



RE: Proposed Daily Fee Increase - Shenandoah National Park (SNP)

To Whom It May Concern:

I am responding on behalf of the Shenandoah County Chamber of Commerce. The mission of the Chamber is to foster economic growth and prosperity in our Community by promoting business through education, networking, and advocacy.

The Chamber and our community greatly value the partnership we have with the SNP. We take great pride in promoting the beautiful amenities located in the Shenandoah Valley to our citizens and visitors alike. We welcome the opportunity to collaborate regionally to promote and market the Park and surrounding venues.

We would like to express our concerns with the proposed plans to increase the entrance fee at 17 National Parks from the current \$25 per vehicle to \$70 during peak season (May-September). While we understand and appreciate the need to improve infrastructure in the Park and recognize that 80% of the revenue will go back to Shenandoah for infrastructure improvements, we have significant concerns on the amount of the proposed increase on the heels of other recent increases.

Since 2015, the entrance fee has increased from \$15 to \$25 per vehicle. At the time, most people supported the increase to help address the issue of aging infrastructure in our parks and to improve the overall park experience. The new proposal would take the entrance fee up to \$70 during peak season, a 280% increase. As proposed, we feel this increase will have serious implications on the number of people visiting the largest tourism destination in our region and thus impact the multitude of restaurants, hotels, and businesses that depend on the Park to make a living.

In addition, the proposed increase will have the effect of impacting those on the lower end of the economic ladder by making it less affordable for them to access the Park.

Due to the potential negative impact on visitation to Shenandoah National Park and each of the communities that surround the park and consider it part of their home, we respectfully ask you to disapprove the proposed entrance fee increase.

Thank you for your time and consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chris Boies".

Chris Boies, President

103 S. Main Street, P.O. Box 605, Woodstock, VA 22664

www.ShenandoahCountyChamber.com