

SUPPORT for SUSTAINABLE STATE PARKS FUNDING

SB 451/HB 660

Virginia's state park system, started in 1936 with five parks, now consists of 42 parks spread across the Commonwealth. As new parks are added to keep pace with the population growth and the expanded enthusiasm for outdoor recreation, costs have outpaced dedicated resources for our parks. This deficit has caused both staffing shortfalls and deferred maintenance. SB 451 (Marsden) and HB 660 (Kilgore), would designate 5% of the corporate income tax revenue to fully fund Virginia State Parks. This amount would provide for the Parks' needs for operations, ongoing maintenance, deferred maintenance, and full staffing. Given the significant increases in revenue from Virginia's corporate income tax revenue in recent years, this 5% would represent new money, and not take funds from existing recipients

WHY SUPPORT STATE PARKS?



Fully funded State Parks can contribute significantly to several of the Commonwealth's **other top priorities**, including **economic development, education, health, and equity**.



Studies show that **\$15 are added to local and state economies for every \$1 invested by the state in Parks**.



Interpretive Park rangers can **teach STEM-related SOL's**, both in the "living laboratories" of the State Parks themselves, and virtually to classrooms of students across the state.



The legislation's **waiver of entry/parking fees** make our **Parks more accessible to all**. State Parks are the people's parks, and SB 451/HB 660 will enable every Virginian to visit any State Park for free, every day of the year.



Experiencing the beauty and peace of Virginia's amazing State Parks can contribute to **better mental and physical health**.



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Continuing to underfund state parks is not a sustainable model for success and yet we have forced our State Parks to operate this way for some 90 years. This proposed bi-partisan solution to take 5% of the corporate income tax revenue and dedicate it to parks will provide the sustainable long-term funding our parks deserve.

JOIN US IN SUPPORTING VIRGINIA STATE PARKS!

The Members of TIPS (Tayloe's Initiative for Parks Sustainability)

Jim Dillard, Chairman - Former Delegate

Emmett Hanger - Former Senator

Josh Cole - Current Delegate

Tayloe Murphy (until his death) - Former Delegate & former Secretary of Natural Resources

Joe Elton - Former State Parks Director

Johnny Finch - President Emeritus of Virginia Assoc for Parks (VAFP)

Bob Gibson - Former Executive Director of the Sorenson Institute for Political Leadership at UVA

Craig Seaver - Former State Parks Director

Carol Wampler - Former VP of VA Manufacturers Assoc; former VA Water Control Bd Chairman

