

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

May 9, 2025

The Honorable Mike Simpson
Chairman
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment,
and Related Agencies
House Committee on Appropriations
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Chellie Pingree
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment,
and Related Agencies
House Committee on Appropriations
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Simpson and Ranking Member Pingree:

The National Park Service (NPS) serves an essential role connecting both Americans and international visitors to our exquisite environment, our national past, and each other. The NPS is responsible for safeguarding the irreplaceable magnificent natural wonders and significant historical and cultural resources of our nation. As members of Congress who care about America's national parks and their cultural, natural, historic, recreational and economic importance, we appreciate the investments the Appropriations Committee has made in the NPS to date. Now more than ever, **we express our strong support for robust funding for NPS operations in Fiscal Year (FY) 2026.**

Each unit managed by the National Park Service is unique, and all 433 throughout the country need Congress' support to thrive. Units like Rocky Mountain National Park and the Great Smoky Mountains National Park are some of the most visited, and feature alpine lakes, mountain peaks, and diverse wildlife. There are units like City of Rocks National Reserve and Acadia National Park that preserve outstanding rock formations, islands and beaches. Some units preserve historic battlefields like Antietam National Battlefield or Minute Man National Historical Park and educate visitors about combat that shaped our nation. There are units like the Carlsbad Caverns and Mammoth Cave that are treasures above the ground and caverns below that include the world's longest known cave system.

There are units like Mount Rainier and Voyageurs National Parks that are known for alpine rivers, lush forests, hot springs, lakes, and rivers. Some units preserve our nation's deserts like Joshua Tree and Death Valley National Parks, while other units preserve tundra, forests, and glaciers like Denali, Sequoia, and Glacier National Parks. Others preserve, interpret and commemorate difficult chapters in our history, such as Birmingham Civil Rights National Monument and Manzanar and Sand Creek Massacre National Historic Sites. And there are some that are based in our urban cities, like the Paterson Great Falls National Historical Park, which preserves the humble beginnings of the industrial revolution that changed the face of the United States.

National parks deserve robust funding support in part because they are central to the quality of life and tourism economies of countless rural communities. With more than 80 percent of Americans living in urban areas, it is also critical that our national parks are vibrant so that visitors in all types of communities can experience their benefits. Federal investments are needed to support the conservation of these important national lands and historic features that were designated for their cultural and historic significance, scenic and environmental attributes, and educational and recreational opportunities.

Thanks to previous investments, the NPS is an important driver of economic activity for communities across our nation. In 2023, 325 million national park visitors spent more than \$26 billion in local gateway regions, supporting 415,000 jobs and \$55.6 billion in total economic output. Put simply, for every dollar Congress invests in the NPS, more than \$15 in economic activity is generated for our economy.

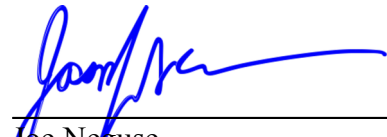
Operating and maintaining the National Park System is an important responsibility for the federal government. The investments made in the operation and maintenance of national parks in FY26 would support visitor and volunteer programs, day-to-day maintenance and repairs, historic resource protection, visitor interpretation experiences, wildlife monitoring, recreation management and more. It is especially important that robust funding be provided for all national park units so that they can meet their mission to protect irreplaceable natural and cultural resources and provide for safe and inspiring experiences for park visitors. With now record visitation of almost 332 million recreation visits in 2024 and the challenge of significant understaffing of our parks, they need your support now more than ever.

We recognize and thank you for your ongoing efforts to support our national parks. These funds protect our heritage, improve the visitor experience and contribute to robust tourism that fuels the American economy. Thank you for your time and attention to our request. We look forward to working together to build on your long-standing support for the NPS.

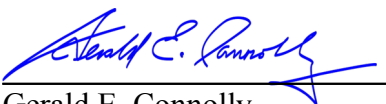
Sincerely,



Brian Fitzpatrick
Member of Congress



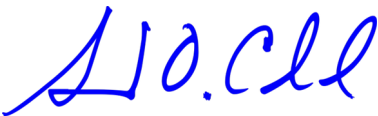
Joe Neguse
Member of Congress



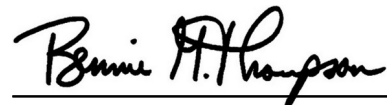
Gerald E. Connolly
Member of Congress



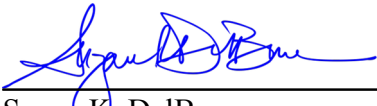
Sharice L. Davids
Member of Congress



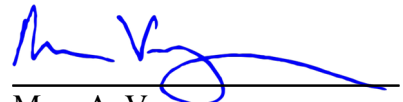
Salud Carbajal
Member of Congress



Bennie G. Thompson
Member of Congress



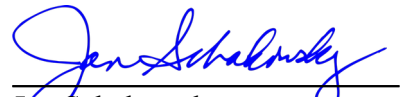
Suzan K. DelBene
Member of Congress



Marc A. Veasey
Member of Congress



Jim Costa
Member of Congress



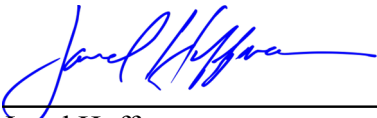
Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress



