

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

November 7, 2023

The Honorable Charles F. Sams III  
Director  
National Park Service  
1849 C St NW  
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Director Sams:

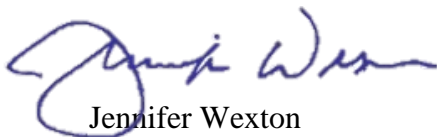
We respectfully request that the National Park Service (NPS) conduct a reconnaissance survey to explore the suitability of designating Oak Hill, the former home of President James Monroe located in Loudoun County, Virginia, as a unit of the National Park System. Oak Hill has great historical and educational significance, and NPS's designation would help preserve the property for future generations.

The Oak Hill mansion was constructed for President Monroe during the 1820s, but the property's history stretches well beyond this era. The property is also home to dinosaur fossils dating back hundreds of millions of years to the early Jurassic Period as well as artifacts of the Manahoac people, a group of Native Americans who lived in northern Virginia. The mansion and outbuildings have been well preserved by Oak Hill's successive owners and tell the story not just of the former president but also the craftspeople and enslaved African Americans who also lived there. Unlike the homes of other former presidents from this era, such as George Washington's Mount Vernon, Thomas Jefferson's Monticello, and James Madison's Montpelier, Oak Hill is generally not open to the public.

The current owners of Oak Hill are the DeLashmutt family, four generations of whom have lived at Oak Hill for the past 75 years. They have done a wonderful job of preserving the historic property, but they have recently come to a decision to end their stewardship of it and are seeking to ensure its perpetual preservation and to open its doors to the public by establishing it as a unit of the National Park System.

Oak Hill has clear historic value to our nation, and we believe that the property would make an excellent and appropriate addition to the National Park System, especially with the quickly approaching semi-quincentennial celebration of our nation in 2026. We greatly appreciate your consideration of our request to conduct a reconnaissance survey of the site and look forward to your timely response.

Sincerely,



Jennifer Wexton  
Member of Congress



Mark R. Warner  
United States Senator



Tim Kaine  
United States Senator