November 13, 2018

Dear Member of Congress:

We, the members of the National Parks Second Century Action Coalition, write in support of S. 3172/H.R. 6510, Restore Our Parks Act/Restore Our Parks and Public Lands Act and final passage in the 115th Congress. The Coalition is pleased to see a bipartisan solution to address our national parks maintenance needs that provides dedicated multi-year funding.

Attached is a photobook providing some examples of repair needs throughout the National Park System. We hope you will take a moment to review them.

Current funding sources for the National Park Service have been insufficient to address the magnitude of the $11.6 billion maintenance backlog plaguing our national park sites. Enactment of the Restore Our Parks Act/Restore Our Parks and Public Lands Act—accompanied by increased appropriations, Highway Trust Fund increases for park transportation needs, additional centennial challenge dollars—will ensure the protection of our park resources for future generations.

Our national parks are more popular than ever. Park visitation generated $36 billion for the U.S. economy in 2017 and supported 306,000 jobs. By investing in the restoration of our parks, Congress invests in our local and state economies, creates infrastructure-related jobs, preserves our nation’s heritage, provides recreation access, and helps local communities that depend on park tourism.

We look forward to working with you to ensure final passage of the Restore Our Parks Act/Restore Our Parks and Public Lands Act before the end of this Congress.

Sincerely,

Theresa Pierno  
President and CEO  
National Parks Conservation Association

Philip A. Francis, Jr.  
Chair  
Coalition to Protect America's National Parks

Thomas A. Wathen,  
Vice President  
Environment Americas  
The Pew Charitable Trusts

Amy Roberts  
Executive Director  
Outdoor Industry Association
The National Parks Second Century Action Coalition is made up of organizations supporting conservation, recreation, outdoor industry, travel and tourism and historic preservation that are dedicated to promoting the protection, restoration, and enjoyment of the National Park System for the long-term benefit it offers our nation.

Tori Barnes  
Senior Vice President, Government Relations  
US Travel Association

Dan Puskar  
Executive Director  
Public Lands Alliance

Derrick A. Crandall  
Counselor  
National Park Hospitality Association

Mary Ellen Sprenkel  
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Monica R. Smith  
President & CEO  
Southeast Tourism Society

Laurie B. Ward  
Chief Executive Officer  
Washington’s National Park Fund

Terry Dale  
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Vicki Varela  
Chair, Western States Tourism Policy Council  
Managing Director, Utah Office of Tourism and Film

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