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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON
ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6150

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November 14, 2017

Mike Reynolds
Acting Director
National Park Service
1849 C Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20240-0001

RE: Request for Extension of Comment Period for the Proposed Entrance Fee Increase and Changes to Commercial Use Authorizations at 17 National Parks

Dear Mr. Reynolds:

We write to request an additional 30-day extension of the public comment period for both the proposed targeted fee increases at 17 National Parks and the proposed changes to road-based commercial tour commercial use authorization (CUA) requirements and fees, which is set to close on November 23, 2017. Given the large volume of responses from Alaskans, Montanans, Coloradans and constituents across the United States, and the impact of this new policy, it is important that you provide more than thirty days for the public to participate in the comment periods on these issues.

Although we respect the National Park Service's attempt to find solutions for the deferred maintenance backlog, raising entrance fees to this degree could unfairly burden the public and create new barriers to the visitors that you hope to reach and inspire. Likewise, the many small business owners and operators that will be impacted by increased CUA operator fees need to be provided an opportunity to assess the implications of this new policy on their businesses, employees, and customers.

We all believe that our National Parks are treasures that must be accessible to everyone. Given the concerns with these new proposals, it is our hope that the Park Service will provide Alaskans, Montanans, Coloradans, and all Americans the opportunity for additional time to comment on this issue. Thank you again for consideration of this matter and we look forward to working with you on this issue moving forward.

Sincerely,



Lisa Murkowski
Chairman



Steve Daines
United States Senator



Cory Gardner
United States Senator