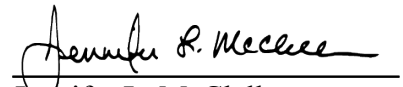
Brendan F. Boyle
Member of Congress



Ro Khanna
Member of Congress



Jared Huffman
Member of Congress



Jennifer L. McClellan
Member of Congress



Brittany Pettersen
Member of Congress




Doris Matsui
Member of Congress




Rashida Tlaib
Member of Congress




Donald S. Beyer Jr.
Member of Congress




John B. Larson
Member of Congress



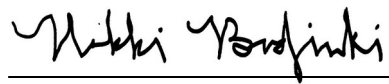
Nydia M. Velázquez
Member of Congress




Marilyn Strickland
Member of Congress



Nanette Diaz Barragán
Member of Congress



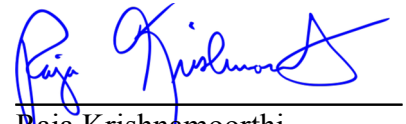
Nikki Budzinski
Member of Congress




Pramila Jayapal
Member of Congress



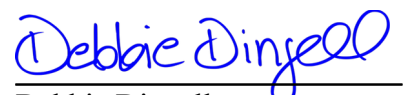
Jen A. Kiggans
Member of Congress




Raja Krishnamoorthi
Member of Congress




Terri A. Sewell
Member of Congress



Debbie Dingell
Member of Congress



Jimmy Panetta
Member of Congress



Lucy McBath
Member of Congress



David Scott
Member of Congress



Mary Gay Scanlon
Member of Congress



Gwen S. Moore
Member of Congress



Lizzie Fletcher
Member of Congress



Dina Titus
Member of Congress



Andre Carson
Member of Congress



Donald G. Davis
Member of Congress



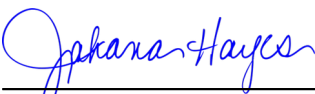
Morgan McGarvey
Member of Congress



Frederica S. Wilson
Member of Congress



Josh Gottheimer
Member of Congress



Jahana Hayes
Member of Congress



Mikie Sherrill
Member of Congress



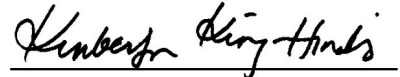
Jason Crow
Member of Congress



Frank Pallone, Jr.
Member of Congress



Mark DeSaulnier
Member of Congress



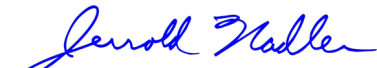
Kimberlyn King-Hinds
Member of Congress



Seth Moulton
Member of Congress



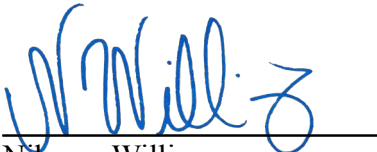
Paul D. Tonko
Member of Congress



Jerrold Nadler
Member of Congress



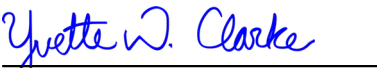
Juan Vargas
Member of Congress



Nikema Williams
Member of Congress



Eric Swalwell
Member of Congress



Yvette D. Clarke
Member of Congress



Emanuel Cleaver, II
Member of Congress



Raul Ruiz, M.D.
Member of Congress



Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress



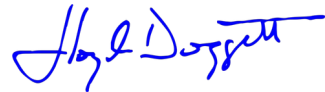
Stephen F. Lynch
Member of Congress



Angie Craig
Member of Congress



Shri Thanedar
Member of Congress



Lloyd Doggett
Member of Congress



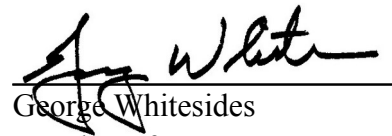
Mike Thompson
Member of Congress



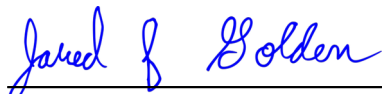
Delia C. Ramirez
Member of Congress



Joe Courtney
Member of Congress



George Whitesides
Member of Congress



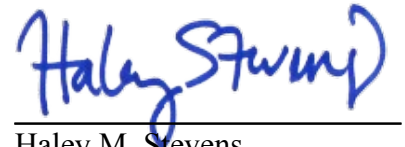
Jared Golden
Member of Congress




Lori Trahan
Member of Congress




Seth Magaziner
Member of Congress




Haley M. Stevens
Member of Congress



Dwight Evans
Member of Congress




Gabe Vasquez
Member of Congress




Robin L. Kelly
Member of Congress



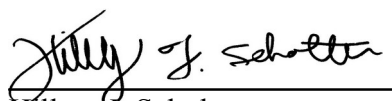
Greg Casar
Member of Congress



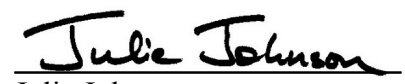
Zoe Lofgren
Member of Congress



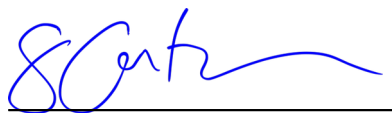
Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.
Member of Congress




