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November 06, 2017

The Honorable Ryan Zinke
Secretary
Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Secretary Zinke,

We appreciate all your hard work to improve access to our national parks, including your effort to address the \$11.3 billion maintenance backlog. We recognize the difficulty in generating revenue to address this backlog, while simultaneously maintaining protections for trails, vegetation, and animal life that may be impacted by the increasing number of visitors. However, we have concerns with the recent proposal put forward by the National Park Service (Service) to significantly increase entrance fees at 17 of our most visited national parks, including Olympic National Park, Mount Rainier National Park, and Grand Canyon National Park. While we agree that fees are an important revenue generator for the Service, we believe this proposal will create a real barrier for low- to moderate-income families and individuals who want to experience these national treasures.

We write to you today to highlight the National Park Service Legacy Act (H.R. 2584) as a bipartisan strategy to address the maintenance backlog as well as request that you extend the public comment period to provide additional time for our constituents to comment on the October 24th proposal.

The proposed increase would roughly triple the cost of visiting these parks during the peak season. This increase would have a profound effect on both those seeking to visit the parks, as well as the gateway communities who depend on these visitors to support local businesses and economies. We believe that all options should be on the table and urge the Administration to continue working with Congress in a bipartisan manner to develop a comprehensive solution, including increasing federal investments that will generate the kind of revenue needed to meaningfully address the backlog without impacting visitation.

Part of this solution should include the National Park Service Legacy Act that we are proud to champion in the U.S. House of Representatives. This bipartisan legislation would direct more than \$1.8 billion in unobligated oil and gas revenues over the next decade to a new permanent fund dedicated to paying down the maintenance backlog, and would maintain a dedicated financing stream of \$500 million annually through 2047. We hope you will seriously consider

this legislative proposal as a core component of your long-term strategy to address the maintenance problem.

We believe this approach represents a key part of the solution to address the challenge of the maintenance backlog. We appreciate your consideration of the National Park Service Legacy Act and an extension of the comment period for the Service's fee hike proposal. Again, we thank you for your efforts in addressing the Service's significant maintenance backlog and hope to work together on the best solution possible.

Sincerely,



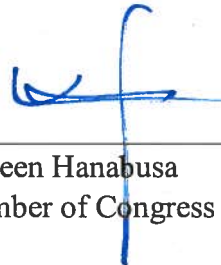
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Dave Reichert
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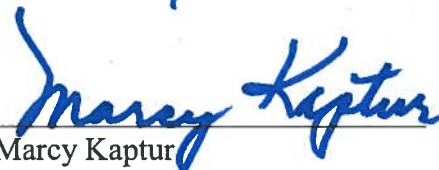
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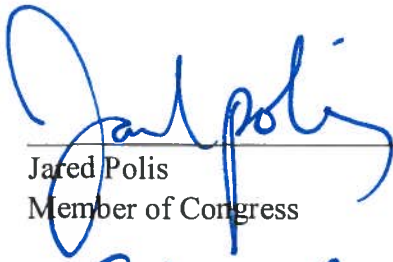
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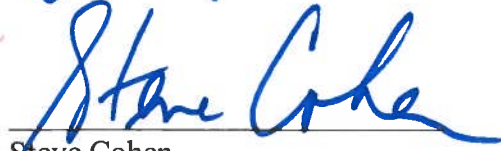
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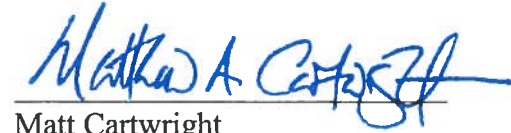
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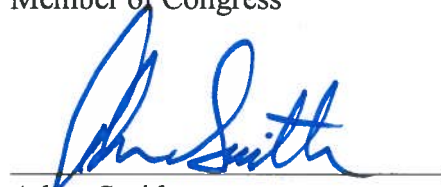
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