

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 18, 2016

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski
Chairman
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
131 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Tom Udall
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
125 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Murkowski and Ranking Member Udall:

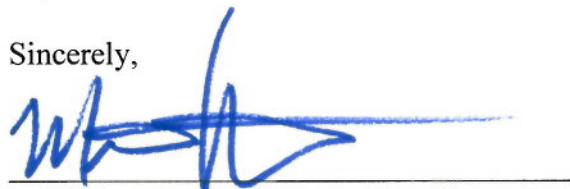
As you begin drafting the fiscal year 2017 Interior, Environment and Related Agencies appropriations bill, we would request that you once again provide sufficient funding to allow the National Park Service to significantly address the backlog maintenance issue which is seriously impeding the visitor experience in our national parks.

With a nearly \$6 billion maintenance backlog attributable to the type of repair, rehabilitation and cyclic maintenance projects that receive funding through the Interior appropriations bill, it is imperative that the noteworthy increases provided last year be sustained or increased.

In addition to protecting some of our nation's most awe-inspiring land and important historic sites, our National Park System serves as an important economic engine both nationally and in adjacent communities. It is crucial that national park facilities be kept safe and accessible so they may continue to welcome and educate the millions of American and international visitors who pass through their gates each year.

Thank you for your continued support of our national parks and for your consideration of this request.

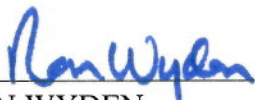
Sincerely,



MARTIN HEINRICH
United States Senator



SUSAN M. COLLINS
United States Senator



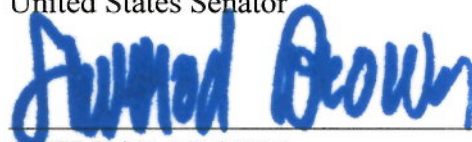
RON WYDEN
United States Senator




BARBARA BOXER
United States Senator



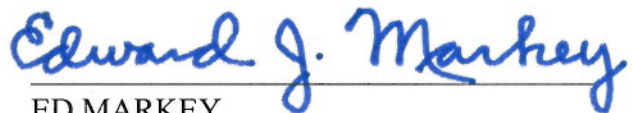
BRIAN SCHATZ
United States Senator



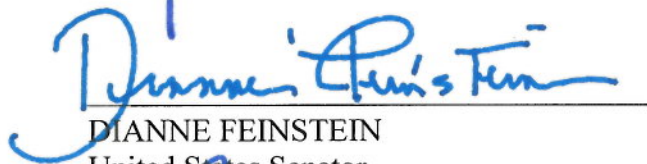
SHERROD BROWN
United States Senator



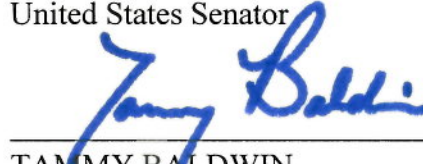
ELIZABETH WARREN
United States Senator



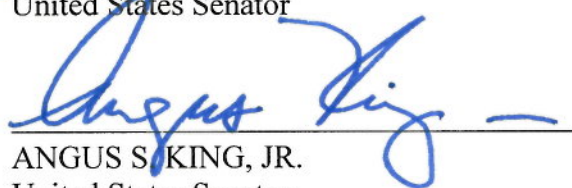
ED MARKEY
United States Senator



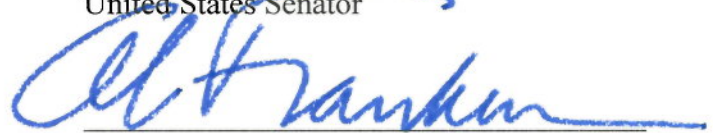
DIANNE FEINSTEIN
United States Senator



TAMMY BALDWIN
United States Senator



ANGUS S. KING, JR.
United States Senator



AL FRANKEN
United States Senator



JEFFREY A. MERKLEY
United States Senator



JEANNE SHAHEEN
United States Senator



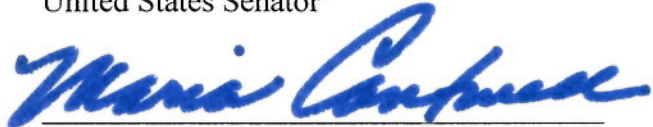
MAZIE K. HIRONO
United States Senator



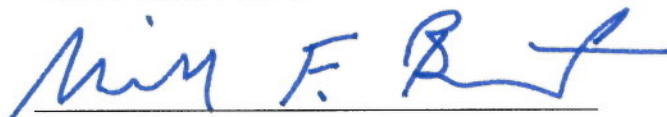
DEBBIE STABENOW
United States Senator



GARY C. PETERS
United States Senator



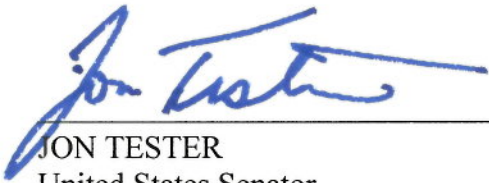
MARIA CANTWELL
United States Senator



MICHAEL F. BENNET
United States Senator



CHARLES SCHUMER
United States Senator



JON TESTER
United States Senator



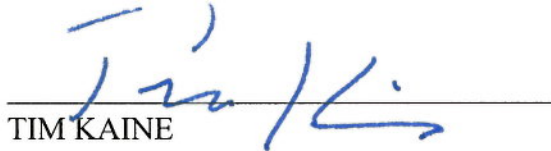
MARK WARNER
United States Senator



RICHARD BLUMENTHAL
United States Senator



KIRSTEN GILLIBRAND
United States Senator



TIM KAINE
United States Senator