

RESOLUTION NO.: R-2017-067

*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, South Carolina is home to six national park units, including Kings Mountain National Military Park, Fort Sumter National Monument, Cowpens National Battlefield, and Congaree National Park; and,

WHEREAS, the City of Columbia is a gateway community to Congaree National Park, and benefits from the tourism associated with visitors to the park and 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, with 1.7 million in South Carolina, and 143,000 to Congaree National Park; and,

WHEREAS, in 2016, National Park Service estimates indicate that park visitors spent more than \$93 million in South Carolina in the local communities adjacent to national parks, including \$7.3 million in those neighboring Congaree National 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,

WHEREAS, in 2016, the National Park Service estimated a deferred maintenance backlog of \$11.3 billion, over \$28 million in South Carolina, and \$3.9 million at Congaree National Park, which includes repairs to aging historical structures, trails, sewers, thousands of miles of roads, bridges, tunnels, and other vital infrastructure; and,

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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 this 18th day of July, 2017, that the Mayor and City Council of the City of Columbia urge 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 the City Clerk is directed to forward a copy of this resolution to the South Carolina congressional delegation.

Requested by:

Councilmember Duvall



Mayor

Approved by:



City Manager

Approved as to form:



City Attorney

ATTEST:


City Clerk

Introduced: 7/18/2017

Final Reading: 7/18/2017