

RESOLUTION NO. 4802

**A RESOLUTION ENCOURAGING CONGRESS TO CREATE A RELIABLE,
PREDICTABLE STREAM OF RESOURCES TO ADDRESS DEFERRED
MAINTENANCE NEEDS IN AMERICA'S NATIONAL PARK SYSTEM**

WHEREAS, America's National Park System is a living testament to our citizens' valor, our nation's hardships, our victories, and our traditions as Americans, and has been called "America's Best Idea;" and

WHEREAS, the National Park System preserves the diversity, culture, and heritage of all Americans and serves as a living classroom for future generations; and

WHEREAS, in 2016, the National Park Service celebrated its centennial and currently manages more than 400 nationally-significant sites and an invaluable collection of more than 75,000 natural and cultural assets that span 84 million acres across all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and several U.S. territories and insular areas; and

WHEREAS, Alaska is home to 24 national park units, including Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve, Katmai National Park and Preserve, Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park, Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve, and Denali National Park and Preserve; and

WHEREAS, the City of Fairbanks is a gateway community to Denali National Park and Preserve and benefits from the tourism associated with visitors to the park and the improved quality of place for residents; and

WHEREAS, the National Park Service's mission is to "conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wildlife therein and to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations;" and

WHEREAS, in 2016, the National Park System had more than 331 million visits, with 2.7 million in Alaska and 587,000 to Denali National Park and Preserve; and

WHEREAS, in 2016, National Park Service estimates indicate that park visitors spent more than \$1.3 billion in Alaska in the communities adjacent to national parks, including \$605 million in those neighboring Denali National Park and Preserve; and

WHEREAS, the National Park Service has the obligation to preserve our nation's history, promote access to national parks for all citizens, stimulate revenue to sustain itself and nearby communities, educate the public about

America's natural, cultural and historical resources, and provide safe facilities and environs to enjoy these resources; and

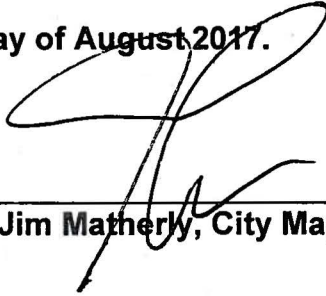
WHEREAS, in 2016, the National Park Service estimated a deferred maintenance backlog of \$11.3 billion, over \$109 million in Alaska and \$50 million at Denali National Park and Preserve, which includes repairs to aging historical structures, trails, sewers, thousands of miles of roads, bridges, tunnels, and other vital infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, it is the responsibility of Congress to maintain America's national parks to ensure our natural places and our history is preserved and documented for future generations, and for the adjacent communities that rely on the direct and indirect economic benefits generated by visits to national park sites.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Fairbanks City Council that the City of Fairbanks urges Congress to create a reliable, predictable stream of resources to address deferred maintenance needs in America's National Park System, and to ensure that federal infrastructure initiatives include provisions to address park maintenance.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Clerk is directed to forward a copy of this resolution to the Alaska congressional delegation.

PASSED and APPROVED this 7th day of August 2017.

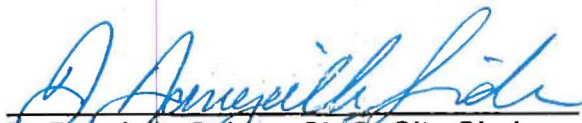


Jim Matherly, City Mayor

YEAS: PASSED and APPROVED on the CONSENT AGENDA
NAYS: None
ABSENT: Huntington
APPROVED: August 7, 2017

ATTEST:

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



D. Danyielle Snider, CMC, City Clerk



Paul J. Ewers, City Attorney