



## The National Parks Need Money AND You're the Ones Who are Going to Pay!

Dear Customer,

One of the most enjoyable AND environmentally friendly ways to visit our nation's majestic national parks, monuments, seashores and other National Park Service-managed sites is by traveling as a group or on a motorcoach. Motorcoaches enable you to leave the driving to professionals, and you're also helping to preserve our national treasures by taking up to 50 cars off the road, relieving stress and congestion at park facilities.

The National Park Service (NPS) has fallen behind on park upkeep, and now needs \$11.6 billion for maintenance. To help offset this shortfall, the Park Service decided to significantly increase fees for motorcoaches and tour companies that bring you, your family, your school groups and friends to these sites.

### WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR YOU?

- **Higher costs to YOU.** Every tour group will pay a minimum of \$300 per group, plus an additional \$5 per person fee for each park, monument or other NPS site visited each year. If, during your tour, you visit three NPS sites, that's an additional \$900 added to the cost of the trip and an additional \$15 per person. For tour companies putting together the trip there is also an elaborate accounting system to keep track and report on each passenger carried and all the fees paid throughout the year.
- **Potential for less opportunities to take a tour of these parks.** Increased fees and costly reporting requirements may mean that some parks will not be visited, and tour or bus operators will be forced to bypass or limit trips to some National Park sites. For example, rather than visit 6 NPS sites, like parks, a seashore and/or monument as one tour package, we may need to cut it down to 1 or 2 headline parks, and possibly add other non-National Park excursions. Sadly, too, there may be others completely dropped from our offerings.
- **More traffic and environmental harm inside our national parks.** As fewer tour groups and motorcoach tours bring groups to fewer National Parks sites, more people will be forced to drive themselves, adding to congestion, creating greater environmental harm to vulnerable ecosystems, leading to increased wear and tear of roadways. Alternatively, many people may simply lose the opportunity to visit, altogether.

### WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Help us send a message to the NPS – the motorcoach, tour and travel industry and its customers should not bear the brunt for their shortfall. Keep the parks available to all! Contact your Senators and Representatives today! Let them know that you are not opposed to reasonable fee increases to keep our National Park sites maintained and viable, but that you do not agree that these fees for tour operators and bus companies' customers are reasonable.

U.S. House of Representatives – [click here](#)

U.S. Senate – [click here](#)

