

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 30

BY SENATOR MORRELL AND REPRESENTATIVES BAGNERIS AND BOUIE

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To memorialize Congress to create a reliable, predictable stream of resources to address deferred maintenance needs in America's National Park System and to designate April 15, 2017, through April 23, 2017, as "National Park Week" in Louisiana.

WHEREAS, on August 25, 1916, Congress established the National Park Service with the mission to preserve unimpaired natural and cultural resources and values of the National Park System for the enjoyment, education, and inspiration of current and future generations; and

WHEREAS, in 2017, the National Park Service began its second century of stewardship of the National Park System after the 2016 National Park Service Centennial, which celebrated one hundred years of the work of the National Park Service to protect and manage majestic landscapes such as Barataria Preserve, hallowed battlefields such as Chalmette Battlefield, and iconic cultural and historical sites of the United States such as Poverty Point and the Cane River National Heritage Area; and

WHEREAS, the National Park Service's employees, volunteers, and park supporters continue to dedicate themselves to serving the parks' national and international visitors and to maintaining and improving the national parks for all to enjoy; and

WHEREAS, the national parks of the United States attracted record-breaking visitation during the National Park Service Centennial, with three hundred thirty-one million recreational visits in 2016; and

WHEREAS, in 2015, National Park Service estimates indicate that park visitors spent more than sixteen billion nine hundred million dollars at the sites and in the states and local communities adjacent to national parks; and

WHEREAS, in 2015, National Park Service estimates indicate that park visitors spent more than twenty-eight million dollars at the sites in and local communities adjacent to Louisiana's national parks; and

WHEREAS, in 2016, the National Park Service estimated a deferred maintenance backlog of nearly twelve billion dollars, which includes repairs to aging historical structures, trails, sewers, drainage, thousands of miles of roads, bridges, tunnels, and other vital infrastructure needs; and

WHEREAS, in 2016, the National Park Service estimated a deferred maintenance backlog of over fifteen million dollars in Louisiana's national parks, which includes repairs to aging historical structures, trails, sewers, drainage, thousands of miles of roads, bridges, tunnels, and other vital infrastructure needs; and

WHEREAS, it has been found that every public dollar invested in the National Park Service returns ten dollars because of visitor spending that works through local, state, and national economies; and

WHEREAS, the people of the United States have inherited the remarkable legacy of the National Park System and are entrusted with its preservation as the United States marks the beginning of the second century of the National Park System.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby memorialize the Congress of the United States 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 Legislature of Louisiana does hereby designate April 15, 2017, through April 23, 2017, as "National Park Week" in Louisiana and encourages the people of the United States and the world to visit and experience the treasured national parks of the state of Louisiana.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution shall be transmitted to the secretary of the United States Senate and the clerk of the United States House of Representatives and to each member of the Louisiana delegation to the United States Congress.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES