

As the [job title] of [company], which is based in [town and state], I write to urge your support for an increase in federal funding to support the conservation, modernization, and preservation of the U.S. National Park System as the nation prepares for the Centennial Celebration of the U.S. National Park Service.

Our nation's treasures are our biggest selling point for foreign and domestic travelers and tourists. According to the Department of the Interior's most recent statistics, 275 million travelers visit the national parks and resources (such as hiking trails, rivers and forests), historic sites and monuments each year. In past years, there has been a significant reduction in the allocation of funds dedicated to upgrading, restoring and maintaining our nation's parks. However, as we approach the centennial year, during which the industry anticipates there will be a record increase in visitors, adequate funding will be needed to ensure that the U.S. is able to address the needed upkeep and improvements to the park system to ensure that these sites are safe, secure and easy to navigate.

To underscore the importance of this investment on our nation's treasure—and its impact on the travel and tourism industry and our nation—consider this: As the nation's largest service export, travel and tourism generate upwards of \$2.1 trillion in economic output, support 14.9 million jobs and represent \$134 billion in tax revenue. On average, travelers to the U.S. spend \$2.4 billion a day, \$101.4 million an hour, \$1.7 million a minute and \$28,154 a second.

I hope the travel industry can count on you to support the call for more funds to support the National Park Service.