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### GUARINI PUSHES TO STOP STATUE OF LIBERTY FEE

WASHINGTON -- "A dollar per head reduces this monument to a level of crass commercialism. It cheapens her very purpose," said Rep. Frank J. Guarini (D-NJ) as he urged fellow members of Congress to consider legislation which would eliminate the \$1 dollar entrance fee to the Statue of Liberty.

"Charging a fee to enter the Statue is nothing more than another tax. American taxpayers are already contributing almost \$1 billion to America's parks and now, any visitor to the Statue is paying twice," Guarini said.

In March, Guarini introduced a bill to remove the fee imposed in February by the National Park Service which authorized increases at selected areas across the nation.

"Generations of Americans, countless immigrants and millions of foreign visitors flock to our shores to embrace for themselves, the feeling of freedom we have relished since its construction," Guarini said.

"The charge is a slap in the face to everyone who contributed to the renovation," Guarini continued. "This gift from France was intended to applaud our nation's founders for their perpetual commitment to the principles of freedom. Restrictions on public access to this place simply will not do."

Guarini said the admission charge "would hurt poor and large families the most. Our national parks were not intended as revenue raisers, but rather sites bestowing cultural and educational benefits for everyone."

Rep. Bruce Vento (D-MN) introduced a bill asking that admission fees at any national park be eliminated if it is located in an urban area.

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