
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 251 Session of
2019

INTRODUCED BY DOWLING, MARSHALL, MALONEY, CONKLIN, ISAACSON,
MILLARD, DONATUCCI, PICKETT, FREEMAN, READSHAW, CIRESI,
KORTZ, BROWN, GALLOWAY, NEILSON, BRIGGS, SHUSTERMAN, KENYATTA
AND WEBSTER, APRIL 25, 2019

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON TOURISM AND RECREATIONAL DEVELOPMENT,
APRIL 25, 2019

A RESOLUTION

1 Encouraging the Congress of the United States to create a
2 reliable, predictable stream of resources to address deferred
3 maintenance needs in America's National Park System.

4 WHEREAS, On August 25, 1916, the Congress of the United
5 States established the National Park Service with the mission
6 "to conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects
7 and the wildlife therein and to provide for the enjoyment of the
8 same in such manner and by such means as will leave them
9 unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations"; and

10 WHEREAS, The people of the United States have inherited the
11 remarkable legacy of the National Park System, which serves as a
12 living testament to our residents' valor, our nation's
13 hardships, our victories and our traditions as Americans; and

14 WHEREAS, The National Park Service preserves the diversity,
15 culture and heritage of all Americans; and

16 WHEREAS, The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania is home to 15
17 national parks, 2 national recreation areas and 1 National Park

1 Service regional office; and

2 WHEREAS, In 2017, the National Park Service began its second
3 century of stewardship of more than 400 nationally significant
4 sites across the county, including majestic landscapes such as
5 the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area, hallowed
6 battlefields and memorials, including Gettysburg National
7 Military Park, Flight 93 National Memorial, Valley Forge
8 National Historical Park and Fort Necessity National
9 Battlefield, and iconic cultural and historical sites, including
10 Independence National Historical Park, Steamtown National
11 Historic Site and the Johnstown Flood National Memorial; and

12 WHEREAS, Communities adjacent to national parks benefit from
13 tourism associated with visitors to these sites and the improved
14 quality of the site for the residents; and

15 WHEREAS, In 2017, the National Park System had more than 331
16 million visits, including over 10 million in Pennsylvania; and

17 WHEREAS, The National Park Service estimates that in 2017
18 park visitors spent more than \$478 million at businesses in
19 communities adjacent to the national park sites throughout
20 Pennsylvania, supporting an estimated 7,473 jobs and resulting
21 in \$691 million in economic output in this Commonwealth; and

22 WHEREAS, In 2018, the National Park Service estimates a
23 deferred maintenance backlog of \$11.9 billion, including over
24 \$314 million in national park units in Pennsylvania, which
25 includes repairs to aging historical structures, trails, sewers,
26 thousands of miles of roads, bridges, tunnels and other vital
27 infrastructure needs; and

28 WHEREAS, It is the responsibility of the Congress of the
29 United States to maintain America's national parks to ensure our
30 natural places and our history are preserved and documented for

1 future generations and for the adjacent communities that rely on
2 the direct and indirect economic benefits generated by visitors
3 to national park sites; therefore be it

4 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the
5 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania encourage the Congress of the
6 United States to create a reliable, predictable stream of
7 resources to address deferred maintenance needs in America's
8 National Park System; and be it further

9 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the
10 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania urge Congress to ensure that
11 Federal infrastructure initiatives include provisions to address
12 national park maintenance; and be it further

13 RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be transmitted to
14 the Secretary of the United States Senate, the Clerk of the
15 United States House of Representatives and to each member of
16 Congress from Pennsylvania.