

Senate Resolution 778

By: Senators Gooch of the 51st, Mullis of the 53rd, Wilkinson of the 50th, Shafer of the 48th, Payne of the 54th and others

ADOPTED SENATE

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Urging the United States Congress to create a reliable, predictable stream of resources to
2 address deferred maintenance needs of the National Park Service; and for other purposes.
- 3 WHEREAS, on August 25, 1916, Congress established the National Park Service with the
4 mission "to conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wildlife therein
5 and to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such manner and by such means as will leave
6 them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations"; and
- 7 WHEREAS, the people of the United States have inherited the remarkable legacy of the
8 National Park Service, which serves as a living testament to our citizens' valor, our nation's
9 hardships, our victories, and our traditions as Americans; and
- 10 WHEREAS, the National Park Service preserves the diversity, culture, and heritage of all
11 Americans and serves as a living classroom for future generations; and
- 12 WHEREAS, the State of Georgia is home to 11 national park units, three National Heritage
13 Areas, and sections of two national trails; and
- 14 WHEREAS, in 2017, the National Park Service began its second century of stewardship of
15 more than 400 nationally significant sites across the country, including majestic landscapes
16 such as the Cumberland Island National Seashore; hallowed battlefields such as
17 Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park and Kennesaw Mountain National
18 Battlefield Park; and iconic cultural and historical sites, including the Ocmulgee National
19 Monument, Fort Pulaski National Monument, and Martin Luther King, Jr., National Historic
20 Site; and
- 21 WHEREAS, communities adjacent to national parks benefit from tourism associated with
22 visitors to these sites and the improved quality of place 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 units in Georgia, which includes
31 repairs to aging historical structures, trails, sewers, thousands of miles of roads, bridges,
32 tunnels, and other vital infrastructure needs; and

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

37 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
38 hereby urge the United States Congress to create a reliable, predictable stream of resources
39 to address deferred maintenance needs of the National Park Service and ensure that federal
40 infrastructure initiatives include provisions to address park maintenance.

41 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
42 to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to each member of the
43 Georgia delegation to the United States Congress.