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### Representative + Campbell wants western Colorado park, campaign reform, environmental protection

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Aspen Daily News, Volume 11, Number 107, November 2, 1988  — LOCAL Rep. Campbell Wants Western Colorado Park, Campaign Reform, Environment Protection [ARTICLE+ILLUSTRATION]

## LOCAL

### *Rep. Campbell Wants Western Colorado Park, Campaign Reform, Environment Protection*

By **MARK HUFFMAN**

Aspen Daily News Staff Writer

A new national park in western Colorado, campaign reform and legislation to protect the environment and boost tourism are on the agenda for Rep. Ben Nighthorse Campbell during the coming two years, he said Tuesday in Aspen.

Democrat Campbell, who seems headed for certain re-election in the face of weak competition from challenger Jim Zartman, was here on just one stop of a trip that began in Durango and took him during the day to Glenwood Springs, Eagle, Gunnison, Canon City and Pueblo.

Campbell's western Colorado 3rd Congressional District depends heavily on tourism, and Campbell said work to protect the environment is not only a moral obligation but good business sense. And he said rapid growth in tourist numbers in recent years show that existing facilities are approaching overload.

"WE MARKET OUR environment, and while we take care of it because it's our obligation to take care of it ... we also see a dollar return on that," he said. "It's important to take care of the environment. That's solid business sense, besides the fact we are the keepers of the earth."

Campbell won approval during 1988 for a \$450,000 federal study that examined the possibility of national park status for Colorado National Monument near Grand Junction; the Black Canyon of the Gunnison, land now classified as national monument and national recreation area; and an area near Cortez that offers Anasazi ruins similar to those found in Mesa Verde.

"The most logical would be the Colorado monument, there's not much controversy there," he said. "Black Canyon would be marvelous," he said, but he added there are big problems there because of disputes about water rights and with "inholders," private owners of land inside the boundaries of the proposed park.

Campbell said Mesa Verde's experience is a good indication of growing demand for national parks in Colorado, and also around the country, and mentioned that the 750,000 visitors who went to Mesa Verde last year were 20 percent more than the number who visited the previous year. The problem is nationwide, he said: "You need a reservation to get into Yosemite and then all you see is bumpers."

**CAMPBELL POINTED TO** his work to reapprove the Clean Water Act and the Uranium Mill Tailings Clean Up Act, and also his hopes for new national legislation regulating the transportation of hazardous materials, legislation that would set routes, establish standards for training and provide emergency response in case of accidents. Other

environmental and tourism work he mentioned was his work to get \$700,000 to buy private land along the rim of the Black Canyon National Monument before it was developed; securing money to buy the Bridgeport Ranch, which offers access to wilderness land near Delta; and his work to get a resolution setting a National Skiing Day.

Campbell also told supporters gathered at the new Democratic Party headquarters on the Hyman Avenue Mall that he favors reform of existing campaign law, especially limits on funding and contributions from special interest groups. But he said that until the law is changed he'll keep on raising and spending money in his own re-election bids.

**"WE NEED CAMPAIGN** reform, and we need to get away from raising money and the influence of special interest groups," he said. The current system, he said, is "not good for America, but that's the way it is until we get a new law." Campbell said that until the law is changed he'll be "raising every dime I can" for his own campaigns.

Not until everyone is ready for new campaign law will there be new laws, he said. "The country has got to believe we need reform, the press has got to believe, the people have got to believe," he said.

And he also said the American system is under attack by special interests that "are getting involved in narrower and narrower terms. It's not what's best for Colorado but what's best for them."

He mentioned as an example of special interest lobbying how Toshiba company managed to avoid American sanctions after it was disclosed the Japanese firm had sold American submarine technology to the Soviets. When a two-year ban on importation of all Toshiba products was proposed, it wasn't the giant company but its American distributors that killed the idea. He mentioned receiving calls from Toshiba distributors, right down to the local hardware store, each of whom told him how well the company's products sold and how much it would hurt their business if those products were banned. "No one from Toshiba called me," he said.

**CAMPBELL MADE NO** predictions about the outcome of the presidential race, but said he doesn't believe any strength Republican George Bush has will translate into "coat tail" power that will drag other Republicans into office. As proof, he offered the example of President Reagan, who despite his own popularity has been something of a failure in getting his party colleagues elected.

"If Bush has coat tails like Reagan's coat tails we're going to be picking up a few seats in Congress," he said.

**"We market our environment, and while we take care of it because it's our obligation to take care of it ... we also see a dollar return on that."**

Rep. Ben Nighthorse Campbell





Aspen Daily News / Mark Huffman

*Ben Nighthorse Campbell was greeted in Aspen Tuesday by, from left, county commissioner candidate Jim True, state representative candidate Dan Arrow and Aspen city councilwoman Pat Fallin.*