

Introduced by: Dunne, Carpenter, Mayor
Date: 03/21/17
Action: Adopted
Vote: 8 Yes, 1 No, 0 Absent

**KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH
RESOLUTION 2017-029**

**A RESOLUTION ENCOURAGING CONGRESS TO CREATE A RELIABLE,
PREDICTABLE STREAM OF RESOURCES TO ADDRESS DEFERRED
MAINTENANCE NEEDS IN AMERICA'S NATIONAL PARK SYSTEM**

WHEREAS, American'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 services 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, Alaska is home to 24 national park units, including Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park, Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve, Denali National Park and Preserve, Lake Clark National Park and Preserve, Katmai National Park and Preserve, and Kenai Fjords National Park; and

WHEREAS, communities throughout the Kenai Peninsula Borough neighbor Kenai Fjords National Park, Lake Clark National Park and Preserve, and Katmai National Park and Preserve, and benefit greatly from the tourism associated with visitors to these parks; and

WHEREAS, the National Park Service's mission is "to conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and 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 visits, with 2.6 million in national parks in Alaska, almost 300,000 to Kenai Fjords National Park, almost 40,000 to Katmai National Park and Preserve, and almost 18,000 to Lake Clark National Park and Preserve; and

WHEREAS, in 2015, National Park Service estimates indicate that park visitors spent almost \$1.2 billion in the local communities adjacent to national parks in Alaska, including over \$144 million in the communities neighboring Kenai Fjords National Park, Lake Clark National Park and Preserve and Katmai National Park and Preserve; 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 \$117 million in Alaska, and \$4.1 million at Kenai Fjords National Park, \$1.6 million in Lake Clark National Park and Preserve and \$13.8 million at Katmai National Park and Preserve, 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;

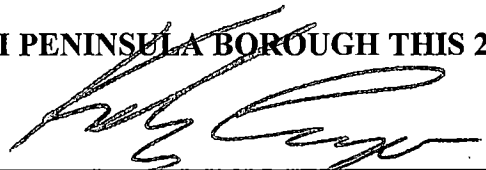
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH:

SECTION 1. The Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly urges Congress to create a reliable, predictable stream of resources to address deferred maintenance needs in America's National Park System.

SECTION 2. The Borough Clerk is directed to forward a copy of this resolution to the Alaska congressional delegation.

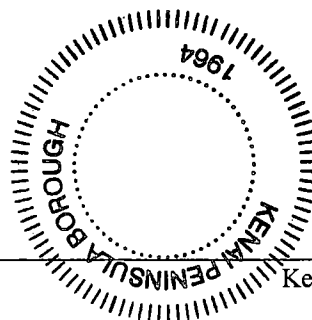
SECTION 3. That this resolution takes effect immediately upon its adoption.

ADOPTED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH THIS 21ST DAY OF MARCH, 2017.


Kelly Cooper, Assembly President

ATTEST:


John Blankenship, MMC, Borough Clerk



Yes: Bagley, Carpenter, Dunne, Fischer, Hibbert, Ogle, Schaefer, Cooper
No: Welles
Absent: None