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Chamber of Commerce

2020

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ACCREDITED

September 18, 2020

The Honorable David Bernhardt
Secretary of the United States Department of the Interior
1849 C Street NW
Washington, DC

Re: Letter of Support: National Park Service proposed rule to modify its concessioner program to improve the visitor experience

Dear Mr. Secretary:

On behalf of the 720 members of the Kalispell Chamber of Commerce, I would like to express our support for the National Park Service's proposed rule to modify its concessions program to improve the visitor experience.

Kalispell serves as the western gateway to Glacier National Park, which served over 3 million visitors in 2019. Park concessioners are our partners in providing a high-quality visitor experience that leads to return visits, which help our local economy year after year. Here in northwest Montana, the Glacier Park concessioners do an excellent job of providing needed visitor services such as lodging, food, transportation, retail operations, and guide and outfitter services. The proposed rule is a needed update of regulations last updated twenty years ago and will provide more flexibility to add new services and encourage investment in concession facilities.

The proposed rule, combined with the recently enacted Great American Outdoors Act, will help Americans better connect to their Parks and provide sustainable benefits to rural economic vitality and appreciation of our nation's outdoor heritage and history.

We encourage you to adopt the proposed rule at the conclusion of your comment period, analysis, and review. It would be a beneficial decision for Kalispell, Montana, and our nation.

With Warm Regards,

Joe Unterreiner, President and CEO
Kalispell Chamber of Commerce

CC:
Jeff Mow, Glacier National Park Superintendent
Montana Congressional Delegation: Sens. Tester and Daines, Rep. Gianforte
Glacier National Park Lodges (Xanterra)