improved residential or commercial areas. We would like this email read as public comment.

Thank you.
Bret Forbes

Dear Skip et al,

There's no question that SAC and Sanctuary issues are numerous and varied but that said I understand Don's frustration over Western Dry Rocks. While there's always been a near axiom that fishery issues in the Sanctuary were the responsibility of the Federal Fishery Councils and the FWC there have been a number of exceptions where rules and boundaries, etc. were developed and implemented by the Sanctuary. On the issue of the Western Dry Rocks spawning site it seems that the situation today is that the fishery management agencies are either trying to ignore the issue or pass responsibility off to someone else. In this situation the Sanctuary must jump to the forefront and show enough intestinal fortitude to ignore the irresponsible naysayers and push a closure ahead. Too many times the Sanctuary has played the game of appeasement with consumptive user groups and caved to the least common denominator, the ones who are happy to catch every last fish. When on the first SAC I personally had to raise hell many years ago to keep lobster traps out of the tiny Western Sambos reserve. Then SAC member Karl Lessard was pressuring Billy Causey to allow trapping in the reserve and Billy came up to Lessard and told him OK. Since I was next to them I heard it and instantly exploded. When we were finished the reserve, small as it is, remained intact, none of the trappers were put out of business by it (as they claimed would happen) and the world didn't end. The same will happen with Western Dry Rocks and, looking at Riley's Hump and the successes there, there will ultimately be more fish for everyone once the aggregations re-establish in some semblance of what they once were.

As for crowding on sandbars, put it in the back of the "to do" file next to file on cleaning the garbage out of the mangroves in Key West. Yes, high profile simple issues that an unknowing public can understand may make it look like the Sanctuary managers are "doing something" but the reality is the biological foundation of the Sanctuary is crumbling and doing nothing other than putting paint on old stucco will not keep the building from falling down. Of course it's obvious why the simple, easy "feel good" issues have come to the forefront. In the words of the Honorable Governor William J. Leptomane (look it up if you're too young to know who he is), "We have to protect our phony baloney jobs gentlemen." I really do wonder if five years on that SAC, at my own expense other than the one cold sandwich box lunch, accompanied by a gas station brownie that they brought in one time, was worth it. I hope so.

Bill Parks

Good Morning,

Today, I understand that the Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council will meet to discuss and take potential action on marine events and concentrated uses. Despite our protest, locals are extremely interested in conservation and protection of marine habitats and want to preserve it in the best way possible. Without going into too much detail, I believe we are all aware that the harm being done to our marine environment is not due to families hanging out on sandbars and dropping their anchor into the sand. There will always a few bad apples who lack respect of our

ocean but at the lower keys sandbars for every bad apple there are exponentially more residents who take the initiative to go above and beyond to keep these areas pristine. Many generations have been enjoying these same beaches and it is truly a way of life here in the keys. I personally have been going to Snipes, Woman Key and Boca Grande since I was a few months old. Today, I spend almost every weekend out there with my 9 and 12 year old. My husband's family was a boating family in the keys and his father's wisher were to have his ashes spread at Snipes. We both feel that when we pass Snipes is ultimately where we would like to be laid to rest as well. My sentiments are that of thousands of local families who can't imagine what restrictions would bring to our boating community.

After a few locals caught wind of proposals, there was much discussion about trying to attend today's meeting. Unfortunately, with traffic your meeting location can take as long as an hour and a half each way of travel. Many of the locals are multi-generational and stay here because of the tranquility these locations provide to us. With that being said, many of these families work extremely hard and have multiple jobs just to be able to afford to continue to live in paradise. Unfortunately, due to these circumstances, at the meeting there will not be anywhere near the presence of people who would like to show support in protest of this vote.

In consideration of that, I set up a petition so that those who have obligations could feel that they contributed in some way. This completely grassroots effort started yesterday around lunchtime with an unpaid, unsponsored petition. Within eight hours of being shared on social media the petition had 1,000 supporters. It currently has just under 1,500 supporters. The momentum grew quickly and I wish you could have read many of the comments that were shared as these individuals asked others to support the petition. We even had a city commissioner voice support by creating a video he attached to his private Facebook page encouraging people to sign this petition.

Below I have attached the link to the petition for your review. I have also attached a downloaded list of the names of those who signed the petition and a list of comments posted to the petition. As this is ongoing, I will provide you with updated signatures at the conclusion.

We are asking that there be no anchoring limits in these areas. We do not support temporary closures of any kind. We want to continue to have a place where we can congregate and enjoy each other's company without having to worry about the number of boats in a particular location and acceptable distances. In closing, we hope the council votes to dismiss this proposal. I appreciate everything the council does in protection of our marine environment but I assure you our community is just as invested in preserving these waters for our future generations.

