LEELANAU COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR SESSION – Tuesday, August 21, 2018

Roll Call: District #1 Tony Ansorge PRESENT
#2 Debra L. Rushton PRESENT
#3 William J. Bunek PRESENT
#4 Ty Wessell PRESENT
#5 Patricia Soutas-Little PRESENT
#6 Casey Noonan PRESENT
#7 Melinda C. Lautner PRESENT

PEW/National Lakeshore Resolution/Recommendation Letter:
#182-08212018 Regular Session

MOTION BY SOUTAS-LITTLE TO APPROVE TO LEELANAU COUNTY
RESOLUTION #2018-013 THE RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF DEDICATED
FEDERAL FUNDING TO ADDRESS DEFERRED MAINTENANCE NEEDS IN
AMERICA’S NATIONAL PARKS. SECONDED BY NOONAN.
Discussion – Commissioner Soutas-Little addressed the resolution and believes that all
information previously requested by Commissioners has been provided. Commissioner
Rushton concurred and thanked Soutas-Little.
ROLL CALL: Soutas-Little – YES; Wessell – YES: Ansorge – YES; Bunek – YES;
Lautner – YES; Noonan – YES; Rushton – YES.
AYES – 7
NO – 0

MOTION CARRIED.

Leelanau County Resolution #2018-013
RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF DEDICATED FEDERAL FUNDING
TO ADDRESS DEFERRED MAINTENANCE NEEDS IN AMERICA’S NATIONAL
PARKS

WHEREAS, America’s National Park System is a living testament to our citizens’ valor, our
nation’s hardships, our victories, and our traditions as Americans, and has been called
"America’s Best Idea;" and

WHEREAS, the Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore is one of seven national parks
sites in Michigan which includes Pictured Rocks, Isle Royale, and River Raisin National
Battlefield; and
WHEREAS, Michigan’s national park sites received 2.7 million visitors in 2017, generating $231 million spent in gateway communities and 3,410 jobs; and

WHEREAS, in 2017 the Sleeping Bear Dunes welcomed 1.7 million visitors who spent $121 million and helped generate $212 million in economic output for Leelanau County and neighboring communities; and

WHEREAS, Leelanau County and neighboring communities are blessed with the breathtaking beauty of the Sleeping Bear Dunes – 31 miles of pristine sand bluffs that offer a blend of cultural, historical and natural resources which allow visitors to hike, paddle, sail, and enjoy all the area has to offer; and

WHEREAS, the residents and businesses in Leelanau County benefit, both culturally and economically, because of our proximity to the Sleeping Bear Dunes; and

WHEREAS, the National Park Service has the obligation to preserve our nation’s history; promote access to national parks for all citizens; stimulate revenue to sustain itself and nearby communities; educate the public about America’s natural, cultural and historical resources, and provide safe facilities and environs to enjoy these resources; and

WHEREAS, despite a mission to make parks accessible and open, because of Congressional underfunding the National Park Service has a maintenance backlog of $11.6 billion nationally and $53 million in Michigan – money needed for infrastructure repairs to aging historical structures, trails, sewers, drainage, roads, and other vital infrastructure; and

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

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the County Board of Commissioners of Leelanau County strongly encourages Congress to create a reliable, predictable stream of resources to address deferred maintenance needs in America’s National Park System.