

**MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH
RESOLUTION SERIAL NO. 17-066**

A RESOLUTION OF THE MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH ASSEMBLY ENCOURAGING CONGRESS TO CREATE A RELIABLE, PREDICTABLE STREAM OF RESOURCES TO ADDRESS DEFERRED MAINTENANCE NEEDS IN AMERICA'S NATIONAL PARK SYSTEM.

WHEREAS, America's National Park System is a living testament to our citizen's 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, 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, Alaska is home to 24 national park units, including Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve, Katmai National Park and Preserve, Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park, Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve, and Denali National Park and Preserve; and

WHEREAS, communities through the Matanuska-Susitna Borough neighbor Denali National Park and Preserve, and benefit from the tourism associated with visitors to the park; 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, the National Park System had more than 331 million visits, with 2.7 million visits to national parks in Alaska, and over 587,000 to Denali National Park and Preserve; and

WHEREAS, in 2015, the National Park Service estimates indicate that park visitors spent almost \$1.3 billion in Alaska in the communities adjacent to national parks, including over \$605 million in those communities neighboring Denali National Park and Preserve; 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 2017, the National Park Service estimates a deferred maintenance backlog of nearly \$12 billion, over \$109

million in Alaska, and \$50 million at Denali National Park and Preserve, which includes 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 Congress to maintain America's national parks to ensure our natural places and our history is 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 Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly urges Congress to create a reliable, predictable stream of resources to address deferred maintenance needs in America's National Park System.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Borough Manager is directed to forward a copy of this resolution to the Alaska congressional delegation.


ADOPTED by the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly this 15 day
of August, 2017.


VERN HALTER, Borough Mayor

ATTEST:


LONNIE R. McKECHNIE, CMC, Borough Clerk

(SEAL)



PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: Sykes, McKee, Colligan, Mayfield, Doty, and
Kowalke

