

produce all available Lerner emails, conducting a broad search at substantial expense. The breadth of the IRS's efforts illustrates the good faith underlying the promise to comply with the Committee's request.

#### Proposed Article III

The IRS went to great lengths to cooperate with and facilitate the various investigations into the determination process for tax-exempt status.

The main allegation seems to be that I somehow impeded Congressional investigations by delaying for four months in notifying Congress regarding the Lois Lerner hard drive crash. This is inaccurate. It was never my intent to impede the investigations in any way; to the contrary, the IRS went to great lengths to cooperate with and facilitate the various investigations.

It is important to note that the Lerner hard drive crash was by no means purposely hidden from Congress. Emails discussing the hard drive crash were included in the substantial production of emails to the Congress months earlier, in 2013. Documents provided included a series of emails to Ms. Lerner in 2011 from the IRS IT division discussing the computer problems she experienced with her hard drive crash and IT's efforts to resolve them.

It was not until February 2014 that agency attorneys discovered a problem with Ms. Lerner's emails. The IRS attorneys also did not discover this from the e-mail exchanges that had been earlier provided to the Congress. Instead, the discovery was made when IRS attorneys, who were producing emails for the Congressional committees, noticed an apparent chronological "gap" in the Lerner emails that had already been provided to Congress in 2013. After making this discovery, IRS officials worked to assess what happened, determine whether and how data was lost, and study how the data might be recovered from other sources.

I first learned the details of the Lerner hard drive crash in April 2014, and directed IRS personnel to continue the work of determining the extent of the data loss so that a complete description of the problem could be provided outside of the IRS. That work identified 24,000 of Ms. Lerner's emails from the crash period that could be provided to the various investigators. When the IRS completed its assessment of the Lerner email situation in June 2014, we made a full and timely report to the Congressional committees, DOJ and TIGTA.

#### Proposed Article IV

I oversaw a broad document collection and review to comply with the investigations.

The gist of this allegation is that I failed to competently oversee the IRS's response to Congressional investigations. There has been no suggestion that I denied IRS personnel the needed resources nor in any other way impeded their efforts to respond to the varied Congressional inquiries. To the contrary, as detailed above, the IRS conducted a broad document collection and review, producing a comprehensive record of the matters under investigation, notwithstanding substantial technical and resource challenges. I received regular reports on the work to complete this effort by IRS lawyers and other personnel. Much of this work was done during my first months on the job. Our goal was to provide TIGTA, DOJ, and the Congressional committees all of the information that they needed to advance and ultimately complete their investigations.

#### CONCLUSION

While the allegations raised by some Members of the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee are serious and relate to acknowledged errors made by the IRS, the

Constitution reserves the use of impeachment for "treason, bribery, or high crimes and misdemeanors." None of my actions relating to the issues above, viewed in light of all the facts, come close to that level.

I would also note that impeachment has been used only on very rare occasions in the 228-year history of our Constitution. Aside from two Presidents, the only impeachment of a member of the Executive Branch occurred in 1876. If the Committee were to go forward and pursue impeachment in this instance, especially in light of the utter lack of support for the allegations, it would set an unfortunate precedent, diminishing the ability of the Federal government to attract experienced, dedicated people to positions of leadership. Some have suggested that my impeachment would be an appropriate means of holding the IRS accountable for acts of others that occurred before I came to the agency. This approach would make it particularly hard to attract new leaders when they are needed most—when a critical agency is in crisis following serious mistakes, needing both to reform its practices and respond to investigations. That would be a great loss for the government and for the country.

I want to be clear that, despite being faced with these unwarranted allegations, I remain honored to serve as the IRS Commissioner, and to lead a group of employees who are as dedicated, skillful, energetic and enthusiastic as any group I have had the privilege to work with.

Chairman Goodlatte, Ranking Member Conyers and Members of the Committee, this concludes my statement.

Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### RECOGNIZING THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE AND UTAH'S MIGHTY FIVE NATIONAL PARKS

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, our national parks play host to abundant animal life, untouched wilderness, and some of the most breathtaking vistas I have ever seen. Anyone who has beheld the pristine perfection of a mountain lake or the verdant green of our valleys in springtime can bear witness to the magnificent grandeur of America's natural landscapes. Today I wish to recognize the National Park Service for its indispensable role in preserving both the richness and beauty of these lands. This year marks the 100th anniversary of the National Park Service. On the agency's centennial, I would like to thank the thousands of men and women who, over many decades, have served selflessly to safeguard the majesty of our national parks.