Hillary J. Scholten
Member of Congress



Julie Johnson
Member of Congress



Sean Casten
Member of Congress



JM Tokuda
Member of Congress



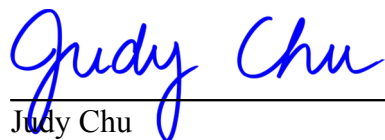
Chrissy Houlahan
Member of Congress



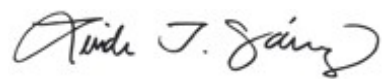
Danny K. Davis
Member of Congress



Carol D. Miller
Member of Congress



Judy Chu
Member of Congress



Linda T. Sánchez
Member of Congress



Greg Stanton
Member of Congress



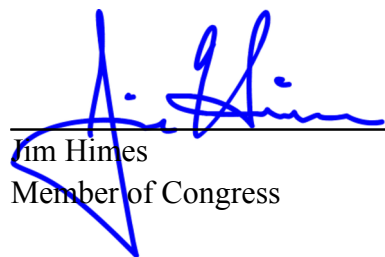
Richard E. Neal
Member of Congress



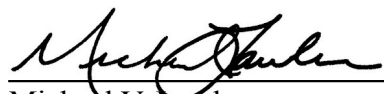
Rob Bresnahan, Jr.
Member of Congress



Alma S. Adams, Ph.D.
Member of Congress



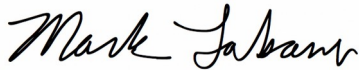
Jim Himes
Member of Congress



Michael V. Lawler
Member of Congress



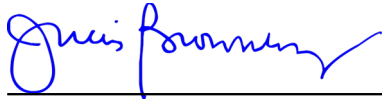
Bill Foster
Member of Congress



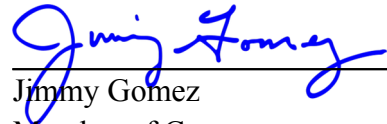
MARK TAKANO
Member of Congress



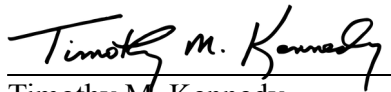
Jared Moskowitz
Member of Congress



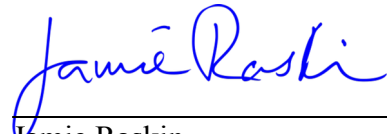
Julia Brownley
Member of Congress



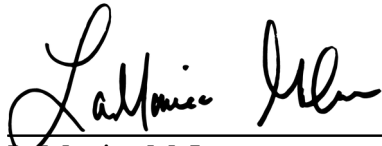
Jimmy Gomez
Member of Congress



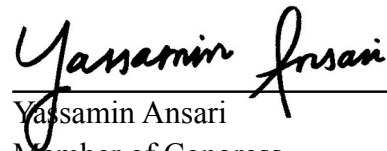
Timothy M. Kennedy
Member of Congress



Jamie Raskin
Member of Congress



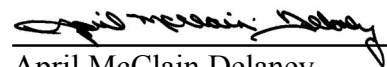
LaMonica McIver
Member of Congress



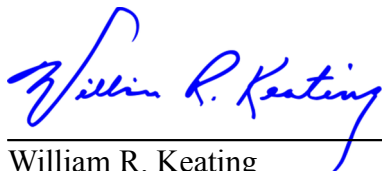
Yassamin Ansari
Member of Congress



Melanie Stansbury
Member of Congress



April McClain Delaney
Member of Congress



William R. Keating
Member of Congress



Rick Larsen
Member of Congress



Dan Goldman
Member of Congress



Robert Garcia
Member of Congress



Scott H. Peters
Member of Congress



Diana DeGette
Member of Congress




Chris Pappas
Member of Congress



James P. McGovern
Member of Congress



Ted W. Lieu
Member of Congress



Sarah McBride
Member of Congress



Steven Horsford
Member of Congress
Nevada's Fourth
Congressional District



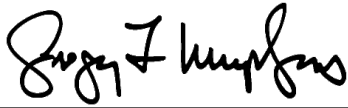
Kevin Mullin
Member of Congress



Ilhan Omar
Member of Congress



Ayanna Pressley
Member of Congress



Gregory F. Murphy, M.D.
Member of Congress



Troy A. Carter, Sr.
Member of Congress



Ritchie Torres
Member of Congress



Al Green
Member of Congress



Gabe Amo
Member of Congress



