
**AAA • America Outdoors • American Association for Nude Recreation
American Bus Association • American Horse Council • American Motorcyclist Association
American Recreation Coalition • Americans for Responsible Recreational Access
The Coleman Company • Delaware North Companies
Family Campers and RVers • Global Environment and Technology Foundation
Good Sam Club • Government Solutions Group, Inc. • Kampgrounds of America
League of American Bicyclists • Marina Operators Association of America
National Alliance of Gateway Communities • National Association of RV Parks and Campgrounds
National Marine Manufacturers Association • National Park Hospitality Association
National Recreation and Park Association • National Tour Association • Outdoor Industry Association
Personal Watercraft Industry Association • Professional Paddlesports Association
The Recreation Roundtable • Recreation Vehicle Dealers Association
Recreation Vehicle Industry Association • ReserveAmerica • Scenic America • SGMA International
Southeast Tourism Society • Sport Utility Vehicle Owners of America
Western States Tourism Policy Council • Westrec Marina Management, Inc.**

July 20, 2004

The Honorable
U. S. House of Representatives/U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20515/20510

Dear Representative/Senator :

The September 11, 2001, attacks have had an unintended, serious impact on our national parks and the millions of people who visit them every year. We are writing to ask your assistance in addressing this situation.

Parks and other unique public places were immediately recognized as important venues to help Americans deal with the tensions arising from the terrorist attacks. They provide a vital connection to America's natural, historical and cultural heritage. However, many of these same sites are also potential targets for terrorist acts. As a result, security issues at these locations assumed new meaning. Those units on our borders and associated with critical assets and infrastructure – such as the Statue of Liberty and in Washington, DC – were especially impacted.

Security requirements have imposed significant budgetary demands on the National Park Service, imposing burdens that were never contemplated as part of its mission or responsibilities. Many of these costs are not park-related – such as safeguarding dams and bridges. This situation is understandable, but over the long term, requires that additional resources be committed to meet the security needs within the parks. Left unaddressed, the situation will hamper efforts underway to reduce the large backlog of deferred maintenance and will slow visitor improvements which should result from new and higher park fees.

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The undersigned organizations are leading entities in the fields of travel and tourism, environment and conservation, recreation, transportation and safety. We are very concerned that the visitors to our parks, as well as our natural and cultural resources themselves, are being unfairly burdened and jeopardized even as visitation is increasing. We ask that the Congress take action immediately. Just as the Department of Transportation provides funds for roads in our parks, so should the Department of Homeland Security provide funding for non-visitor-related homeland security needs now estimated to exceed \$20 million annually.

Sincerely,

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Vice President, Public Relations
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Executive Director
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Sent to:

The Honorable Don Young
Chairman
Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable James L. Oberstar
Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
United States House of Representatives
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The Honorable James M. Inhofe
Chairman
Committee on Environment and Public Works
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable James M. Jeffords
Committee on Environment and Public Works
United States Senate
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The Honorable C.W. Bill Young
Committee on Appropriations
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable David R. Obey
Committee on Appropriations
United States House of Representatives
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The Honorable Ted Stevens
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
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The Honorable Robert C. Byrd
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Harold Rogers
Chairman
Subcommittee on Homeland Security
Committee on Appropriations
United States House of Representatives
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The Honorable Charles H. Taylor
Chairman
Subcommittee on Interior and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Thad Cochran
Chairman
Subcommittee on Homeland Security
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
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The Honorable Conrad Burns
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