



**A RESOLUTION ENCOURAGING CONGRESS TO CREATE A RELIABLE,  
PREDICTABLE STREAM OF RESOURCES TO ADDRESS DEFERRED  
MAINTENANCE NEEDS IN AMERICA’S PARK SYSTEM**

**WHEREAS**, America’s National Park System is a living testament to our citizens’ valor and nation’s hardships, victories and 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**, in 2016, the National Park Service celebrated its centennial and 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 United States territories and insular areas; and

**WHEREAS**, North Carolina is home to ten national park units, including Cape Hatteras National Seashore, Moores Creek National Battlefield, Great Smoky Mountains National Park and the Blue Ridge Parkway; and

**WHEREAS**, Jackson County is a gateway to both the Blue Ridge Parkway and Great Smoky Mountains National Park and benefits from the tourism associated with visitors to these parks and the improved quality of place for residents; and

**WHEREAS**, the National Park Service’s mission is “to conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wild life 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 2016, 331 million visits, including 11.3 million in Great Smoky Mountains National Park and 15.2 million along the length of the Blue Ridge Parkway; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2016, National Park Service estimates indicate that park visitors spent more than \$942 million in the local communities adjacent to Great Smoky Mountains National Park and \$980 million in those along the Blue Ridge Parkway; 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 environs to enjoy these resources; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2016, the National Park Service estimated a deferred maintenance backlog of \$11.3 billion, including \$67 million in the North Carolina portion of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park and \$261 million along the North Carolina section of the blue Ridge Parkway, which consists of repairs to aging historical structures, trails, sewers, thousands of miles of roads, bridges, tunnels and other vital infrastructure; and

**WHEREAS**, it is the responsibility of the Congress to maintain America's national parks to ensure that 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 BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE COUNTY OF JACKSON**, that the County of Jackson urges congress to create a reliable, predictable stream of resources to address deferred maintenance needs in America's National Park System and to ensure that federal infrastructure initiatives include provisions to address park maintenance.

**ADOPTED** by the Jackson County Board of Commissioners on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of December, 2017.

Attest:

Approved:

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Angela M. Winchester, Clerk to Board

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Brian Thomas McMahan, Chairman