

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 26, 2014

The Honorable Mary Landrieu
Chair
U.S. Senate Committee on
Energy and Natural Resources
304 Dirksen Senate Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski
Ranking Member
U.S. Senate Committee on
Energy and Natural Resources
304 Dirksen Senate Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chair Landrieu and Ranking Member Murkowski:

We write you to respectfully request a hearing and the prompt markup of *the Good Samaritan Search and Recovery Act (S.1049)*. This bipartisan legislation provides qualified and trained search and rescue groups with expedited access to park service land if they sign a liability waiver.

This legislation was drafted following the discovery of the bodies of Mr. Keith Goldberg and Air Force Staff Sergeant Antonio Tucker in the Lake Mead Recreation Area by Good Samaritan search and rescue teams. In both of these cases, the volunteer search teams had to wait approximately one year to obtain the proper liability insurance and permits before conducting their searches. After obtaining the proper approvals, the Red Rock Search and Rescue team found Mr. Goldberg's body in less than two hours and a separate volunteer group located Staff Sergeant Tucker's body after just two days of searching. It is clear this legislation is needed to expedite the bureaucratic process and help bring closure for the families of missing persons.

As you may know, there is a bipartisan House companion to this legislation (H.R.2166) that was introduced by Nevada Congressman Joe Heck (NV-3). On January 27, 2014, H.R.2166 passed the House by a vote of 397-0. We are confident the bill could garner overwhelming support in the Senate as well.

Given the non-controversial nature of the legislation, it is our hope that the Committee will hold a hearing and subsequent markup on *the Good Samaritan Search and Recovery Act* as soon as possible. Thank you for your consideration of our request. Please don't hesitate to contact us or Jeremy Harrell (Sen. Heller) at 8-0092 or Caitlin Runyan (Sen. Warner) at 4-0305 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Dean Heller
U.S. Senate



Mark Warner
U.S. Senate