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## April 23, 1991 letter from Glickman to his colleagues

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DAN GLICKMAN  
FOURTH DISTRICT—KANSAS

ASSISTANT MAJORITY WHIP

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CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

WASHINGTON, DC 20515

April 23, 1991

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MYRNE ROE  
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT  
AND STAFF DIRECTOR  
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EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

Dear Colleague:

I urge you, as a member of the House Interior Committee, to join me as an original cosponsor of legislation I plan to introduce next week to establish a Flint Hills Prairie National Monument in Kansas. In a feasibility study of the 10,894-acre Z-Bar Ranch, conducted at the request of the Kansas Congressional Delegation, the National Park Service concludes this unique area exhibits a "high degree of national significance."

The Kansas Flint Hills stand out as one of the few unaltered expanses of the once vast tallgrass prairie, representing a true and unspoiled example of North American natural history. While the tallgrass prairie is considered of prime significance, this ecosystem is very under represented in the National Park System. In fact, the Park Service has been trying to add a tallgrass prairie to the Park System for the last 30 years. There is no other park or facility under the management of the National Park Service devoted to the preservation of the tallgrass prairie and the natural grasslands as they have existed for centuries. Further, the Z-Bar Ranch depicts the significant historic theme of ranches and the cattlemen's empire, which includes the evolution of the holdings of cattle companies during the latter half of the 19th Century.

The purpose of my bill is to preserve a part of the tallgrass prairie in the Flint Hills of Kansas, to protect the area's unique environmental features, and to interpret the historic ranching activities characteristic of that area. Keeping in mind controversial proposals in the past, this legislation will protect adjacent landowners by prohibiting condemnation of property or forced sales of any kind.

I believe that the establishment of a Flint Hills National Monument would bring considerable benefits to Kansas and it is important for Kansas to become a part of the National Park System. Given that the tallgrass prairie is the most distinctively American landform, this could be one of the most important preservation projects in this country. As The Wichita Eagle noted in one of its many editorials in support of the Prairie Monument, the Kansas Flint Hills may soon offer refuge not just to hawks and coyotes, and eventually bison and elk, but to all Americans who are drawn back to their prairie roots.

If you would like to cosponsor this legislation or need additional information, please let me know or call Sherry McCluney at x56216.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Dan".

Dan Glickman