

FRIENDS OF ACADIA Advocacy Alert



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TELL CONGRESS TO OPEN OUR NATIONAL PARKS!

In a nutshell...

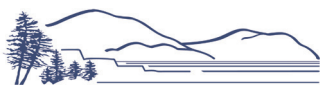
Congress failed to come to agreement on a resolution to continue funding the federal government. As a result, the government has “shut down,” and all 401 units of the National Park Service have closed. At Acadia, this means that the gates have been shut and locked on all park roads and facilities, campers were asked to vacate their campsites, school groups will be turned away, and many visitors who had hoped for a once-in-a-lifetime trip to Acadia will be disappointed.

Action You Can Take:

Please send an email or make a phone call to your members of Congress to urge them to fund the government and enable Acadia and the other national parks to re-open.

Talking Points:

- National park visitors contribute an estimated \$13 billion to the American economy, supporting almost 251,600 jobs in 2011. At Acadia, visitors spent over \$186 million and created an estimated 2,970 jobs. Fall is one of the most popular seasons to visit Acadia, and the economic prosperity of Acadia’s gateway communities is threatened if Congress does not re-open the park.
- Forty-one cruise ships are scheduled to dock in Bar Harbor during October. Many of these visitors have signed up for a tour of Acadia and will be devastated that a highlight of their cruise has been taken away by Congress. Ships may decide to bypass Bar Harbor because the park is closed, creating even more economic stress on local businesses.
- Over a thousand private sector workers that staff non-profit bookstores and run concessions operations, such as the Jordan Pond House, will be furloughed or out of work due to the government shut-down.
- The closure of Acadia comes on top of economic losses that local communities experienced as a result of the Sequester and the park’s decision to delay the full opening of the Park Loop Road by approximately a month last spring. Some Bar Harbor businesses estimated their revenues were down by about 30% in April and May as a result of the Sequester.
- National parks are America’s “best idea.” They preserve and protect America’s important scenic wonders,



historical artifacts, and rare natural habitats. They are part of America's heritage, and should be maintained as a public resource, open and affordable to all. Congress' responsibility is to adequately fund the national parks to preserve them unimpaired for future generations. National parks should not be held hostage a dysfunctional budget process.

To find your members of Congress, go to: <http://www.usa.gov/Contact/Elected.shtml>

To reach Senator Susan Collins

Washington office: 202-224-2523 (phone); 202-224-2693 (fax)

Form to e-mail Senator Collins: <http://www.collins.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/email>

To reach Senator Angus King

Washington office: 202-224-5344 (phone); 202-224-1946 (fax)

Form to e-mail Senator King: <http://www.king.senate.gov/contact>

To reach Representative Michael Michaud

Washington office: 202-225-6306 (phone); 202-225-2943 (fax)

Form to e-mail Representative Michaud: <http://michaud.house.gov/email>

To reach Representative Chellie Pingree

Washington office: 202-225-6116 (phone); 202-225-5590 (fax)

Form to e-mail Representative Pingree: <https://forms.house.gov/pingree/webforms/contact-form.shtml>

For More Information: Contact Friends of Acadia Conservation Director Stephanie Clement at 207-288-3340 or stephanie@friendsofacadia.org.

This Advocacy Alert was sent to citizens who have expressed interest in joining the Acadia Advocacy Network. If you would like to be removed from the Network, email stephanie@friendsofacadia.org with the word, "unsubscribe" in the subject line. Thank you very much for your support of Friends of Acadia and for weighing in on issues of importance to Acadia National Park.