



# 100 Prominent Americans Ask Congress to Make National Parks a National Priority

Dear Members of Congress,

As the nation prepares for the centennial of our National Park System, we must make our national parks a national priority.

Fifty years ago, President Eisenhower launched a ten-year, one billion dollar program approved by Congress that upgraded park facilities, staffing and resource management capabilities throughout the park system to commemorate its 50th anniversary. We call on Congress to make a proportional investment as we approach the 100th anniversary of the National Park System.

Accordingly, we urge Members of Congress and the President to engage in a sustained effort between now and the centennial of the National Park System in 2016 to provide the resources necessary to protect our national inheritance and to ensure that our society receives the full benefit of our national parks for generations to come. This endeavor should:

- Restore the health of our national parks by taking action to overcome external and internal threats.
- Reinvest in our national parks by establishing reliable sources of sustainable public funding and strategic private investments.
- Ensure that the National Park System continues to represent the full range and diversity of American history, culture, and landscapes.
- Ensure that parks have current research to inform decisions about park protection.
- Reinvigorate the professionalism and efficiency within the National Park Service.

For the centennial of the National Park System, we should invest, restore, and reinvigorate our parks and parklands for all citizens. The national parks present an opportunity for our national leaders to work together to forge a long-term bipartisan solution that protects the “best idea” America ever had.

