

Friends of Acadia Advocacy Alert

No. 21, February 10, 2009

Friends of Acadia Needs Your Help

Please contact your Senators and members of the House of Representatives immediately to encourage them to support the higher figures in the House version of the economic stimulus package for national parks.

In a nutshell...

The House and Senate have different versions of the stimulus bill. The House version of the bill included \$2.05 billion in funding for national park backlog maintenance projects, the Centennial Challenge, repair of historic structures, and other construction programs. The Senate version contains only \$847 million for maintenance, historic preservation, and construction projects. A conference committee will begin negotiating the final version of the bill that will be sent to the President this week. Please call your Senate and House members to encourage them to weigh in with the members of the conference committee in support of the \$2.05 billion for national parks in the House version of the economic stimulus package.

Acadia's Projects:

Acadia National Park has several important projects that could be undertaken within the next three years if funded through the economic stimulus bill. Much of this work will be undertaken via contracts with private construction and paving companies:

1. **Pavement Maintenance Projects Park-wide.** This is a \$7 million project to finish re-paving parking areas and roads within the park.
2. **Convert the Former Navy Base Grounds to the Campus of the Schoodic Education and Research Center (SERC).** With \$7 million, the National Park Service could tear down several former Navy buildings that are not being used at SERC because of handicapped accessibility problems, substandard fire protection, and health concerns. Funding could also be used to reconstruct older water lines, install new communications systems, and remove excess pavement.
3. **Rehabilitate Former Navy Buildings to Become Useful at SERC.** This \$3.3 million project could upgrade the historic Rockefeller Building into a welcome center, convert a former medical building into classroom and laboratory space, and enable the Schooner Commons to accommodate up to 200 diners.



PO Box 45 ~ Bar Harbor, ME 04609
Phone: 207-288-23340 ~ Fax: 207-288-8938
www.friendsofacadia.org

Action to Take:

1. Call your members of the Senate and House of Representatives immediately to encourage them to contact members of the conference committee in support of the \$2.05 billion for national parks in the House version of the economic stimulus package.

Talking Points:

- The backlog of national park maintenance projects stands at \$9 billion. Acadia National Park has approximately \$17 million of projects it could undertake in the next three years.
- The House version of the economic stimulus package, which directs \$2.05 billion to national parks, is anticipated to create 50,000 jobs.
- The much lower \$847 million in the Senate version of the economic stimulus package dilutes this historic opportunity to address the needs of our national parks.
- The House version of the bill includes funding for the Centennial Challenge which will encourage additional private investment to match public funding in national parks.
- Every dollar invested in national parks generates \$4 in economic return.

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, e-mail 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.