



2005 Market Street, Suite 2800 215.575.9050 Phone  
Philadelphia, PA 19103-7077

901 E Street NW 202.552.2000 Phone  
Washington, DC 20004

[www.pewtrusts.org](http://www.pewtrusts.org)

August 18, 2018

Honorable Rob Bishop  
Chairman of the House Natural Resources Committee  
United States House of Representatives  
123 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Bishop:

Thank you for your leadership on the Restore Our Parks and Public Lands Act (H.R. 6510). The Restore Our Parks and Public Lands Act is an inspiring example of what Congress can accomplish when Members work together.

Our national parks serve as important places for Americans and visitors to learn, recreate, and create memories. They tell the story of America's triumphs and tragedies, and honor the spirit of American innovators and heroes.

National parks are also a critical economic driver for communities adjacent to these sites. In 2017, over 331 million park visits translated to \$18.2 billion in direct spending to hotels, restaurants, outfitters, and other amenities in these gateway communities, supporting over 306,000 jobs and generating \$35.8 billion in total economic output.

Dedicated funding for our parks would be a much-needed investment into these critical economic engines and will go a long way to address the \$11.6 billion deferred maintenance backlog. Thank you again for your commitment to fixing our parks.

Sincerely,

Marcia Argust  
Director, Restore America's Parks Campaign  
The Pew Charitable Trusts