Coburn Amendment 3459- Redirect of contradictory NPS-based PILT payments to deferred maintenance backlog

Coburn Amendment 3459 would eliminate contradictory federal PILT payments to local governments and direct the savings towards the deferred maintenance backlog

NPS puts out a study every year that finds that National Parks provide a $31 billion impact on the national economy

- The National Park Service touts the economic benefits they provide to the economy and the boost they provide to the gateway communities the United States.
- According to a report published by the Social Sciences division, the National Park System hosted 281 million visitors who spent $12.13 billion in the local communities.
- This visitor spending helped support 258,400 jobs, $9.8 billion in labor income, and $16.6 billion in "value added."

Congress also spends $393 million annually for the Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) program

- Conversely, the Department of Interior's Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) program provided $436.9 million this year to local governments to compensate them for the nontaxable federal lands within their jurisdictions.
- About 94 percent of all federal land (606.5 million acres), including National Park lands, qualifies as eligible land under the PILT program.
- Areas receive federal payments based on a formula that calculates acreage and population on federal entitlement lands. The PILT program provides about $56 million in federal funds to compensate for lost revenue on National Park Service land.

The NPS report findings and the federal PILT program are contradictory

- The federal government simultaneously posits that National Park units provide a 10-fold return on the $3.1 billion investment to communities surrounding national park units while also reducing the tax revenues from those same communities.
- If having a park designated as part of the National Park Service increases tax revenue, then why is the federal government providing funding to make up for lost taxes?
- For example, according to the National Park's econometric study, Grand Teton National Park received an estimated 2,669,374 visitors in 2010 that spent $424 million in the area. With the state's 4 percent sales tax alone, Wyoming would garner about $17 million in tax revenue from Grand Teton National Park.

Coburn amendment 3459 will address this inconsistency in public policy by removing National Park lands from the PILT payment formula and direct the savings to address the $11.5 billion deferred maintenance backlog in the NPS