

TOWN FILE

January 13, 1961
Provincetown, Mass.

President John F. Kennedy
The White House
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. President,

We would like to bring to your attention a matter which we know is very close to your heart, namely the establishment of the Cape Cod National Seashore Park. There seems no doubt that this will become an historical fact in the near future; however, the recent House Subcommittee hearings in Eastham, Massachusetts, December, 1960, have shown that the original Park boundaries are in great jeopardy. To those of us who attended the hearings it was very evident that the large percentage of testimony presented by every town on the Cape, except Provincetown, against the establishment of the Park along the boundary lines initially recommended by your bill, would have a substantial effect in modifying those boundary lines when the final draft comes up for passage.

Provincetown, therefore, is now the one remaining area on Cape Cod where the total amount of virgin land originally included in the Cape Cod National Seashore Park may still be saved for that purpose. The Province Lands of Provincetown which were designated in 1893 by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts as a public park for the use of all Massachusetts citizens still are untouched. Not a single home has been built or a tree cut on that land. No persons would be deprived of their homes by the inclusion of this area in the National Park. It forms the exquisite natural terminus of the whole Park system and if the proposal to cut out a very large section of the Province Lands by the advocates of local real estate expansion is successful, the least harmful effect will be to completely destroy the scenic end of Route 6.

We do not wish to burden you with a local issue but we do want to make you aware of the real damage that may here be done to a proposal of National importance. There are many citizens who are fighting the battle to save this land for the Park but time is running out and the forces against us represent determined proponents of material expansion at the expense of all other considerations. We earnestly request your help in preserving the Province Lands of Provincetown, Massachusetts for the people of the United States.

Respectfully,

Provincetown
Executive Committee
of the
Emergency Committee for the Protection
of the Province Lands
Provincetown, Mass.