

RESOLUTION NO. 1761

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COLUMBIA FALLS, MONTANA, SUPPORTING DEDICATED FUNDING FOR THE 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, 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; and

WHEREAS, in 2016, National Park Service estimates indicate that park visitors spent more than \$18.4 billion at the sites and in the states and local communities adjacent to national parks; 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 nearly \$11.3 billion, which includes repairs to aging historical structures, trails, sewers, drainage, 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 **Columbia Falls City Council** strongly encourages Congress to create a reliable, predictable stream of resources to address deferred maintenance needs in America's National Park System.

PASSED AND ADOPTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF COLUMBIA FALLS, MONTANA, THIS 2ND DAY OF OCTOBER 2017, THE COUNCIL VOTING AS FOLLOWS:

AYES: Shepard, Fisher, Lovering, Piper and Barnhart

NOES: None

ABSENT: Petersen

City Clerk

APPROVED BY THE MAYOR OF COLUMBIA FALLS, MONTANA, THIS 2nd
DAY OF OCTOBER, 2017.

MAYOR

ATTEST:

City Clerk