



**RESOLUTION TITLE: GASTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
CONGRESSIONAL REQUEST: A 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, and Great Smoky Mountains National Park; and,
- WHEREAS, the County of Gaston is a gateway community to Kings Mountain National Military Park, and benefits from the tourism associated with visitors to the 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, and 263,000 to Kings Mountain National Military Park; 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 \$10.5 million in those neighboring Kings Mountain National Military Park; 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,

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I, Donna S. Buff, Clerk to the County Commission, do hereby certify that the above is a true and correct copy of action taken by the Board of Commissioners as follows:

Gaston County Board of Commissioners

Congressional Request: A Resolution Encouraging Congress to Create a Reliable, Predictable Stream of Resources to Address Deferred Maintenance Needs in America's National Park System

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WHEREAS, in 2016, the National Park Service estimated a deferred maintenance backlog of \$11.3 billion, over \$430 million in North Carolina, and \$4.8 million at Kings Mountain National Military Park, 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 Gaston County Board of Commissioners 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.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be forwarded to the North Carolina Congressional Delegation.