

RESOLUTION #2017-10

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, South Carolina is home to six national park units, including Congaree National Park, Cowpens National Battlefield, the Charles Pinckney National Historic Site, and Fort Sumter National Monument.

WHEREAS, the Town of James Island is a gateway community to Fort Sumter National Monument, and benefits from the tourism associated with visitors to the park and improved quality of place for residents; 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 1.7 million in South Carolina, and 888,000 to Fort Sumter National Monument; and

WHEREAS, in 2016, National Park Service estimates indicate that park visitors spent more than

\$93 million in South Carolina in the local communities adjacent to national parks, including \$52 million in those neighboring Fort Sumter National Monument; and

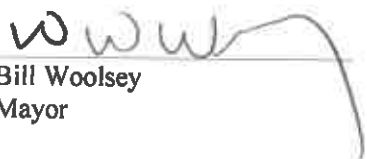
WHEREAS, the National Park Service has the obligation to preserve our nation's history; promote access to national parks for all citizens; stimulate revenue to sustain itself and nearby communities; educate the public about America's natural, cultural and historical resources, and provide safe facilities and environs to enjoy these resources; and

WHEREAS, in 2016, the National Park Service estimated a deferred maintenance backlog of \$11.3 billion, over \$28 million in South Carolina, and \$11.7 million at Fort Sumter National Monument, which includes repairs to aging historical structures, trails, sewers, thousands of miles of roads, bridges, tunnels, and other vital infrastructure; and

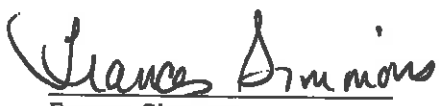
WHEREAS, it is the responsibility of Congress to maintain America's national parks to ensure our natural places and our history is preserved and documented for future generations, and for the adjacent communities that rely on the direct and indirect economic benefits generated by visits to national park sites.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE TOWN OF JAMES ISLAND that the Town of James Island urges 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 17 day of August, 2017.


Bill Woolsey
Mayor

ATTEST


Frances Simmons
Town Clerk