



Resolution #2018-02

TOWN COUNCIL

OF THE

TOWN OF BLOWING ROCK

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

**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 Cape Hatteras National Seashore, Moores Creek National Battlefield, Great Smoky Mountains National Park, and the Blue Ridge Parkway.

WHEREAS, the Town of Blowing Rock is a gateway community to the Blue Ridge

Parkway, and benefits from the tourism associated with visitors to the park and the improved quality of place for residents; 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, including 15.2 million along the length of the Blue Ridge Parkway; and

WHEREAS, in 2016, National Park Service estimates indicate that park visitors spent more than \$980 million in the communities along the Blue Ridge Parkway, supporting an estimated 15,600 jobs; 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 \$11.3 billion, including \$261 million along the North Carolina section of the Blue Ridge Parkway, which consists of repairs to aging historical structures, trails, sewers, thousands of miles of roads, bridges, tunnels, and other vital infrastructure.

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 BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE TOWN OF BLOWING ROCK that the Town of Blowing Rock 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.

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED this 13th day of February, 2018.

Charlie Sellers, Mayor

Hilari Hubner, Town Clerk