

H.R. 4680, “National Park Service Centennial Act”

August 25, 2016 marked the 100th anniversary of the National Park Service (NPS). NPS is now responsible for managing over 400 units across more than 84 million acres in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and several U.S. territories. As NPS begins the next century of stewardship of our nation’s parks, the agency faces significant challenges, chief among them being the \$12 billion deferred maintenance backlog.

H.R. 4680, the “National Park Service Centennial Act,” introduced by Rep. Rob Bishop, better equips NPS for the next century of promoting and protecting our parks by providing the Service with additional management tools and authorities. Provisions in the bill will help reduce the deferred maintenance backlog by creating new revenue and leveraging private donations to fund necessary improvements. H.R. 4680 passed committee in March 2016 and will advance to the House this month.

EXPANDS PHILANTHROPIC OPPORTUNITY

- Establishes a Centennial Challenge Fund, requiring a \$1:\$1 federal to private match, to fund signature park projects and provides the fund with new revenue generated through the Act.
- Establishes a Second Century Endowment at the National Park Foundation that will grow over time through private donations as well as new revenue generated through the Act.
- Authorizes \$5 million in annual appropriations to the National Park Foundation.

STRENGTHENS NPS FOUNDATION LEADERSHIP: Makes the Secretary of the Interior and the NPS Director ex-officio members of the National Park Foundation Board to ensure leadership continuity.

PROMOTES VOLUNTEERISM: Increases the Volunteers in the Parks authorization ceiling from \$7 million to \$9 million to accommodate the funding needed to support the growing program.

PRESERVES HISTORY: Reauthorizes the Historic Preservation Fund through 2023.

REMOVES EMPLOYMENT BARRIERS: Raises the age limit for participation in the Public Lands Corps from 25 to 30, and changes the non-competitive hiring status for former Public Land Corps members from 120 days after the member’s service is completed to a period of up to two years.