**ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON**
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ENERGY POLICY, AND REGULATORY AFFAIRS

## Congress of the United States
### House of Representatives
### Washington, DC 20515-1501

January 31, 2025

The Honorable Doug Burgum
Secretary
Department of the Interior
1849 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20240

Mr. Matthew J. Vaeth
Acting Director
Office of Management and Budget
1650 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20503

Dear Secretary Burgum and Acting Director Vaeth:

As the administration develops the fiscal year 2026 budget, I request that the budget include funding for the National Park Service (NPS), working together with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), to conduct a comprehensive investigation of Fort Totten Park in the District of Columbia for munitions and any environmental damage resulting from such munitions. On November 9, 2023, the agencies announced publicly they were seeking such funding.

In 2020, an unexploded ordnance was discovered in Fort Totten Park. I was assured by NPS that it had conducted a thorough investigation for additional munitions. On April 18, 2023, however, two metal canisters, which NPS described as "WWI-era military munitions," were discovered in a different location in Fort Totten Park. The area where the canisters were found has been fenced off for the safety of residents.

In 2014, contaminated soil in Fort Totten Park was confirmed to have been brought to the park from the Spring Valley Formerly Used Defense Site (FUDS). The USACE is currently remediating the Spring Valley FUDS. A similar investigation and cleanup are needed at Fort Totten.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Eleanor Holmes Norton

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