

**CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH**

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**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**

April 13, 2012

Mr. J. Paul Loether  
Chief of the National Registry of Historic Places  
and National Historic Landmark Programs  
National Park Service  
1849 C Street, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Mr. Loether:

I am writing to express my strong support for the designation of Camp Evans, in Wall Township New Jersey, as a National Historic Landmark. I am hopeful that after a careful and objective review of this nomination, you will lend your full support for its timely approval.

As you are aware from the application submitted by InfoAge—a private non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation of this site—and your staff's nomination package, the US Army Signal Corps acquired Camp Evans in 1941 and the site functioned as an electronics development, testing, and production facility during World War II. It immediately became one of the principal facilities where radar work was conducted in the United States. In many instances Camp Evans radar teams planned, set specifications for, directed, contracted and coordinated wartime radar research and production with other radar laboratories. Equipment developed, tested, documented, and upgraded at Camp Evans was used in all World War II theaters and protected American military assets worldwide.

Acknowledging the historical significance of Camp Evans, the National Historic Landmarks Theme Study conducted in 2008 recommended that this property be evaluated for possible NHL designation. Having visited the site numerous times and through my continued work with the leadership of InfoAge, I am confident that your evaluation will confirm the site is worthy of the designation.

The proposed historic district retains the overall appearance of an early- to mid- twentieth century industrial facility. While most of the area's construction occurred during World War II, five buildings date back further, having been built before World War I—when the Marconi Wireless Telegraph Company of America established the Belmar Receiving Station on the property. This area conveys a strong sense of time and place, and I agree with InfoAge's assessment that it may be the best extant historic property associated with the nationally significant development of radar.

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I am pleased that the Landmark Committee of the National Park System Advisory Board will consider this nomination at their next meeting in May. It is my understanding that you will then forward these recommendations to the Advisory Board, which will meet a few weeks later. I respectfully request that you work to ensure Camp Evan's nomination will be one of the sites considered during the Advisory Board's meeting and forwarded to Department of Interior Secretary Salazar for a timely designation.

This year marks the 70th anniversary of the naming ceremony of Camp Evans. 2012 is also the 100th anniversary of the site beginning as a Marconi Wireless Station. The designation of Camp Evans as a National Historic Landmark on these important anniversaries would have a strong symbolic impact for the individuals who have worked since the Army's withdrawal to maintain the historic and cultural significance of the site.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter. If I can be of further assistance to you, please feel free to reach out to me directly, or to my legislative assistant, Cate Benedetti.

Sincerely,



CHRISTOPHER H SMITH  
Member of Congress