[COMPANY LETTERHEAD]

[DATE]

The Honorable [SENATOR or REPRESENTATIVE’S NAME]

[U.S. SENATE **OR** U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES]

[BUILDING NAME]

[BUILDING ADDRESS]

Dear [SENATOR **OR** REPRESENTATIVE’S NAME],

I need your help. My company, [COMPANY NAME], cannot bear the burdens of the National Park Service’s (NPS) decisions to impose a new fee structure and Commercial Use Authorization (CUA) permit requirement. These decisions were adopted without real input or understanding of how our industry and how it supports the National Park system. Further, their process lacked transparency, offering no opportunity to work with us. We understand the needs faced by NPS, and want to work with the Agency, but our industry should not bear the brunt of their $11.6 billion backlog. Their latest proposals to address this backlog, collectively, are unreasonable; they threaten to shut down my long-standing operations and deprive our community of the opportunity to enjoy our some of the treasures of our National Park system.

[DESCRIBE YOUR BUSINESS – SIZE OF YOUR COMPANY, NUMBER OF JOBS YOU PROVIDE TO THE COMMUNITY, TYPES OF TRIPS/OPERATIONS YOU DO, NUMBERS OF PARK TRIPS, ANY SPECIFIC IMPACTS THE PROPOSALS WILL HAVE ON YOUR BUSINESS.]

My company, along with the entire industry, has a longstanding record of providing multiple benefits to the National Parks. We provide a reasonable, cost-effective way for the public to visit these national treasures, while at the same time reduce traffic congestion at the parks and help minimize carbon emissions in highly sensitive environmental areas. However, these benefits seem to be entirely lost on NPS.

The first NPS decision imposes entrance fee increases across all parks. The second NPS decision imposes a separate commercial use authorization permit for ***each and every park*** for road-based commercial tour operators, or motorcoaches. Together, these actions are unpracticable and costly. This authorization or CUA, would require my company to buy a permit at a cost of $300 for each and every park I visit, and then pay an additional $5/passenger fee, all in addition to paying the increased park entrance fee. Further, under the CUA permit process, I will now have to file an annual report at each and every park where I obtained a CUA, and keep track of whether I was charged an entrance fee – because if not, I am then required to submit with this report the $5/passenger fee for all the passengers I brought, to cover the CUA requirement. Can you just imagine the paperwork burden this new requirement imposes on my small business?

For example, a 4-5 national park tour would face the additional cost beyond the increased entrance fees (which is unknown as they differ per park) of $1200-1500 ($300 for each park CUA); and an additional $5/passenger for the CUA administrative fee (so if 50 passengers are on the trip, at an additional $250 for each park, resulting in an total cost of $1000-1250 for a 4-5 park tour). Then, an operator would need to file a report on this tour and keep track of whether any of the parks did not charge the entrance fee, because the requisite $5/passenger fee would then need to be submitted as part of the CUA report to that park. By the way, this $5/passenger CUA fee also applies, even if the passenger is currently exempt from the park entrance fee, due to age or another park exemption. In short, collectively, NPS’s actions penalize travel by motorcoach.

These are additional costs are not easily passed through to my customers, as our passengers are very sensitive to costs. The administrative challenges and quite frankly the loss of customers due to an increase in prices will likely force me to discontinue all operations involving visits to the national parks.

Please help my company and our industry. I need a strong voice in Congress to stop NPS’s short-sighted decisions and force them to undertake a more inclusive process in determining ways to address the backlog. The outcome of their current course of action will only exacerbate their problems. It will lead to fewer motorcoaches traveling to the parks, increase traffic congestion by use of personal vehicle, and cause increased maintenance costs and dangerous carbon emissions, not to mention it will also deprive citizens of a chance to experience our national treasures.

Sincerely,

[YOUR NAME]

[YOUR TITLE]

[YOUR BUSINESS]