In commemoration of the Service's 100th anniversary, I will be visiting the Mighty Five National Parks in my home State of Utah next week. The Mighty Five play a critical role in Utah's economy, driving the tourism industry by attracting millions of visitors to our State each year. Today, I

would like to pay tribute to the Mighty Five National Parks by recognizing the beauty and unique history of each.

Canyonlands National Park—imagine wave after wave of deep canyons, towering mesas, pinnacles, cliffs, and spires stretching across 527 square miles. This is Canyonlands National Park, formed by the currents and tributaries of Utah's Green and Colorado rivers. Canyonlands is home to many different types of travel experiences, from sublime solitude in the more remote stretches of the park to moderate hikes through the Needles district.

Located just west of Moab and a short distance from Arches National Park, Canyonlands is wild, wonderful, and diverse in its landscapes. Due to the park's massive size, Canyonlands has four separate districts, including three land districts and the rivers themselves, each with their own characteristic landscapes and experiences.

The area's earliest known inhabitants were Puebloans. After the Puebloans, other groups from the Ute, Navajo, and Paiutes appeared in the area. Ranchers and miners started settling the area in the 1880s, and places throughout the park still bear the names of some of these early settlers.

In the late 1950s and early 1960s, Bates Wilson, the superintendent of Arches National Park, lobbied for a national park to be created in the Canyonlands area. In 1962, Utah Senator Frank Moss introduced the Canyonlands Park bill, and 2 years later, President Lyndon B. Johnson signed legislation designating Canyonlands a National Park.

Arches National Park—located northwest of Moab, Arches is a 73,234-acre wonderland of eroded sandstone fins, towers, ribs, gargoyles, hoodoos, balanced rocks, and, of course, arches. The park protects an amazing landscape that includes the largest proliferation of arches in the world. Over 2,000 arches have been catalogued in Arches National Park. Landscape Arch, measuring 306 fragile feet, is the second-longest span in the world.

The sandstone formations in Arches National Park define not only the landscape but also its plants and animals. The scarce precipitation—8.5 inches annually—extreme temperature ranges, and relatively high elevation all conspire to limit life among the rocks to only species that can adapt to such a harsh environment. Elevations at Arches range from 3,960 feet along the Colorado River to the 5,653-foot Elephant Butte, the park's high point. A pygmy forest of pinon pine and juniper covers about half the park; scrubby steppe and bare slickrock blanket the rest.

The Arches area was first brought to the National Park Service's attention by an employee of a railroad company named Frank Wadleigh. Wadleigh visited Arches at the request of a prospector, who claimed the area had high tourist potential because of its scenic views. With the support of the National

Park Service, the area was designated a national monument in April 1929. The park grew in popularity, and on November 12, 1971, President Richard Nixon signed legislation designating it a national park.

Bryce Canyon National Park—the alpine environment of Bryce National Park is home to dozens of species of mammals and birds. Water and wind over millions of years of freezes and thaws have carved into the plateau endless fields of the park's distinctive red rock pillars, called hoodoos. By its very nature, Bryce Canyon National Park invites discovery.

Every year, Bryce Canyon awes visitors with spectacular geological formations and brilliant colors. The towering hoodoos, narrow fins, and natural bridges seem to deny all reason or explanation, leaving hikers gazing around with jaws agape in wondrous incredulity. This surreal landscape is what brings people from around the world to visit the park.

The Park's hoodoos and fins are formed when rainwater seeps into cracks in the rock. The water freezes during Bryce's cold nights, expanding just enough to break apart the rock. The deep, narrow walls called "fins" result from rain and snowmelt running down the slopes from Bryce's rim. Eventually the fins form holes, called windows. When the windows grow larger, they collapse and create the bizarre hoodoos we see today.

The scenic areas of Bryce Canyon were first described to the Nation in 1916 in magazine articles published by Union Pacific and Santa Fe railroad companies. As visitations to the area increased, those concerned about the damage being done to the delicate features lobbied for its protection. On June 8, 1923, Bryce Canyon was declared a national monument, and on February 25, 1928, it was established as a national park.

Zion National Park—carved by water and time, Zion National Park is a canyon that invites you to participate in the very forces that created it. The park's canyons and mesas boast an especially exquisite beauty, even in a State known for dramatic landscapes. Breathtaking Zion Canyon is the centerpiece of this 147,000-acre parkland that protects a spectacular landscape of high plateaus, sheer canyons, and monolithic cliffs.

Opportunities to see and explore Zion National Park abound for people of all ages and abilities, from the scenic byways that slice through the park to the trails that wind through the backcountry. Wildlife watchers can stop at numerous lookouts and search the sky for Zion's more than 200 bird species.

