

2014– 2015
Executive Officers

Chair
Scott Habberstad
Alaska Airlines

Vice Chair
Colleen Stephens
Stan Stephens Cruises

Treasurer/Finance Chair
Charlie Ball
Holland America/Princess – Alaska

Secretary/Membership Chair
Bonnie Quill
Mat-Su Convention & Visitors Bureau

Government Relations Co-Chairs
Dennis McDonnell
Alaska Coach Tours
Bill Pedlar
Knighly Tours

Marketing Chair
Patti Mackey
Ketchikan Visitors Bureau

Tourism Policy & Planning Chair
Deb Hickok
Explore Fairbanks

Past Chair
Julie Saupe
Visit Anchorage

President & CEO
Sarah Leonard
Alaska Travel Industry Association

Board of Directors

John Binkley
CLIA/Alaska Cruise Association

Brett Carlson
Northern Alaska Tour Company

Ken Dole
Waterfall Resort

Kory Eberhardt
A Taste of Alaska Lodge

Paul Goodwin
Holland America Line

Peter Grunwaldt
Premier Alaska Tours

Elizabeth Hall
John Hall's Alaska Cruises and Tours

Deb Hansen
Pike's Waterfront Lodge

Kirk Hoessle
Alaska Wildland Adventures

Shanon Hamrick
Kenai Peninsula Tourism Marketing
Council

Karen Harris
Alaska Garden Gate B&B and Cottages

Thomas McAleer
Alaska Denali Travel

Tim McDonnell
Temasco Helicopters, Inc.

Dan Oberlatz
Alaska Alpine Adventures, Inc.



Alaska Travel Industry Association Board of Directors
*A Resolution in Support of Restored Federal Funding for the
National Park System and U.S. Forest System*
Resolution #15-5

Expressing the Alaska Travel Industry Association's support for restoring federal appropriations to ensure that national public lands can meet their mission and make up for previous funding cuts and deficiencies in a way that satisfies diverse park needs including science, resource protection, maintenance, and education and other visitor services for the next 100 years.

WHEREAS the nation will mark the 100th Anniversary of the creation of the National Park System in 2016.

WHEREAS the 401 units of America's National Park system contain 84 million acres of culturally, historically, and naturally significant lands that are home to 168 threatened and endangered species, an 80 million-item museum collection, and 20,000 buildings of historic value;

WHEREAS the 155 units of National Forest Service system contain 188 million acres, is the largest natural resource research organization in the world and works with partners worldwide to protect global forest resources;

WHEREAS National Parks & National Forests generate substantial economic benefit for surrounding communities through local employment, tax revenues, visitor spending on meals and lodging, businesses' expenditures to service visitors, and park service investments in local park employee salaries, supplies, services, construction projects, etc.;

WHEREAS Anchorage, Girdwood, Whittier, Hope, Cooper Landing, Cordova, Tatitlek, Chenega, Fairbanks, Sitka, Glennallen, Copper Center, Kotzebue, Nome, Gustavus, Skagway, King Salmon, Port Alsworth, Bettles, Coldfoot, Eagle, Circle, McCarthy, Slana, Seward, Talkeetna, Yakutat, Valdez, Juneau, Petersburg, Wrangell, Ketchikan, Denali Park, and other small communities are all gateways to one or more of Alaska's national park or forest service units;

WHEREAS Alaska's national parks are among the top visitor attractions in the state and conservatively generate over \$1 billion annually to the Alaska economy; and 2.5 million visitors and residents enjoy Alaska's national forests annually contributing over \$350,000 million;

WHEREAS the National Parks Conservation Association determined that park service annual operations budget falls at least \$500 million short of what is needed;

WHEREAS the National Park Service has identified an \$11.6 billion backlog of overdue maintenance and infrastructure repairs that is the direct result of decades of annual shortfalls in the parks' Operations and Construction budgets;

WHEREAS the Park Service budget has been reduced by nearly \$234 million or nearly 10% over the last four years in today's dollars, causing visitor center hours to decrease a loss of park service rangers and other employees, the reduction of public education programs, the lapse of scientific monitoring of flora and fauna, the deterioration of historic

buildings, and priceless museum collections endangered by a lack of appropriate conservation methods;


WHEREAS the Forest Service budget has decreased by 15% nationally in the last 4 years and 40% in Alaska during the same time period resulting in a severe impact to processing commercial permits, maintaining trails, reducing staff and interpreters and maintaining visitor centers;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ALASKA TRAVEL INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION That ATIA calls on Congress to increase federal funding for America's national parks and national forests, recognizing they provide recreation, economic and tourism benefits to gateway communities and to ensure they are preserved for the next 100 years.

Signed on this 3rd day of December, 2014 by:



Sarah Leonard
President & CEO



Scott Habberstad, Alaska Airlines
ATIA Board Chair