



NORTH CAROLINA MOUNTAIN TOWNS OF CASHIERS,
CHEROKEE, DILLSBORO AND SYLVA

TOURISM DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY OF THE COUNTY OF JACKSON

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

WHEREAS, the County of Jackson is a gateway community to both the Blue Ridge Parkway and Great Smoky Mountains National Park, and benefits from the tourism associated with visitors to these park; 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 18.5 million in North Carolina, including 11.3 million in Great Smoky Mountains National Park, and 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 \$1.3 billion in North Carolina in the local communities adjacent to national parks, and \$942 million in those neighboring Great Smoky Mountains National Park, and \$980 million in those along the Blue Ridge Parkway; 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 \$430 million in North Carolina, \$67 million in the North Carolina portion of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, and \$261 million along the North Carolina section of the Blue Ridge Parkway, which includes repairs to aging historical structures, trails, sewers, thousands of miles of roads, bridges, tunnels, and other vital infrastructure; and

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 TOURISM DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY OF THE COUNTY OF JACKSON that we 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.

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED this 5 day of December, 2017.

Attest, Secretary
Jackson County TDA Board

Vijay Patel, Chairman of the Board