

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the National Park Service on October 24, 2017 announced plans to increase the entrance fee at 17 National Parks including Shenandoah National Park from the current \$25 per vehicle to \$70 per vehicle during peak season (May-September); and

WHEREAS, the fee increase has been estimated to generate approximately \$70 million a year across the park system with 80% of the fee revenue staying within the Park to address the \$11.3 billion backlog of deferred maintenance; and

WHEREAS, while the Albemarle County Board of Supervisors understands and appreciates the need to improve infrastructure in the Park and recognizes the significant amount of the revenue will go back to Shenandoah for infrastructure improvements, the Board has serious concerns about the amount of the proposed increase, particularly in light of other recent increases; and

WHEREAS the Board believes it is the responsibility of the federal government to maintain the park and to keep it affordable, and that such a significant increase in entrance fees will make the park unaffordable for many lower income individuals and families and thereby deprive them of all that is beneficial from a national park experience; and

WHEREAS the Board is genuinely concerned that such fee increase will encourage unauthorized visitor access along the park’s border with Albemarle County creating greater environmental degradation in areas of the park where appropriate infrastructure is lacking; and

WHEREAS, the Shenandoah National Park attracted over 1.4 million visitors in 2016, and Albemarle County Board of Supervisors is also deeply concerned about how this fee increase will affect visitation its significant benefit to the local economy.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Albemarle County Board of Supervisors requests that the National Park Service reconsider its proposed entrance fee increase for Shenandoah National Park and respectfully requests that its congressional delegation, including the Honorable Senators Mark Warner and Timothy Kaine and Representative Tom Garrett, support our position and actively seek to have the National Park Service reject the proposed signifcant increase due to its disproportionate negative impact on lower income individuals and families and potential detrimental impact on the tourism economy in Albemarle County.

I, Claudette K. Borgersen, do hereby certify that the foregoing writing is a true and correct copy of a Resolution duly adopted by the Board of Supervisors of Albemarle County by a vote of ____ to ____, as recorded below, at a meeting held on _____.

Clerk, Board of County Supervisors

	<u>Aye</u>	<u>Nay</u>
Mr. Dill	___	___
Ms. Mallek	___	___
Ms. McKeel	___	___
Ms. Palmer	___	___
Mr. Randolph	___	___
Mr. Sheffield	___	___