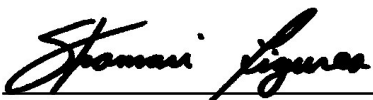
Sydney Kamlager-Dove
Member of Congress



Shontel M. Brown
Member of Congress



Lateefah Simon
Member of Congress



Shomari Figures
Member of Congress



Stacey E. Plaskett
Member of Congress



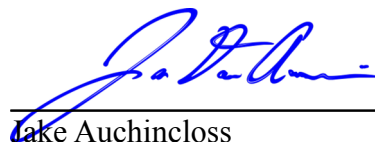
Suzanne Bonamici
Member of Congress



Steve Cohen
Member of Congress



Thomas R. Suozzi
Member of Congress



Jake Auchincloss
Member of Congress



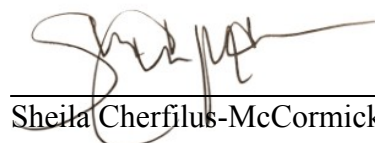
Bradley Scott Schneider
Member of Congress



Nicole Malliotakis
Member of Congress



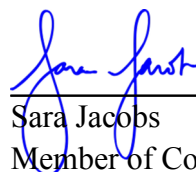
George Latimer
Member of Congress



Sheila Cherfilus-McCormick
Member of Congress



Eric Sorensen
Member of Congress



Sara Jacobs
Member of Congress



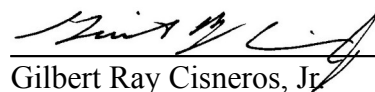
Kim Schrier, M.D.
Member of Congress



Val Hoyle
Member of Congress



Maria Elvira Salazar
Member of Congress



Gilbert Ray Cisneros, Jr.
Member of Congress



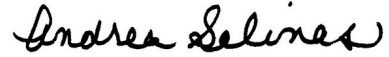
Brad Sherman
Member of Congress



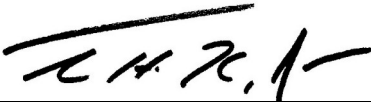
Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez
Member of Congress



Jesús G. "Chuy" García
Member of Congress



Andrea Salinas
Member of Congress



Thomas H. Kean, Jr.
Member of Congress



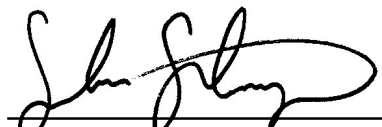
Becca Balint
Member of Congress



Darren Soto
Member of Congress



Greg Landsman
Member of Congress



Suhas Subramanyam
Member of Congress



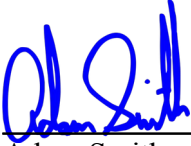
Vicente Gonzalez
Member of Congress



Patrick Ryan
Member of Congress



Summer L. Lee
Member of Congress



Adam Smith
Member of Congress



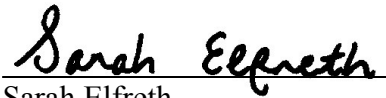
Chris Deluzio
Member of Congress



Jasmine Crockett
Member of Congress



Kelly Morrison
Member of Congress



Sarah Elfreth
Member of Congress



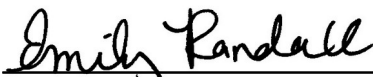
Robert C. "Bobby" Scott
Member of Congress



Herbert C. Conaway, Jr.
Member of Congress



Jefferson Van Drew
Member of Congress



Emily Randall
Member of Congress



Luz M. Rivas
Member of Congress



Teresa Leger Fernández
Member of Congress



Maxine Dexter
Member of Congress

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nellie Pou". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "N".

Nellie Pou
Member of Congress