Respectfully,
Jamie Cates

Leave them alone. In all the times there I have NEVER seen someone from noaa cleaning or caring for them. WE DO.Find some other place for your power trip

Keith Moriarity

Hello,

I am really interested in the discussion of closing the sand bars and all the details involved. Most of us in Key West (the largest population of the Florida Keys) do not have vehicles and no way to attend a meeting in Marathon. Will you be hosting a meeting in Key West? And when? It only seems fair to do so. Especially since the majority of the Captains operate out of Key West and our livelihoods will be greatly affected by this decision. Also considering the sandbars listed pretty much are all close to Key West. Looking forward to hearing from you.

Thanks for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely

Capt. Allyson Felsher & Capt. Anthony Skinner

Public Comment received via email on August 19, 2015

An open letter to NOAA...

While I applaud your efforts to conserve our unique environment, I believe the sandbar closure idea is misplaced. In terms of overall impact, I would suggest that commercial operators who use our shared resource daily and intensively, such as head boats to the reef, cruise ships, head boats to the backcountry (for example, the Commercial boats who bring tourists to the woman key sandbar daily), jet ski tours, and dolphin watch tours, just to name a few, have a much greater negative impact than local boats who use the sandbars on several weekends a year. I have personally witnessed (numerous times, unfortunately) tourist on guided tours poking, prodding, and in lots of cases throwing the wildlife that call these areas home. Meanwhile the tour guides do nothing to discourage or stop such irresponsible behavior. On almost all of these occasions I have also witnessed locals stepping in to protect these sea creatures.

Leaving aside the enforcement questions, it would seem that limiting the number of private vessels to use specific sandbars would simply encourage those vessels to use other, less visited and more difficult to access areas, and thus defeating the original goal of the rule.

My parents grew up on these sandbars. I grew up on these sandbars. We regularly had Easter egg hunts and birthday parties here. I cannot imagine denying this beautiful place to my children and their future children. As a lifelong resident of Key West, I would strongly suggest that you take a scientific approach to the environmental issue and tackle the areas where the most intense use is occurring, which is in the commercial sector. Further, if you consider that anchoring is the biggest hazard, perhaps providing mooring balls for recreational use would be a good solution.

Please do not take away one of the primary reasons why we choose to live in this beautiful place.

Best regards,
Kelly Gander

We who live in Key West would like a meeting here in Key West so that we can attend it to protest this travesty that your organization is trying to implement.

Thank you,
Dane Boza

Dear Mrs. Dieveney,

It has been brought the attention of myself and my neighbors on Duck Key, that there is an effort now underway to regulate the boating at our local sand bars. We understand the advisory board has put a proposal together to heavily regulate / close boating traffic to these areas.

We want you to know that in this instance, the advisory board does not speak for the residents of this island.

For as long as there have been boats in the Keys, local residents have gathered on the sand bar to enjoy the water and socialize with our neighbors. We go to the Valhalla sandbar frequently and have never seen people trashing the place nor have we seen evidence of sea grass damage. To the contrary, we see people picking up garbage that floats up from offshore and bring it back in their boats. There are over 1,500,000 acres of sea grass in Monroe County and the activity on the sand bars have no measurable impact on its health.

It is apparent to me and many others that the reasons to regulate the sand bars put forth by a select few of the advisory board don't have anything to do with environmental concerns. A few of our residents know some of the people pushing for this regulation and believe that the real reason for this action is a handful of property owners (some of whom are board members) don't like the noise. They have realized that their attempt get people off the sand bars by complaining about the noise has failed, so now they are resorting to this other nonsense in order to regulate the ocean for themselves. Some of these so called "environmentalist" are the same people that have no problem cutting down their mangroves so they can have a better view of the ocean. It is sad and pathetic that some of these people are now resorting to dishonesty to get their way

Locals have been visiting these beautiful places for DECADES. Satellite photos I have seen of the waters off Grassy Key from the 1970's look pretty much the same today. Now a handful of wealthy people move down here, decide they don't like the noise, and try to ruin the enjoyment of our ocean environment for everyone else. It's not enough for them to own a beautiful piece of land on the water, they want to own / control the ocean too. Reminds me of the people who move next to an airport and then complain about the noise.

I also believe that if this regulation moves forward, it may cause real damage to the environment. Instead of having a place to gather on sand, locals will find new places to gather that have not been heavily visited by people. It makes no sense to expose real environmentally sensitive areas when we have natural sandbars for people to enjoy.

There are THOUSANDS of locals here that enjoy our local sand bars. There is no reason to regulate the ocean for the sole enjoyment of a select few. I can promise you that there will be a real uproar if these areas are declared off limits. We will fight this issue should it move forward.

Sincerely,
Philip Kircher