Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

April 30, 2025

The Honorable Donald J. Trump President The White House 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW Washington, D.C. 20500 The Honorable Doug Burgum Secretary U.S. Department of the Interior 1849 18th Street NW Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear President Trump and Secretary Burgum,

We write to encourage you to continue to support one of our nation's most important natural and cultural resources: its National Parks.

From the Arctic to the American Samoa, from Yosemite to Yellowstone, there is nothing more American than the rugged open spaces, wild rivers, epic seascapes, and mountain majesty of the American frontier, which is cared for diligently by the National Park Service (NPS). The concept of a "national park" is an American innovation, a testament to the pioneering and free spirit of our citizens.

In 1872, President Ulysses S. Grant established Yellowstone as the world's first-ever national park, an idea that was emulated by other nations soon after. Following that, President Theodore Roosevelt, a lifelong sportsman, hunter and rancher, signed legislation establishing five new national parks. In 1916, the NPS was established to unify protections for these resources, and since then, generations of Americans from all walks of life have explored and experienced America's natural wonders.

Last year, the National Park Service reported the highest visitation in its history, at 331.9 million visits. This is nearly equal to every citizen in the nation visiting our parks once in 2024. Because our National Parks are incredibly popular, they are often overcrowded and in need of care, which is why funding, staffing, and your support are vital. The NPS creates 415,000 American jobs (both private and public), supports local rural economies, and produces \$55.6 billion in economic output, while providing enjoyment for millions of Americans.

As such, we urge you to support what makes America, America—its beautiful and famous mountains; its oceans and rivers; its wildlife and waterfalls; and its incredible citizens; the rangers, civil servants, and communities who steward our great nation.

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enne R. McChee

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