

April 18, 1918.

Hon. George W. P. Hunt,

Phoenix, Arizona.

My dear Governor:

I enclose herewith a copy of Senator Ashurst's bill to establish a national park at the Grand Canyon, which has been favorably reported to the Senate. I have been asked to introduce a similar measure in the House, but before doing so I would like to have the benefit of your views on one phase of this question. Mr. W. W. Bass, of Grand Canyon, has written a number of letters urging that at least the township of land upon which is Camp Kearny is located be set aside as a State park, and that the national park be limited to the area east of the Gila and Salt River meridian, as shown on the enclosed map. In this connection I might say that in February 1915, I received a letter from Hon. Guilford Winsor to the effect that the State Land Commission desired that Townships 31 and 32 North, Range 1 West, be eliminated from all forms of Federal reservation and set aside by specific grant to the State of Arizona with the purpose of a state park.

Now I desire to ascertain whether or not the State of Arizona wishes to acquire and maintain a State park on the rim of the Canyon, near Bass's camp, and it seems to me that the

best way to determine the matter is for you to submit the question to the Legislature at the special session, which, I understand, is to be called in the near future, provided, of course, you think there is any merit in the idea. Having this thought in mind I recently requested the National Park Service to furnish me with all available information relative to the establishment of State parks, and have just received the enclosed memorandum from the Director, which sets forth what has happened in California and in Colorado. Mr. Hather is correct in his statement that Congress has adopted the policy of charging \$1.25 an acre for all land secured for park purpose, so that if a township is to be acquired on the Canyon rim, the State of Arizona will in all probability be required to pay for it at that rate—\$28500 would have to be appropriated for that purpose. The State Legislature will also have to make provision for the maintenance of the park and have the construction of roads so as to make it accessible to the public.

I shall be greatly obliged if you will give consideration to this matter, and advise me as to whether you think it worth while to submit such a proposal to the Legislature. You are in a better position than I am to forecast what the Legislature would do, and if you think that there is no general sentiment in favor of the State park plan it would, of course, be both vain and useless to take up the time of the Legislature in the discussion of it.

With best wishes, I am,

Yours very sincerely,