The paintings of Zion Canyon done by Frederick Dellenbaugh in the early 1900s, along with previous photographs of the area, led President William Howard Taft to proclaim Zion Canyon a national monument on July 31, 1909. In November 1919, Congress established

Zion Canyon as a national park, making it the oldest national park in Utah.

Capitol Reef National Park—even considering Utah's many impressive national parks and monuments, it is difficult to rival Capitol Reef National Park's sense of expansiveness; of broad, sweeping vistas; of a tortured, twisted, seemingly endless landscape; of limitless sky and desert rock.

While Bryce and Zion are like encapsulated little fantasy lands of colored stone and soaring cliffs, the less-visited Capitol Reef is almost like a planet unto itself. In Capitol Reef, you get a real feel for what the earth might have been like millions of years before life appeared, when nothing existed but earth and sky.

Capitol Reef National Park is an evocative world of spectacular colored cliffs, hidden arches, massive domes, and deep canyons. It is a place that includes the finest elements of Bryce and Zion Canyons in a less-crowded park.

Ephraim Portman Pectol, a member of the Utah State Legislature, and his brother-in-law, Joseph Hickman, started a promotional campaign for the Capitol Reef area in the early 1930s. In 1937, President Franklin D. Roosevelt named the area a national monument. Roads built to the area promoted access. In December 1971, President Richard Nixon signed an act establishing Capitol Reef as a national park.

#### TRIBUTE TO PATRICK P. O'CARROLL, JR.

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I rise to offer thanks and appreciation to a dedicated public servant, Mr. Patrick P. O'Carroll, Jr., who has worked to protect taxpayers and beneficiaries at the Social Security Administration and will soon pursue other activities.

Pat O'Carroll has served the American people as the third inspector general for the Social Security Administration since November 24, 2004. Managing over 600 auditors, attorneys, evaluators, and investigators nationwide, Mr. O'Carroll has overseen efforts to identify and prevent fraud, waste, and abuse of SSA funds and programs. In the past year alone, SSA's OIG has reported over \$700 million in investigative accomplishments through SSA recoveries, restitution, fines, settlements, judgments, and projected savings. Pat's efforts have led to around \$50 of taxpayer savings for every \$1 spent on his office.

Prior to his tenure as inspector general, Mr. O'Carroll held several senior positions in the inspector general's office, including assistant inspector general for investigations and assistant inspector general for external affairs. Twenty-six years of prior employment by the U.S. Secret Service helped prepare Mr. O'Carroll for the rigors of investigative work at SSA. To show Pat's dedication to the field, I would point out that he attended the National Cryptologic School at the Kennedy School of Government after com-

pleting a master of forensic sciences at the George Washington University. Most assuredly, you don't want to try to slip anything by Pat.

Pat in many ways personifies the SSA inspector general role. He has served in this position—with distinction—longer than anybody else. Pat has been very responsive with Congress; he has excelled at providing the information we need to protect SSA programs from fraud, waste, and abuse. It would be hard to find anyone who has worked harder to protect the integrity of Social Security's programs than Pat.

I appreciate Pat's important work with this legislative body. We wish him all the very best as he moves on to pursue what lies ahead for him and genuinely appreciate the work he has done with Congress, for the Social Security Administration, and, of most importance, for the American taxpayer. I wish Pat all the very best.

#### TRIBUTE TO JANE WINKLER DYCHE

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I wish to pay tribute to a distinguished Kentuckian who is a leader in her community as well as a good friend. Jane Winkler Dyche is an accomplished attorney in her hometown of London, KY, as well as the master commissioner for the Laurel County Circuit Court and an active volunteer for many local causes.

Dyche, the daughter of educators, originally trained as a teacher, earning a degree in home economics education from the University of Kentucky. She worked for 13 years in food and nutrition across Kentucky before earning her law degree at UK. She is now in her 21st year of practicing law.

Dyche is well known in the region for her service on the board of the Kentucky Bar Association, including a stint as president. She served on the board of the Kentucky Lawyers Mutual Insurance Company and is a dedicated volunteer for Kentucky Educational Television. Dyche also works on behalf of the Laurel County Public Library and the God's Pantry Food Bank.

Jane and her husband, Robert, have two children, Robert and John. They currently practice law together in the house that her husband grew up in, accompanied by their office dog, Stella.

I want to commend my good friend Jane Winkler Dyche for her commitment to her community and to Kentucky. For many years, she has been a devoted supporter of worthy causes and a fixture in the Commonwealth's legal circles. Still an educator at heart, she continues to share her wisdom with others every day.

An area publication, the Times-Tribune, recently published a profile of Jane Winkler Dyche. I ask unanimous consent that the article be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows: