

RESOLUTION R-18-133

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF MANATEE COUNTY IN SUPPORT OF THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE AND ENCOURAGING CONGRESS TO CREATE A RELIABLE, PREDICTABLE STREAM OF RESOURCES TO ADDRESS DEFERRED MAINTENANCE NEEDS IN AMERICA'S NATIONAL PARK SYSTEM KNOWN AS THE RESTORE AMERICA'S PARKS INITIATIVE.

WHEREAS, America's National Park Service 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 Service 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 in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and several U.S. territories and insular areas; and

WHEREAS, Florida is home to nine national park units, including Big Cypress National Preserve, Biscayne National Park, Canaveral National Seashore, Castillo de San Marcos National Monument, De Soto National Memorial, Dry Tortugas National Park, Everglades National Park, Gulf Islands National Seashore and Timucuan Ecological and Historic 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 2017, the National Park Service had more than 330 million visits; and

WHEREAS, in 2017, the National Park Service indicated that park visitors spent more than \$18.2 billion at the site and in the state 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 2017, the National Park Service deferred maintenance backlog of nearly \$11.6 billion, which included repairs to aging historical structures, trails, sewers, drainage, 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 BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF MANATEE COUNTY, FLORIDA:

- Section 1 The Board of County Commissioners of Manatee County strongly encourages Congress to create a reliable, predictable stream of resources to address deferred maintenance needs in America's National Park Service.
- Section 2 The resolution shall become effective upon adoption.

ADOPTED by the Board of County Commissioners of Manatee County with a quorum present and voting this _____ day of _____ 2018.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
MANATEE COUNTY, FLORIDA

By: _____
Chairperson, Commissioner Priscilla Trace

ATTEST: Angelina "Angel" Colonnese
Clerk of the Circuit Court and Comptroller

By: _____
Deputy Clerk