

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

December 16, 2015

Jonathan B. Jarvis
Director, National Park Service
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Director Jarvis:

As Members of Congress concerned with the preservation of our National Parks, we support the National Park Service in increasing the availability of public water and adopting bottled water free policies on National Park premises. In 2011, you set out a sensible policy encouraging robust recycling and education programs and laying out a commonsense plan for bottled water free policies that is attentive to both environmental protection and park visitors' need for easily accessible hydration. As stated in this memo, "Such a policy will allow the NPS and partners to reduce their environmental footprint, introduce visitors to green products and the concept of environmentally responsible purchasing, and give them the opportunity to take that environmental ethic home and apply it in their daily lives. It will also be a significant step in reducing our carbon footprint and meeting A Call to Action Goal #23, Go Green."

Your recommendations are already having a big impact. After Zion National Park in Utah implemented this policy, the park saw sales of reusable bottles jump 78 percent: keeping 60,000 bottles (or 5,000 pounds of plastic) a year out of the waste stream. In just six months, Lake Mead National Recreation Area visitors have kept more than 13,600 water bottles out of landfills just by using a new water fountain. Those are just two examples from the more than seventy other National Parks that have effectively gone bottled water free.

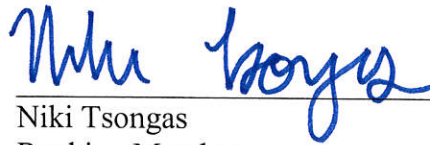
On the eve of the Centennial and in line with the Parks' commitment to reduce solid waste pollution, we believe this is a sound, sensible policy that should be implemented widely across the National Park Service. This policy can be a beacon of sustainability that educates millions of park-goers about the importance of reducing their carbon footprint and preserving our public water supplies.

We hope that our support spurs additional action from the National Park Service to implement the recommendations contained in your memo. We would also encourage the National Park Service to honor its solid waste reduction goals for the Centennial by proactively promoting this policy to regional directors as a simple and effective way to reduce solid waste pollution at the parks.

Sincerely,



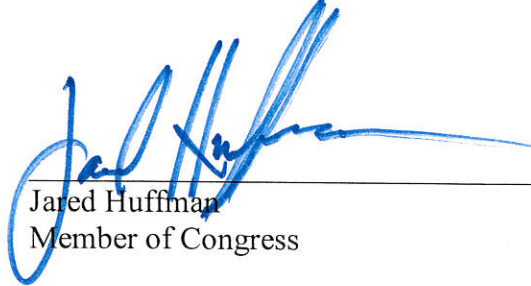
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Natural Resources Committee



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Subcommittee on Federal Lands



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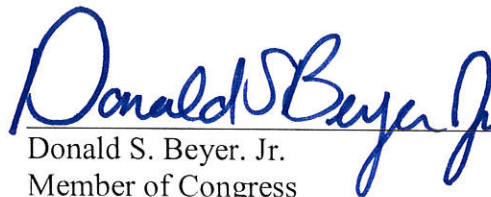
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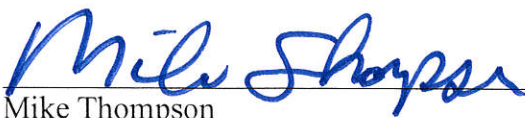
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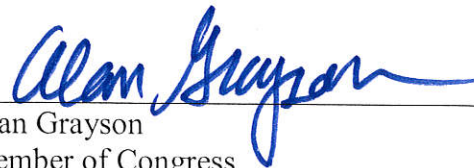
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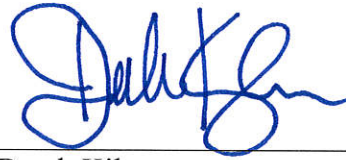
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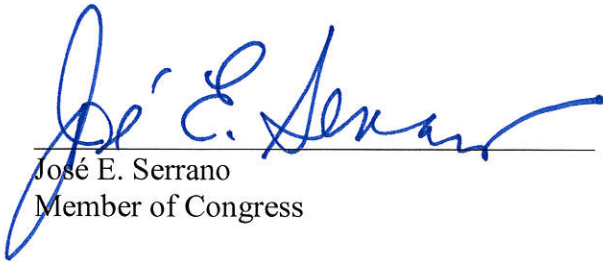
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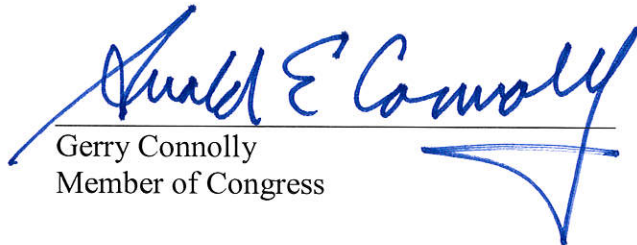
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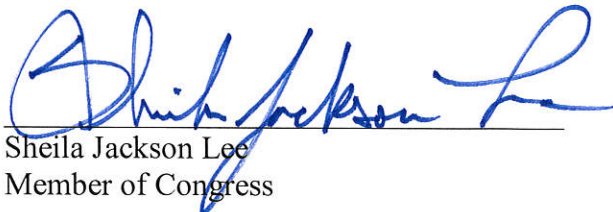
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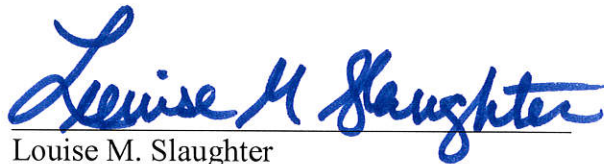
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