

Milford Wayne Donaldson, FAIA
Chairman

Leonard A. Forsman
Vice Chairman

John M. Fowler
Executive Director



Preserving America's Heritage

August 20, 2018

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski
Chairman
Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
Dirksen Senate Office Building, SD-304
Washington, DC 20510-6150

The Honorable Maria Cantwell
Ranking Minority Member
Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
Dirksen Senate Office Building, SD-304
Washington, DC 20510-6150

Dear Senators Murkowski and Cantwell:

The Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) would like to express its support for the Restore Our Parks Act (S. 3172) and the Restore Our Parks and Public Lands Act (H.R. 6510). Established by the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, the ACHP is the independent federal agency charged with advising the President and Congress on matters relating to historic preservation. The voting ACHP members unanimously supported the referenced legislation (with the Department of Agriculture abstaining).

As you know, the Department of the Interior (DOI) estimates that it currently has a backlog of about \$16 billion worth of deferred maintenance. The largest portion of that total – \$11.6 billion – reflects needed maintenance of National Park Service (NPS) properties. It has been estimated that 47 percent of the NPS assets needing repair are historic, making deferred maintenance a significant threat to the long-term preservation of NPS's inventory of historic properties. Looking at just two parks, historic properties in Denali National Park and Preserve need \$34.7 million in deferred maintenance, and historic properties in Mount Rainier National Park suffer from a \$136.9 million maintenance backlog. Left unchecked, such deferred maintenance could jeopardize the enjoyment by future generations of irreplaceable historic properties throughout our National Parks.

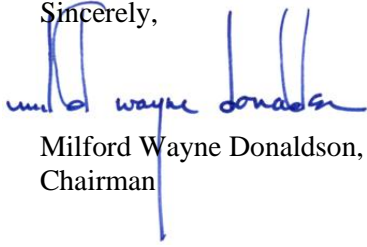
Creation of a deferred maintenance fund from federal energy development revenues, as proposed by the legislation under consideration, builds upon existing Congressional policy precedent. Both the Historic Preservation Fund and the Land & Water Conservation Fund are funded by energy development revenues, and the successful track record of these funds demonstrates the wisdom inherent in using such revenues to help preserve natural and cultural resources. The proposed deferred maintenance fund would provide a critically needed influx of money to address DOI's maintenance backlog. Both bills would help preserve NPS historic properties, whether through NPS receipt of 100% of the fund as called for in the Restore Our Parks Act or 80% of the fund as proposed in the Restore Our Parks and Public Lands Act.

ADVISORY COUNCIL ON HISTORIC PRESERVATION

401 F Street NW, Suite 308 • Washington, DC 20001-2637
Phone: 202-517-0200 • Fax: 202-517-6381 • achp@achp.gov • www.achp.gov

Please feel free to contact us if the ACHP can answer any questions regarding our support for these bills or if the ACHP can be of any further assistance. Our Executive Director, John Fowler, may be reached at (202) 517-0200.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "milford wayne donaldson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a vertical line extending downwards from the end of the name.

Milford Wayne Donaldson, FAIA
Chairman

Milford Wayne Donaldson, FAIA
Chairman

Leonard A. Forsman
Vice Chairman

John M. Fowler
Executive Director



Preserving America's Heritage

August 20, 2018

The Honorable Rob Bishop
Chairman
Committee on Natural Resources
1324 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Raul Grijalva
Ranking Minority Member
Committee on Natural Resources
1324 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Bishop and Mr. Grijalva:

The Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) would like to express its support for the Restore Our Parks Act (S. 3172) and the Restore Our Parks and Public Lands Act (H.R. 6510). Established by the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, the ACHP is the independent federal agency charged with advising the President and Congress on matters relating to historic preservation. The voting ACHP members unanimously supported the referenced legislation (with the Department of Agriculture abstaining).

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