

March 7, 1988

Dear Senator Bumpers:

When testifying on the Vietnam Women's Memorial project at your hearing on 23 February, I stated that the Commission believes the language of the bill could be improved by omitting a specific mandate for "a statue of a woman" and broadening the bill to read "a specific commemoration of women Vietnam veterans."

Since this recommendation was so brief and occurred at the very beginning of my remarks, I want to be certain it is not overlooked and is given the appropriate weight intended by the Commission.

We believe that, as a rule, legislation should not spell out specific design requirements, but should allow a number of solutions, some of which might fit the program better than others. Such an approach allows greater latitude in finding the most appropriate answer, and this is particularly true for the Vietnam Memorial where the existing context is not only sensitive, but relatively fixed.

We hope your committee will give serious consideration to modifying the wording of the bill to allow for this greater latitude.

Let me add how enormously impressed I was by your conduct of the hearings.

With all best wishes,

Sincerely,

JCB

J. Carter Brown
Chairman

The Honorable Dale L. Bumpers
United States Senate (229 SDB)
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bcc: Bob Doubek
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JCB:hg