



RESOLUTION

Resolution No. 19-30

PATRON: Robert W. Lazaro, Jr.
Executive Director
DATE: June 27, 2019

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE RESTORE OUR PARKS AND PUBLIC LANDS ACT

WHEREAS, America's National Park System is a living testament to our citizens' valor, our nation's hardships, our victories, and our traditions as Americans, and has been called "America's Best Idea;" and

WHEREAS, the National Park System preserves the diversity, culture, and heritage of all Americans, and serves as a living classroom for future generations; and

WHEREAS, the National Park Service currently manages more than 400 nationally significant sites and an invaluable collection of more than 75,000 natural and cultural assets that span 84 million acres across all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and several U.S. territories and insular areas, including 19 park units in the Commonwealth of Virginia; and

WHEREAS, the National Park Service's mission is to "to conserve the scenery, the natural and historic assets, and the wildlife therein, and to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations;" and

WHEREAS, in 2017, the National Park System in Virginia had more than 24 million visitors, and estimates that park visitors spent approximately \$1 billion at the sites and local communities adjacent to Virginia's national parks; and

WHEREAS, the National Park Service has the obligation to preserve our nation's history; promote access to national parks for all citizens; stimulate revenue to sustain itself and nearby communities; educate the public about America's natural, cultural and historical resources; and provide safe facilities and environments to enjoy these resources; and

WHEREAS, the National Park Service estimates a deferred maintenance backlog of \$11.9 billion, including over \$1 billion in Virginia alone, and includes repairs to aging historical structures, trails, sewers, drainage, thousands of miles of roads, bridges, tunnels, and other vital infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, it is the responsibility of Congress to maintain America's national parks to ensure our natural places and our history are preserved and documented for future generations, and for the adjacent communities that rely on the direct and indirect economic benefits generated by visits to national park sites.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Northern Virginia Regional Commission strongly encourages Congress to create a reliable, predictable stream of resources to address deferred maintenance needs in America's National Park System.

THEREFORE, IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED that the Executive Director be authorized to forward said resolution to the Northern Virginia delegation in the House of Representatives and to US Senators Warner and Kaine.



CERTIFICATION

The undersigned certifies that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of a resolution adopted at a legally convened meeting of the Northern Virginia Regional Commission on June 27, 2019.


ROBERT W. LAZARO, JR., CERTIFYING OFFICER