

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3306

February 2, 2004

Mr. Kent Fletcher
304 Oak Hill Drive
Durham, NC 27712-2206

Dear Mr. Fletcher:

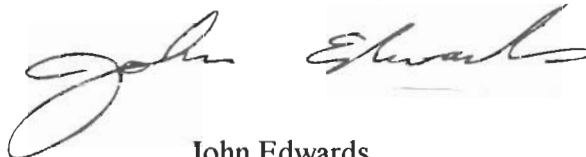
Thank you for contacting me regarding the controversy surrounding United States Park Police Chief Teresa Chambers. I appreciate hearing from you.

As you know, Chief Chambers was suspended on December 5, 2003 after discussing with several media outlets the funding and staffing of the U.S. Park Police. The U.S. Park Service stated that it had reprimanded Chambers because of federal regulations that disallow public comment by officials on budget discussions and prohibit lobbying by these officials. On December 18, Chambers was notified that the Park Service intends to terminate her employment.

I understand your concern about the treatment of Chief Chambers, which you believe is unjustified given the honesty of her comments. Please be assured that I will closely monitor this situation as it progresses.

Again, thank you for contacting me. Please feel free to keep in touch.

Yours sincerely,



John Edwards

JE/csf