

PROCLAMATION

the city of RIDGELAND



RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR THE 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, 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 2015, the National Park System had more than 305 million visits; and

WHEREAS, in 2014, National Park Service estimates indicate that park visitors spent more than \$15 billion at the sites and in the states 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, which includes 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, I GENE F. MCGEE, Mayor of the City of Ridgeland, Mississippi strongly encourage Congress to create a reliable, predictable stream of resources to address deferred maintenance needs in America's National Park System.

IN WITNESS THEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this the
6th day of September in the year of

our Lord, 2016

GENE F. MCGEE, MAYOR

