



December 5, 2016

Dear Representative,

**We, the members of the National Parks Second Century Action Coalition, write to urge you to vote “yes” on H.R. 4680, the National Park Service Centennial Act, when it comes up for a suspension vote this week.** 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.

With the National Park Service Centennial this year, now is the time to ensure our parks are ready for another 100 years of protecting our most treasured resources and nation’s history for the American people and international visitors. Every dollar invested in the National Park Service yields nearly \$10 in economic activity. In total, national parks support nearly \$32 billion in economic activity and more than a quarter million private-sector jobs annually.

The passage of the National Park Service Centennial Act would formally establish the Centennial Challenge Fund and an endowment to help address some of the financial needs of our nation’s parks. The Centennial Challenge is an innovative program that encourages private individuals, foundations, businesses and others to donate funds to help restore and improve our national parks by providing a federal match for the donations. Previous annual investments have supported valuable centennial projects throughout the country. Passage of this bill would formally establish this program and allow partners additional time and certainty to raise the matching funds. The endowment would provide long term financial support for the national parks by investing monetary gifts and other contributions to be used in the future for projects and activities that support the national parks.

H.R. 4680 also recognizes the importance of national parks as places of learning by enhancing interpretation and education programs, and provides additional opportunities for volunteers in our nation’s treasures. We also support the provisions that allow the National Park Service to recruit and hire more young and diverse Americans like veterans through the Public Lands Corps.

Passage of the National Park Service Centennial Act, coupled with additional investments for national park roads in the recently enacted Fixing America’s Surface Transportation (FAST) Act and increased operation and construction funding in the FY17 appropriations bill, will set up our parks to be better prepared to serve another hundred years and beyond. These investments are certainly part of the solution to better funding our parks, but more must be done. The National Parks Second Action Coalition will continue to work with Congress to more directly address the nearly \$12 billion backlog in the near future.

Thank you for considering our views,

Alaska Geographic  
American Forests  
American Hiking Society  
American Society of Landscape Architects  
Appalachian Trail Conservancy  
Atomic Heritage Foundation  
Big Bend Conservancy  
Cabrillo National Monument Foundation  
Coalition to Protect America's National Parks  
Conservancy for Cuyahoga Valley National Park  
The Corps Network  
East Bay Regional Park District  
Eastern National  
Friends of Acadia  
Friends of Saguaro National Park  
Grand Canyon Association  
Great Smoky Mountains Association  
Los Amigos de Valles Caldera  
Mount Rushmore Society  
National Association for Interpretation  
National Parks Conservation Association  
National Tour Association  
National Trust for Historic Preservation  
Outdoor Industry Association  
Public Lands Alliance  
Rocky Mountain Conservancy  
Southeast Tourism Society  
St. Croix River Association  
Student Conservation Association  
United States Tour Operators Association  
Voyageurs National Park Association  
Washington's National Park Fund  
Western National Parks Association  
Western States Tourism Policy Council