

**To:** Jeffrey Bradybaugh[jeff\_bradybaugh@nps.gov]  
**Cc:** alyssa\_baltrus@nps.gov[alyssa\_baltrus@nps.gov]; cassity\_bromley@nps.gov[cassity\_bromley@nps.gov]; Cynthia Purcell[cindy\_purcell@nps.gov]; Daniel Fagergren[daniel\_fagergren@nps.gov]; dave\_webster@nps.gov[dave\_webster@nps.gov]; jack\_burns@nps.gov[jack\_burns@nps.gov]; treacy\_stone@nps.gov[treacy\_stone@nps.gov]; andrew\_p\_fitzgerald@nps.gov[andrew\_p\_fitzgerald@nps.gov]; lyman.hafen@zionpark.org[lyman.hafen@zionpark.org]; mark.preiss@zionpark.org[mark.preiss@zionpark.org]; kate\_hammond@nps.gov[kate\_hammond@nps.gov]; kate\_cannon@nps.gov[kate\_cannon@nps.gov]; rick\_frost@nps.gov[rick\_frost@nps.gov]; kris\_kirby@nps.gov[kris\_kirby@nps.gov]; Vanessa Lacayo[vanessa\_lacayo@nps.gov]; jeremy\_barnum@nps.gov[jeremy\_barnum@nps.gov]; Domenica.Watkins@mail.house.gov[Domenica.Watkins@mail.house.gov]; terry.camp@mail.house.gov[terry.camp@mail.house.gov]; Faith Vander Voort[faith\_vandervoort@ios.doi.gov]; Aaron Thiele[aaron\_thiele@ios.doi.gov]; jill.burt@zionpark.org[jill.burt@zionpark.org]; dhobbs@xanterra.com[dhobbs@xanterra.com]; faustin@infowest.com[faustin@infowest.com]  
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Thank you for sharing.

On Thu, Sep 20, 2018 at 8:58 PM Bradybaugh, Jeffrey <jeff\_bradybaugh@nps.gov> wrote:

FYI

**Jeff Bradybaugh**  
**Superintendent**  
**Zion National Park**  
**State Highway Route 9**  
**Springdale, UT 84767**  
**phone: 435-772-0140**  
**e-mail: [jeff\\_bradybaugh@nps.gov](mailto:jeff_bradybaugh@nps.gov)**

*"Optimism is true moral courage"*  
Sir Ernest Shackleton, 1874-1922  
shipwrecked Antarctic Explorer



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## Interior Secretary Zinke to visit Zion National Park Monday

Amy Joi O'Donoghue Published: September 20, 2018 12:45 pm

SALT LAKE CITY — Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke will tour Utah's iconic Zion National Park on Monday and get a close-up look at some of the \$65 million in backlogged maintenance needs.

*Rogelio V. Solis, Associated Press*

*FILE - U.S. Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke signs a proclamation Friday, Aug. 3, 2018, at Tougaloo College in Jackson, Miss.*

His visit includes a roundtable discussion with Rep. Rob Bishop, R-Utah, who is sponsoring a bipartisan measure to fund park maintenance using some of the royalties from energy development on public lands.

"Money that is generated on public lands should be used to maintain public lands," Bishop said.

The Restore Our Parks and Public Lands Act, endorsed last week in the House Committee on Natural Resources that Bishop chairs, enjoys broad bipartisan support with 169 co-sponsors.

The bill is co-led by the committee's ranking member, Rep. Raul Grijalva, D-Ariz.

*Aaron Thorup, National Park Service*

*Maintenance backlog in Utah*

The National Park System is reeling under a staggering \$11.6 billion in deferred maintenance needs. In Utah, national parks and monuments'

maintenance needs are \$266 million, with roads, bridges and restroom facilities in need of repair or replacement.

“It is very easy to create a park and put land in the government state, but another thing to come up with a way to actually maintain it,” Bishop said.

The legislation aims to take the excess revenue generated from all forms of energy development that is not already allocated to other programs.

Bishop said the annual allocation would be capped at \$1.3 billion over a five-year period, satisfying concerns by Democrats that the measure will not incentivize energy development.

“It won’t solve every issue right away, but we will have some money coming in at a steady pace,” he said.

Bishop estimates if the program had been in place this year, \$6 billion could have been directed to take care of maintenance needs at the nation’s parks and monuments.

*Scott G Winterton, Deseret News*

*FILE - Rep. Rob Bishop Union High choir as he meets in a field hearing at Union High School in Roosevelt on Wednesday, Aug. 29, 2018.*

**[Read more: Rep. Bishop touts plan to use energy development to fund park maintenance](#)**

The money also will help fund needed maintenance throughout the nation’s wildlife refuges and address backlogs within the Bureau of Land Management, he added.

Those excess royalties would be harnessed from both onshore and offshore energy development of fossil fuels, as well as renewable energy like wind, solar and geothermal.

As it stands now, excess money is deposited into the general fund for other appropriations, Bishop said.

**[Deseret News editorial: Time to fix that 80-year-old national park toilet](#)**

Multiple groups have come out in favor of the proposal, including the National Parks Conservation Association, the Pew Charitable Trusts, the America Outdoors Association and the RV Industry Association.

[5 comments on this story](#)

Frank Hugelmeyer, president of the RV group, said the \$50 billion RV industry is growing at record levels, but overnight stays at National Park Service campgrounds are decreasing dramatically.

Those visits were at 4.5 million in the 1980s and have dwindled to 2.5 million in 2017, he said.

[More on Zion: You'd be shocked how often lightning strikes in Zion National Park. Here's how to stay safe during your visit](#)

Bishop said Monday's roundtable discussion on the bill, which includes park officials and community representatives, will occur at the park itself and also involve a tour of Utah's most-visited national park.

Reps. John Curtis and Chris Stewart, R-Utah, will also be there.

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Natalie Davis  
Deputy White House Liaison  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
202.208.4928  
202.706.9288