

**TESTIMONY OF  
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Before the U.S. House Committee on Natural Resources,  
Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations  
*“All in for America250: Public-Private Partnerships Supporting America’s  
Semiquincentennial on our Public Lands.”*  
February 10, 2026**

Good morning, Chairman Gosar, Ranking Member Dexter and members of the committee.

My name is Jeff Reinbold, and I am privileged to serve as the President and Chief Executive Officer of the National Park Foundation. Thank you for the opportunity to speak with you today about the role that the National Park Foundation plays in supporting our national parks and celebrating our nation’s 250th anniversary.

Our national parks are uniquely American, embodying the bold democratic ideals set down by our founders 250 years ago. Our nation’s history is told across the national parks and historic sites within the National Park System, making them central to this year’s celebrations. These awe-inspiring places are literal and figurative common ground, reflecting our shared heritage and values.

They're also a gift, passed down to us by those who saw beyond their own time and took it upon themselves to help protect the most special places in our nation. To carry on this legacy and ensure that all Americans can support the protection and care of our parks, Congress chartered the National Park Foundation in 1967. We have served as the trusted nonprofit and philanthropic partner of the National Park Service under every presidential administration and Congress for nearly 60 years.

Today, we generate charitable support and cultivate partnerships to create direct impact in national parks. That support is growing at an unprecedented rate. In the first quarter of fiscal year 2026, nearly 140,000 donors across the country gave nearly \$20 million to support this work, enabling investments in essential projects that address priority needs across the national park system and as importantly, upholding this American tradition of people supporting their parks.

To commemorate the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our nation’s independence, the National Park Foundation has reaffirmed its commitment to support our parks. Central to this commitment: a goal to raise \$250 million for parks in honor of this milestone, building on the \$1 billion the Foundation has already raised since 2019 through its Campaign for National Parks. In addition, park partners across the country have joined us and collectively, will raise another \$3.5 billion, bringing the total raised to nearly \$5 billion by September of 2028.

The dollars that the National Park Foundation raises are leveraged to have an exponential, direct impact on the parks. We work closely with the National Park Service to ensure donations go to

the best use possible, supporting critical park infrastructure, investing in innovation, and connecting kids and veterans to parks through transformative experiences.

To ensure America's national parks thrive this year and for decades to come, we are:

- Supporting reauthorization of the Great American Outdoors Act's Legacy Restoration Fund to repair, revitalize, and modernize park infrastructure and spur philanthropic support, from the bathhouses of Hot Springs National Park and the Mission 66-era buildings at Petrified Forest National Park to the First Bank of the United States at Independence National Historical Park.
- Providing more than \$45 million for the refurbishment of the Lincoln Memorial, which has helped create 15,000 square feet of exhibition space to tell the story of the iconic memorial and provide access to the undercroft.
- Contributing \$40 million to address employee housing needs at Yellowstone National Park and developing creative housing solutions for parks across the country, including at Acadia National Park.
- Assisting the National Park Service in the execution of 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary related events and programs in and around National Park Service sites through the establishment of a wholly owned subsidiary, Freedom 250.
- Reimagining and contributing to the visitor center at the Painted Canyon section of North Dakota's Theodore Roosevelt National Park to honor the great champion of national parks and deepen visitors' connection to and appreciation of the park's 70,000 acres.
- Helping engage hundreds of thousands of young Americans each year through Open Out Doors for Kids, a program that encourages youth to learn about, visit, and appreciate our national parks and the legacy they represent.

This moment means so much to me personally. I've dedicated my career to our national parks: protecting these special places, enhancing the park experience, and sharing our nation's history, in a 30-plus year career with the National Park Service, including most recently serving as superintendent of the National Mall and Memorial Parks through 2024. In that role, I helped oversee many improvements around the National Mall ahead of this year's anniversary – many of which were made possible because of the National Park Foundation and the Legacy Restoration Fund – such as restoring the Thomas Jefferson Memorial and rebuilding the crumbling Tidal Basin and West Potomac Park seawalls. These projects, like so many others across the parks, ensure visitors can access, enjoy, and appreciate these symbols of our nation.

Now, I am proud and honored to lead the National Park Foundation, and especially to be a part of marking this milestone for our nation. It's a privilege to steward the donations the American public entrusts in us, to ensure our most treasured spaces, our national parks, continue to share the story of our nation as it continues to unfold.

Thank you again for the invitation to testify today, and for your support of our national parks. I'm happy to answer any questions you may have.

Thank you.