

Tara Ross
8409 Pickwick Lane, No. 280
Dallas, Texas 75225

Joseph C. Smith, Jr.
1899 Wynkoop Street, 8th Floor
Denver, Colorado 80202

September 6, 2011

The Honorable Frank R. Wolf
United States House of Representatives
241 Cannon Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Wolf:

Thank you for your letter describing recently introduced legislation that would reestablish George Washington's birthday as a federal holiday.

As the authors of a book about Washington, *Under God: George Washington and the Question of Church and State*, we wholeheartedly support your effort. Our own research has confirmed the immense value of Washington's public service to our country. He was a man who loved his country and served it well, often at tremendous cost to himself. He literally spent a lifetime in public service, beginning with his years as a surveyor, soldier, and legislator in Virginia and culminating with his service as Commander-in-Chief, President of the Constitutional Convention, and President of the United States. The esteem in which he was held during his lifetime was unmatched, and deservedly so.

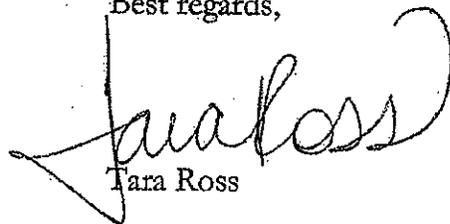
Washington was a man of tremendous ambition, but he was not so ambitious that he crowned himself King of America when he had the opportunity to do so. He was a man who knew that his fellow countrymen—and even future generations—were looking to his actions as a guide for their own. Thus, he consciously sought to set good examples and, as President, to remain true to the constitutional text. "As the first of everything, in *our situation*

will serve to establish a Precedent," Washington wrote James Madison, "it is devoutly wished on my part, that these precedents may be fixed on true principles." Washington was a man who diligently sought to hold himself above partisanship and petty squabbles, even as members of his administration succumbed to such temptations. At the end of the day, his primary goal was to find solutions that would best serve the public at large, rather than satisfying only certain individuals or groups.

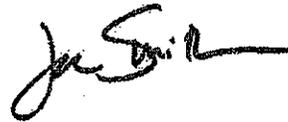
Washington probably would not want his own federal holiday, just as he did not want to be President. But we are glad that he did not get his way on the latter, and we hope that he does not get his way on the former. Washington's presidency proved irreplaceable to the establishment of our country. America is what it is today because Washington agreed to serve. Restoring Washington's birthday as a federal holiday would benefit modern Americans by providing them time to reflect upon Washington's service and to learn more about the principles that he held dear—principles that we would all do well to embrace today.

We endorse this legislation and urge Representatives and Senators from both sides of the political aisle to vote in favor of it.

Best regards,



Tara Ross



Joseph C. Smith, Jr.