## We urge you to help restore the full glory of our national parks.

**The Honorable Rocky Anderson**, Mayor, Salt Lake City ■ **The Honorable Carlos Alvarez**, Mayor, Miami-Dade County ■ **The Honorable Cecil Andrus**, former Secretary of the Interior and Governor of Idaho ■ **The Honorable Bruce Babbitt**, former Secretary of the Interior and Governor of Arizona ■ **The Honorable Howard H. Baker, Jr.**, former United States Senate Majority Leader and former United States Ambassador to Japan ■ **The Honorable John Baldacci**, Governor, Maine ■ **Nevada Barr**, Award-winning Author ■ **Michael Berman**, The Duberstein Group ■ **The Honorable James Blanchard**, Ambassador to Canada, former Governor of Michigan and Congressman ■ **The Honorable Michael Bloomberg**, Mayor, New York City ■ **The Honorable Phil Bredesen**, Governor of Tennessee ■ **Julian Bond**, Chairman, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People ■ **Lester Brown**, Founder and President, Earth Policy Institute ■ **Curt Buchholtz**, Executive Director, Rocky Mountain Nature Association ■ **The Honorable Dale Bumpers**, former Senator, Arkansas and Chair, Senate Subcommittee on National Parks and Public Lands ■ **Ken Burns**, Filmmaker ■ **The Honorable Jimmy Carter**, former President of the United States ■ **Richard Cizik**, Vice-President for Governmental Affairs, National Association of Evangelicals ■ **General Wesley Clark** ■ **Walter Cronkite** ■ **Frederick Douglass, IV**, President and Founder, Frederick Douglass Organization, Inc. ■ **Roger Dow**, President and Chief Executive Officer, Travel Industry Association of America ■ **The Honorable Kenneth Duberstein**, former Chief of Staff to President Ronald Reagan ■ **Julia Louis-Dreyfus**, Actor ■ **The Honorable Jennifer Dunn**, former Congresswoman, Washington ■ **Dayton Duncan**, Author and Documentary Filmmaker ■ **Gary Everhardt**, former Director, National Park Service ■ **Richard D. Fain**, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Royal Caribbean Cruiselines, Ltd. ■ **Michael V. Finley**, President, Turner Foundation, Inc. ■ **The Honorable Shirley Franklin**, Mayor of Atlanta ■ **Gerard T. Gabrys**, President and Chief Executive Officer, Guest Services Inc. ■ **John Gage**, President, American Federation of Government Employees ■ **John Gans**, President and Executive Director, National Outdoor Leadership School ■ **Henry Louis Gates, Jr.**, Alphonse Fletcher University Professor, Harvard University ■ **Bobby Ginn**, President and Chief Executive Officer, The Ginn Company ■ **Reverend Joan Gray**, Moderator, Presbyterian Church (USA) ■ **Bob Hansen**, President, The Yosemite Fund ■ **George B. Hartzog, Jr.**, former Director, National Park Service ■ **Alan Horn**, President and Chief Operating Officer, Warner Brothers ■ **Frank Hugelmeyer**, President and Chief Executive Officer, Outdoor Industry Association ■ **Lee Iacocca**, Founding Chairman, The Statue of Liberty-Ellis Island Foundation, Inc. ■ **Peter Illyn**, Executive Director, Restoring Eden- Christians for Environmental Stewardship ■ **Sally Jewell**, President and Chief Executive Officer, Recreational Equipment, Inc. ■ **Lady Bird Johnson**, former First Lady of the United States ■ **The Honorable J. Bennett Johnston**, former Senator, Louisiana and Former Chair, Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources ■ **Paul Tudor Jones II**, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Tudor Investment Corp. ■ **Roger G. Kennedy**, Director Emeritus, National Museum of American History, former Director, National Park Service ■ **The Honorable Nancy Landon Kassebaum**, former Senator, Kansas ■ **Gary Kiedaisch**, President and Chief Executive Officer, Coleman Company ■ **Stein Kruse**, President and Chief Executive Officer, Holland America Line ■ **Alan Lacy**, former Vice Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Sears Holdings Corporation ■ **Norman Lear** ■ **Jim Lighthizer**, President, Civil War Preservation Trust ■ **Ambassador L.W. “Bill” Lane**, Publisher (Ret.) of *Sunset Magazine* ■ **Barry Lopez**, Author ■ **Peter Matthiessen**, Author ■ **David McCullough**, Author and Historian ■ **James M. McPherson**, Author and Historian ■ **Stephen Mather McPherson**, former Chair, NPCA’s Board of Trustees ■ **Alice Mathews**, President, Garden Club of America ■ **The Honorable Robert H. Michel**, former Minority Leader, U.S. House of Representatives ■ **Richard Moe**, President, National Trust for Historic Preservation ■ **The Honorable Walter Mondale**, former Vice President and Senator from Minnesota ■ **Greg Moore**, Executive Director, Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy ■ **David Muench**, Photographer ■ **Glenn Padnick**, President, Castlerock TV ■ **The Honorable John Edward Porter**, former Congressman, Illinois ■ **Roxanne Quimby**, Executive Director, Eliotsville Plantation, Inc. ■ **Robert Redford** ■ **The Honorable Nathaniel Reed**, former Assistant Secretary of the Interior ■ **Robert B. Reich**, Professor, University of California at Berkeley, former U.S. Secretary of Labor ■ **The Honorable William K. Reilly**, President and Chief Executive Officer, Aqua International Partners, former Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency ■ **The Honorable Bill Richardson**, Governor of New Mexico ■ **Marie Ridder**, retired Journalist, former Member of the National Parks System Advisory Board ■ **James M. Ridenour**, former Director, National Park Service ■ **The Honorable Chuck Robb**, former Senator, Virginia and former Governor ■ **The Honorable Paul G. Rogers**, former Congressman, Florida ■ **Theodore Roosevelt, IV**, NPCA Council Member ■ **Jerry Seinfeld**, Actor ■ **Tom Secunda**, Founding Partner, Bloomberg LLP ■ **The Honorable Brian Schweitzer**, Governor, Montana ■ **Tom Skerritt**, Actor, Writer and Member of American Rivers Board ■ **Bob Stanton**, former Director, National Park Service ■ **Gene Sykes**, Managing Director, Goldman, Sachs and Company and Chairman, NPCA Board of Trustees ■ **The Honorable Lowell Thomas, Jr.**, former Lieutenant Governor, Alaska, and Mountain Pilot ■ **Andy Todd**, President and Chief Executive Officer, Xanterra Parks and Resorts ■ **Ted Turner**, Philanthropist ■ **The Honorable Stewart Udall**, former Secretary of the Interior ■ **The Honorable Fran Ulmer**, former Lieutenant Governor, Alaska ■ **Bill Wade**, Chair, Executive Council, Coalition of National Park Service Retirees ■ **The Honorable Olene Walker**, former Governor, Utah ■ **The Honorable Mark Warner**, former Governor, Virginia, Cofounder of Nextel and former Chairman of the National and Southern Governors Associations ■ **Peter Wege**, NPCA Council Member ■ **Anne Wexler**, Chairman of the Executive Committee of Wexler and Walker Public Associates ■ **Doug Wheeler**, Chair, National Park System Advisory Board ■ **The Honorable Christine Todd Whitman**, former Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency ■ **Terry Tempest Williams**, Author ■ **James Whitmore**, Actor ■ **Edward O. Wilson**, University Research Professor Emeritus and Honorary Curator in Entomology, Harvard University ■ **Mrs. William B. (Ann) Ziff**, Ziff Brothers Investments



National Parks Conservation Association®  
Protecting Our National Parks for Future Generations™

The National Parks Conservation Association enthusiastically applauds the National Park Centennial Challenge. Please go to [www.npca.org/nationalpriority](http://www.npca.org/nationalpriority) to help make National Parks a National Priority.