

## United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3802  
specter.senate.gov

December 7, 2006

Mr. Dennis Reidenbach  
Superintendent  
Independence National Historical Park  
143 South Third Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19106

Dear Superintendent Reidenbach:

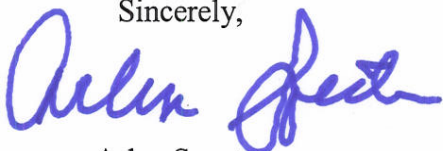
I am writing to you regarding an operational disagreement within the Independence Visitor Center (IVC) that was brought to my attention by a third party tour operator within Independence National Historical Park (INHP), the Constitutional Walking Tour of Philadelphia (the Constitutional).

It is my understanding that walking tour guides which were once able to stage their tours near the main Market Street entrance to the IVC, as per the suggestion and approval of INHP and IVC, have been restricted to the back of the building since April 2006. As a result of this decision, I am advised that the Constitutional has suffered a 65 percent decrease in tours purchased within the IVC since that time, hindering its ability to provide the unique service of promoting interpretive programming about significant historic sites in the Independence Mall area through regularly scheduled guided walking tours.

While I understand the value of limiting congestion outside of the IVC and at its main entrance as well as enabling visitors to freely choose programs to patronize, a previous arrangement has come to my attention which I feel merits consideration as a model for this situation. I am advised that INHP, in conjunction with the IVC and the City of Philadelphia, developed, designated and licensed three parking space areas along the east side of Sixth Street adjacent to the IVC which were created and designated for motorized tour operators. Additionally, there are two parking space areas on the west side of Fifth Street alongside the IVC, and one parking space area directly across Fifth Street on the east side which were created and designated also for motorized tour operators. Consequently, motorized tour operators applied to occupy each of the six spots and have since been accommodated with prominent tour staging points. If three spots could be designated along the main entrance corridor inside the IVC (i.e. near the photo concession booth and theater entrance/exit), there could be an opportunity for walking tour operators to submit applications to occupy those spots, so long as they abide by guidelines regulating the use of such tour staging points.

As it appears that the Constitutional, as well as other tours which now must operate from the back of the building, offer valuable services to INHP visitors, it is my hope that interested parties can come to an agreement before the Spring 2007 tourist season on how to most prominently display to visitors their programmatic choices while in the park. Thank you for your consideration of this proposal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Arlen Specter". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Arlen" being larger and more prominent than the last name "Specter".

Arlen Specter

AS/mb1