

U.S. TRAVEL ASSOCIATION

January 23, 2019

Chairman Lisa Murkowski
522 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Ranking Member Joe Manchin
306 Senate Hart Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Murkowski and Ranking Member Manchin:

On behalf of the U.S. Travel Association, which represents every sector of the travel community, I write to express support for S. 47, the Natural Resources Management Act.

As leaders of the travel industry, which generates \$2.4 trillion in economic output and supports 15.6 million American jobs, we know that our national parks are a huge attraction for visitors across the country and around the world. In 2017 alone, visitors to national parks spent \$18 billion in gateway communities, which supported thousands of local jobs and fueled nearby restaurants, hotels and attractions.

With provisions supported by nearly 90 Senators, the Natural Resources Management Act is a bipartisan and constructive first step toward ensuring our national parks remain an accessible attraction for domestic and international visitors in the future. Permanently reauthorizing the Land and Water Conservation Fund will allow the program's continued investment in recreation and conservation infrastructure in and around public lands. Increasing access and opportunities for recreation on federal lands will help public lands continue to attract visitors from around the globe. Lastly, and potentially more impactfully, the Natural Resources Management Act accomplishes dozens of state and local priorities, from preserving lands and resources of significance to providing flexibility for conveyances and land exchanges, that will provide visitors greater access to public lands while also ensuring conservation.

The Natural Resources Management Act is a meaningful step towards ensuring our public lands remain accessible long into the future. Another significant step toward protecting national parks for visitors would be to address the national parks' deferred maintenance backlog. Our national parks are struggling to fix a growing list of maintenance repairs that, if unaddressed, could have detrimental impacts on visitation and the economic benefits that result. We hope to continue to work with you to address the deferred maintenance backlog in a sustainable way.

Thank you for your hard work to help ensure the continued preservation of and access to our public lands.

Sincerely,



Tori Barnes
SVP Government Relations
U.S. Travel Association