

RESOLUTION NUMBER 2012-12

A RESOLUTION OF THE TUSAYAN TOWN COUNCIL URGING THE ARIZONA LEGISLATURE TO RENEW ITS SUPPORT OF THE ARIZONA STATE PARKS SYSTEM

WHEREAS, Arizona's state parks contain unique and irreplaceable ecosystems, wildlife, and historic and natural resources, and constitute an essential part of what makes Arizona the extraordinary place it is, both for its residents and for visitors from around the country and around the world; and

WHEREAS, while the Arizona parks system requires approximately \$30 to \$34 million per year to operate, it generates more than \$266 million in annual economic activity and supports more than 3,000 jobs, primarily in Arizona's rural communities; and

WHEREAS, the Arizona Legislature provides no General Fund support for the state park system, and has in recent years diverted more than \$15 million in park revenues away from the system; and

WHEREAS, the gate/admission fees at Arizona State Parks are already among the highest in the United States; and

WHEREAS, the Arizona state park system is now in immediate peril due to a lack of sufficient funding for park operations, as well as deferred maintenance and capital improvement projects totaling approximately \$200 million; and

WHEREAS, nineteen of the State's 31 state parks and natural areas are open to the public only because other public and private individuals, groups and entities have stepped forward to provide short-term, temporary support for park operations on seasonal and shortened schedules; and

WHEREAS, the State has an obligation to ensure that current and future generations of Arizonans are able to enjoy the natural splendor, historic heritage and outdoor recreational opportunities offered at Arizona's state parks and recreational areas;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Tusayan Town Council, as follows:

That the Arizona State Legislature is urged to renew and restore its previous support for the Arizona state park system - including but not limited to the immediate and permanent termination of funding "sweeps"; a modest amount of General Fund support; restoration of the Heritage Grant program; and the institution of an optional, opt-out state park fee as part of the vehicle registration process - so that the parks of this state can remain open, properly maintained and safe, so as to preserve the recreational, cultural, historical and economic opportunities they provide to the state, its people, and its rural communities on this 7th day of November, 2012.

ATTEST:

Melissa Malone, Town Clerk
Melissa Malone

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

William J. Sims, Town Attorney
WJ Sims

Greg Bryan, Mayor
Greg Bryan