



**Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure**  
**U.S. House of Representatives**

**Bill Shuster**  
**Chairman**

**Washington, DC 20515**

**Peter A. DeFazio**  
**Ranking Member**

Mathew M. Sturges, Staff Director

July 19, 2017

Katherine W. Dedrick, Democratic Staff Director

Admiral Paul F. Zukunft  
Commandant  
United States Coast Guard  
2703 Martin Luther King Jr Ave SE  
Washington, DC 20593-7000

Dear Admiral Zukunft:

It has recently come to our attention that the Coast Guard intends to periodically close down a roughly two-mile section of the Potomac River when President Trump and “high-ranking government officials” are golfing at the Trump National Golf Club in Sterling, Virginia, outside Washington, D.C.<sup>1</sup> Although we recognize the importance of the Coast Guard’s longstanding role in providing Presidential security, we encourage you to reconsider the decision. Throwing recreational river users, including the Team River Runner injured veterans organization, off the river so that the President, and his guests can spend their summer afternoons on the links is unnecessary and unacceptable.

A Coast Guard spokesperson has cited security concerns related to the clear lines of sight between the river and the private golf course. This is ironic, considering the Trump Organization cut down a stand of mature trees along the shoreline in 2010 that would have obscured the line of sight and mitigated security concerns.<sup>2</sup> At the time, the excuse that the trees were in poor health rang hollow to conservationists and river users. Seven years later, the Trump Organization has failed to replant mature trees along the riverbank as it promised at the time.

Time and again President Trump, with the aid of the Secret Service, has disregarded the needs of the general public for his own personal benefit and convenience. This is a very popular and busy section of the Potomac River, and summer is the season of peak use. We implore you not to allow the President’s frequent leisure activities to take away access to the river regularly enjoyed by wounded veterans, and other kayakers, boaters, jet skiers, and anglers. The Potomac River is a

<sup>1</sup> Peter Jamison, *Coast Guard wants to kick boats off Potomac River when president is golfing*, WASHINGTON POST, July 17, 2017.

<sup>2</sup> Kafya A. Hosh, *Trump golf club in Loudoun removes hundreds of trees near river*, WASHINGTON POST, August 13, 2010.

shared resource held in trust for public use and commerce. It is the right of all residents and visitors in the National Capital Region to enjoy it at their own leisure.

We ask that you provide the following information related to this newly announced policy by July 25, 2017:

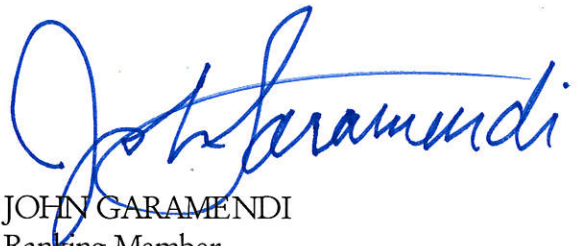
1. Which government employees or other individuals qualify as “high-ranking government official” for the purpose of shutting down river access near the Trump National Golf Course? Please provide their names and positions held within the government.
2. What process has the Coast Guard established for informing the general public in advance that the river will be closed at particular times for security reasons? How will the Coast Guard accommodate stranded users who are unaware of a planned closure?
3. How will the Coast Guard ensure that small businesses relying on the river, such as fishing guides and paddle sport outfitters, are not negatively impacted by the closure of this stretch of river?
4. How much does the Coast Guard anticipate it will cost to provide security to the President or other “high-ranking government officials” for each golf outing at Trump National Golf Course? What will be the impact of diverting resources from other security priorities in the National Capital Region?
5. Has the Coast Guard, with the Secret Service, discussed non-closure alternative security measures such as requiring the Trump Organization to replant mature trees along the riverbank, deploying a small response craft to patrol the river, or monitoring river activity from the shore?

Thank you for your attention to this request. We look forward to your prompt reply.

Sincerely,



PETER DeFAZIO  
Ranking Member



JOHN GARAMENDI  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Coast Guard and  
Maritime Transportation