

INCORPORATED COUNTY OF LOS ALAMOS RESOLUTION NO. 16-18

**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 is celebrating its centennial and currently manages 410 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, New Mexico is home to 15 national park units, including Valles Caldera National Preserve, Carlsbad Caverns National Park, and the newly formed Manhattan Project National Historical Park, as well as monuments like Bandelier and White Sands; and

WHEREAS, Los Alamos County is a gateway community to three national parks: Bandelier National Monument, Manhattan Project National Historical Park, and Valles Caldera National Preserve; and

WHEREAS, the National Park Service's mission is "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 2015, the National Park System had more than 307 million visitors with 1.7 million of them enjoying national parks in New Mexico; and

WHEREAS, a recent report has shown that for every one-dollar we invest in our national parks, there is a ten-dollar economic benefit to the local community; and

WHEREAS, national parks support over 275,000 direct and secondary jobs nationwide; and

WHEREAS, in 2015, the National Park Service estimates indicated that park visitors spent more than \$97.5 million in New Mexico at the sites and local communities adjacent to national parks; 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 nearly \$12 billion, over \$113 million of which is needed in New Mexico which includes repairs to aging historical structures, trails, sewers, drainage, thousands of miles of roads, bridges, tunnels, and other vital infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, needed repairs in New Mexico include an outdated electrical system at Bandelier, out-of-service elevators at Carlsbad Caverns, deferred trail maintenance at Petroglyph National Monument and at the Pecos National Historic Park, as well as other maintenance at Valles Caldera, Manhattan Project National Historical Park, Chaco Canyon, El Malpais, Gila Cliff Dwellings, Old Santa Fe Trail Building National Historic Site, and White Sands; and

WHEREAS, it is the responsibility of Congress to maintain America's national parks to ensure that 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 COUNTY OF LOS ALAMOS that the County of Los Alamos urges Congress 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 County Clerk is directed to forward a copy of this Resolution to the Secretary of the Interior, Director of the Office of Cabinet Affairs, President Pro Tempore of the U.S. Senate, Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives and the New Mexico Congressional delegation.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 30th day of August, 2016.

**COUNCIL OF THE INCORPORATED COUNTY
OF LOS ALAMOS, NEW MEXICO**

**Rick Reiss
Council Chair**

ATTEST:

**Sharon Stover
Los Alamos County Clerk**