



Briefing Notice

National Landmarks at Risk: How Rising Seas, Floods, and Wildfires Are Threatening The United States' Most Cherished Historic Sites

Tuesday, May 20, 2014

1:30 PM – 3:00 PM

902 Hart Senate Office Building

Please RSVP to expedite check-in: www.eesi.org/052014landmarks#rsvp

The **Environmental and Energy Study Institute** (EESI) and the **Union of Concerned Scientists** (UCS) invite you to a briefing highlighting the risks climate change poses to landmark historic sites around the United States. This briefing will **unveil a new report from UCS** which highlights climate threats to the nation's iconic landmarks and historic sites, and details steps being taken to protect these national treasures. The report includes 30 at-risk sites, including places where the "first Americans" lived, the Spaniards ruled, English colonists landed, slavery rose and fell, and gold prospectors struck it rich. Some of the sites also commemorate more modern "firsts," such as the race to put the first man on the moon.

Speakers for this forum are:

- **Senator Martin Heinrich (NM)**, Introductory Remarks
- **Adam Markham**, Director of Climate Impacts, Union of Concerned Scientists
- **Dr. Jeffrey Altschul**, President of the Society for American Archaeology
- **Walter Dasheno**, former governor of the Santa Clara Pueblo, Rio Arriba County, NM
- **Dr. Anastasia Steffen**, Archaeologist, Valles Caldera National Preserve, NM
- **Lisa Craig**, Chief of Historic Preservation, Annapolis, MD
- **Alan Spears**, historian and Director of Cultural Resources, National Parks Conservation Association

For the first time in its history, the Society for American Archaeology is calling attention to the damage climate change is causing endangered archaeological sites. Sea level rise, coastal erosion, increased flooding, heavy rains and larger wildfires are damaging archaeological sites, historic buildings, and cultural landscapes across the nation. Cultural resource managers already are integrating resiliency and adaptation measures into their planning process, to protect these sites from climate change impacts.

From Mesa Verde to the Statue of Liberty and even modern NASA launch sites, these sites tell the compelling story of human occupation and history in the United States, a history that is increasingly threatened by climate change. A recent National Park Service analysis shows that 96 percent of its land is in areas of observed global warming over the past century. Each year, millions of visitors frequent NPS and other historic sites, creating a large impact on local economies. For example, Hurricane Sandy alone caused an estimated \$77 million in damages to the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island. The Statue of Liberty was closed to visitors for eight months, and the storm cost a local ferry operator 80 percent of its revenue, forcing the operator to lay off 75 percent of its workforce.

This event is free and open to the public.

For more information, contact Amaury Laporte at alaporte@eesi.org or (202) 662-1884.

