

House Resolution 1053

By: Representatives Greene of the 151st, Stephens of the 164th, Ralston of the 7th, Tarvin of the 2nd, Smith of the 70th, and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Urging the United States Congress to create a reliable, predictable stream of resources to
2 address deferred maintenance needs in America's National Park System; and for other
3 purposes.

4 WHEREAS, on August 25, 1916, Congress established the National Park Service with the
5 mission "to conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wildlife therein
6 and to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such manner and by such means as will leave
7 them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations"; and

8 WHEREAS, the people of the United States have inherited the remarkable legacy of the
9 National Park System, which serves as a living testament to our citizens' valor, our nation's
10 hardships, our victories, and our traditions as Americans; and

11 WHEREAS, the National Park System preserves the diversity, culture, and heritage of all
12 Americans, and serves as a living classroom for future generations; and

13 WHEREAS, the State of Georgia is home to 11 National Park Service units, three Natural
14 Heritage Areas, and sections of two national trails; and

15 WHEREAS, in 2017, the National Park Service began its second century of stewardship of
16 more than 400 nationally significant sites across the country, including majestic landscapes
17 such as Cumberland Island National Seashore, hallowed battlefields such as Chickamauga
18 & Chattanooga National Military Park and Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park,
19 and iconic cultural and historical sites such as Ocmulgee National Monument, Fort Pulaski
20 National Monument, and Martin Luther King, Jr., National Historic Site; and

21 WHEREAS, communities adjacent to national parks benefit from tourism associated with
22 visitors to these sites and the improved quality of life for residents; and

23 WHEREAS, in 2016, the National Park System had more than 331 million visits, including
24 6.8 million in the State of Georgia; and

25 WHEREAS, in 2016, the National Park Service estimated that park visitors spent more than
26 \$374 million at businesses in communities adjacent to national park sites throughout
27 Georgia, supporting an estimated 6,100 jobs and resulting in \$532 million in economic
28 output in the state; and

29 WHEREAS, in 2016, the National Park Service estimated a deferred maintenance backlog
30 of \$11.3 billion, including \$108 million in National Park Service units in Georgia, which
31 includes repairs to aging historical structures, trails, and sewers; thousands of miles of roads,
32 bridges, and tunnels; and other needs vital to maintaining the parks' infrastructure; and

33 WHEREAS, it is the responsibility of Congress to maintain America's national parks to
34 ensure that our natural places and our history are preserved and documented for future
35 generations, as well as to support the adjacent communities that rely on the direct and
36 indirect economic benefits generated by visitors to national park sites.

37 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
38 the members of this body urge the United States Congress to create a reliable, predictable
39 stream of resources to address deferred maintenance needs in America's National Park
40 System, and to ensure that provisions to address park maintenance are included in federal
41 infrastructure initiatives.

42 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
43 and directed to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to the
44 secretary of the United States Senate and the clerk of the United States House of
45 Representatives and to the members of the Georgia Congressional delegation.