

REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION

**HENDERSON COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

MEETING DATE: September 5, 2017

SUBJECT: Resolution – Encouraging Congress to Create a Reliable, Predictable Stream of Resources to Address Deferred Maintenance Needs in America’s National Park System

PRESENTER: Beth Carden, Tourism Development Authority Director

ATTACHMENTS: Yes
1.) Resolution

SUMMARY OF REQUEST:

The Henderson County Tourism Development Authority adopted the attached Resolution at their August 22, 2017 meeting, and has requested that the Board of Commissioners consider the same.

BOARD ACTION REQUESTED:

The Board is requested to hear discussion on the Resolution, and direct Staff accordingly.

SUGGESTED MOTION:

No motion suggested.

HENDERSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

1 Historic Courthouse Square, Suite #1
Hendersonville, NC 28792
Phone (828) 697-4808 • Fax (828) 692-9855
www.hendersoncountync.org

J. MICHAEL EDNEY
Chairman
GRADY HAWKINS
Vice-Chairman

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WILLIAM LAPSLEY

RESOLUTION

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 citizens 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 U.S. territories and insular areas; and
- WHEREAS,** North Carolina is home to ten national park units, including the Blue Ridge Parkway, Cape Hatteras National Seashore, Moores Creek National Battlefield, Great Smoky Mountains National Park, and Carl Sandburg Home National Historic Site; and
- WHEREAS,** the County of Henderson is a gateway community to both the Carl Sandburg Home National Historic Site and the Blue Ridge Parkway, and benefits from the tourism associated with visitors to these park; and
- WHEREAS,** the National Park Service's mission is to "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 18.5 million in North Carolina, including 81,000 to the Carl Sandburg Home National Historic Site, 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 \$1.3 billion in North Carolina in the local communities adjacent to national parks, including \$4.7 million in those neighboring the Carl Sandburg Home National Historic Site, 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, over \$430 million in North Carolina, \$8 million at the Carl Sandburg Home National Historic Site, and \$261 million along the North Carolina section of the Blue Ridge Parkway, 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 PROCLAIMED,** that we, the Henderson County Board of Commissioners, do hereby urge 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 this the 5th day of September, 2017.

J. MICHAEL EDNEY, CHAIRMAN
HENDERSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

ATTEST:

TERESA L. WILSON, CLERK TO THE BOARD