RESOLUTION - ACTION REQUESTED 2018-5

MEETING: January 9, 2018

TO: The Board of Supervisors

FROM: Dallin Kimble, County Administrative Officer

RE: Letter of Support for National Park Service Legacy Act

RECOMMENDATION AND JUSTIFICATION:
Approve a Letter of Support for National Park Service Legacy Act; and Authorize the Board of Supervisors Chair to Sign the Letter.

The National Park Legacy Act (S. 751 and H.R. 2584) seeks to make much-needed and overdue investments in National Park Service roads, trails, historic structures and other facilities.

BACKGROUND AND HISTORY OF BOARD ACTIONS:
The Board has approved letters supporting legislation that will benefit the County.

ALTERNATIVES AND CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION:
Do not approve the letter. Individual members of the Board may write their own letters of support as desired.

ATTACHMENTS:
DRAFT_NPS Legacy Act_County of Mariposa_Support_McClintock (DOCX)

RESULT: ADOPTED BY CONSENT VOTE [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER: Marshall Long, District III Supervisor
SECONDER: Merlin Jones, District II Supervisor
AYES: Smallcombe, Jones, Long, Cann, Menetrey
January 9, 2018

The Honorable Tom McClintock
United States House of Representatives
2313 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Re: Support for the National Park Service Legacy Act—S. 751 and H.R. 2584

Dear Representative McClintock:

On behalf of the Mariposa County Board of Supervisors, I am writing to express our support for the National Park Service Legacy Act (S. 751 and H.R. 2584), which would make much-needed and overdue investments in National Park Service roads, trails, historic structures and other facilities.

More than half of this $12 billion repair backlog in the national parks (of which $560 million is within Yosemite National Park) is comprised of park transportation systems (e.g. roads, bridges, tunnels, trails and shuttles). The remaining repair backlog is composed of park visitor centers, ranger housing, water systems, historic sites and more. One-third of the projects must be completed in the near-term to avoid irreparable damage.

The County of Mariposa keenly understands that a healthy, sustainable tourism economy for our communities and businesses requires that our national parks, including their roads, bridges, trails, and infrastructure, are safe and well-maintained. Unfortunately, visitor-serving repairs at Yosemite lag behind.

As you are aware, the State Legislature recently passed a resolution—Assembly Joint Resolution 23—strongly encouraging Congress to consider and pass the National Park Service Legacy Act, which would use mineral rights revenues to create a reliable, predictable revenue stream to address deferred maintenance. Along with the National Park Conservation Association, we support this resolution and stand behind its principles.
Our national parks are great investments for Mariposa County and our country. For every dollar invested by the federal government in the National Park Service, $10 is returned to the American economy. Continued visitation to Yosemite is a critical contribution to our regional economy.

Sincerely,

Rosemarie Smallcombe
Mariposa County Board of Supervisors, Chair

c.c. The Honorable Dianne Feinstein,
The Honorable Kamala Harris