

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

January 27, 2016

The Honorable Barack H. Obama
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Obama,

As you finalize your budget for fiscal year 2017, we write to recommend a significant funding increase for wireline and wireless telecommunications and broadband services within our nation's National Parks.

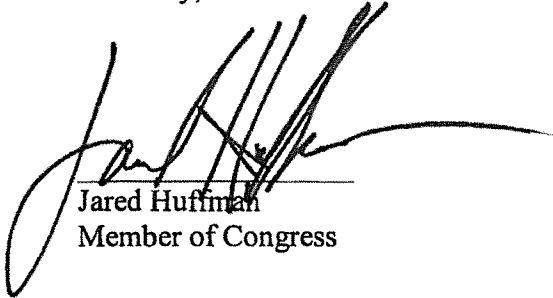
Since its founding, our National Park Service has set an example for the world to follow, and we believe that investing in 21st-century telecommunications infrastructure is critical to maintaining that leadership. In honor of the Park Service's centennial, Director Jon Jarvis has committed to providing free public WiFi at all park visitor centers by the end of 2016. This is an important step to improving connectivity in park units. However, additional resources will be necessary to continue this momentum into future years.

The National Park Service has completed wireless telecommunications services plans to expand connectivity in a number of larger system units over the past decade, including Yellowstone National Park and Lake Mead National Recreation Area. Expanding on this work will require robust and continued investment. Furthermore, improved connectivity will help to make our parks accessible and engaging to changing park visitor demographics. It will also support the Park Service's long-term goals of improving public safety, providing greater interpretive services, and meeting the needs of the visiting public.

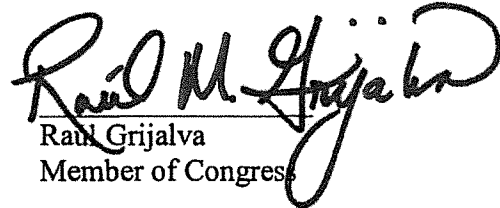
On a number of occasions you have articulated your commitment to expanding rural broadband, and it is important to note that the benefits of increased telecommunications investment go beyond the parks' borders. Many units of the National Park System are located in the most remote and rural areas of our country. When appropriately designed, improved telecommunication services at park units can have the ancillary benefit of improving connectivity in neighboring communities, as was recently the case in and around Death Valley.

We appreciate your continued commitment to expanding broadband opportunity, and we look forward to working with you to increase federal funding for broadband services in the National Park System.

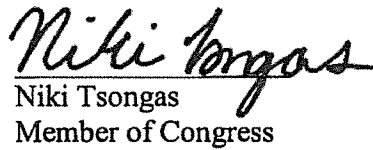
Sincerely,



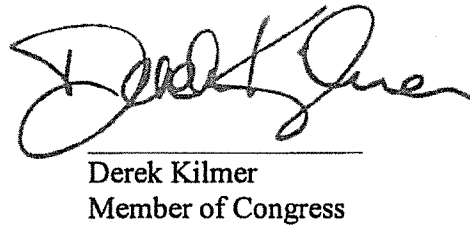
Jared Huffman
Member of Congress



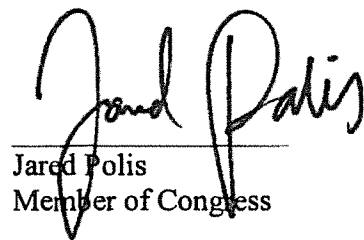
Raul M. Grijalva
Member of Congress



Niki Tsongas
Member of Congress



Derek Kilmer
Member of Congress



Jared Polis
Member of Congress