

Jeanne

Copies sent to Smith, Udall & Sen. Bible, Chairman  
of Senate Subcommittee -

February 17, 1961  
Provincetown, Mass.

Senator Leverett Saltonstall  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Senator Saltonstall,

Thank you very much for your letter regarding the filing of the new bill to establish a Cape Cod National Seashore Park. Although we have had some news in our local papers, we were very glad to have the full press release.

In regard to the portion of the present bill which excludes a section of the state-owned Province Lands from the boundaries of the Park system, we, as residents of Provincetown and members of the Committee for the Preservation of the Province Lands, would like to point out to you that the people of Provincetown have not yet expressed their opinion as to whether they want this land removed from the public domain. This is locally a controversial matter on which even the Selectmen are not in agreement.

On March 15th, the citizens of Provincetown will, in the annual town meeting, vote on this question. Should the town give any adverse vote, we would hope that the Senate would then include all of the Province Lands in the Seashore Park.

It is our opinion, being on the scene, that Provincetown with a steadily falling population does not need additional land, having within its present boundaries at least 576 acres of undeveloped land suitable for residential use.\* It is our conviction also that the wooded area of the Province Lands in its present natural state constitutes a priceless asset to the whole Provincetown area. Should this land be incorporated into Provincetown, we believe it would almost inevitably be exploited to become an undesirable commercial section on the border of the National Park. This, in the long run, would be to the disadvantage of, not only the Park, but to Provincetown itself.

We hope to be able to attend the forthcoming Senate hearings on the new bill and at that time, representatives of our committee will no doubt have an opportunity to elaborate the details of our position.

Respectfully,

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Exec. Vice President  
Josephine Del Dec

Emergency Committee for the Preservation  
of the Province Lands

\* Please see enclosed letter to Chairman Gracie Pfoot of the House Subcommittee on Public Lands which deals thoroughly with the matter of available land in Provincetown.