

## **POTENTIAL NPS DIRECTOR INTERVIEWED BY SENATE RESOURCES COMMITTEE**

September 22, 2006 - Mary A. Bomar, President Bush's nominee to be the 17th Director of the National Park Service (NPS) appeared before the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee on Thursday, September 21st for her confirmation hearing. Committee Chairman Senator Pete Domenici (R-NM) presided. Currently, the Northeast Regional Director of the NPS, she was introduced by her two Senators, Arlen Specter and Rick Santorum. Accompanied by her husband Milton and daughter, her opening statement focused on her experience in the national parks and in private business.

She characterized herself as someone who insists on high quality performance, management excellence, strict standards of accountability, transparency and using science in decision making. Her goals would be to seek a sustainable process for caring for resources and finding creative ways to achieve that within the means available. While she did not refer to historic resources or historic preservation, she did express enthusiasm for all the State Historic Preservation Offices (SHPOs) she has worked with.

Questioned by Senators Craig Thomas (R-WY) , Conrad Burns (R-MT), Lamar Alexander (R-TN), Jeff Bingaman (D-NM), Ron Wyden (D-OR) and Ken Salazar (D-CO), on topics ranging from service management policies, to bison in Yellowstone National Park, snow mobile policy, air quality, and the Interior Inspector General's ethical questions about the department, she responded directly and respectfully.

If the Committee votes to favorably report the nomination, the nomination will be sent to the floor of the Senate for a vote, where the Senate may confirm, reject, or take no action on the nomination.