

# Congress of the United States

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

February 10, 2020

The Honorable David L. Bernhardt  
Secretary of the U.S. Department of the Interior  
Department of the Interior  
1849 C Street NW  
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Secretary Bernhardt,

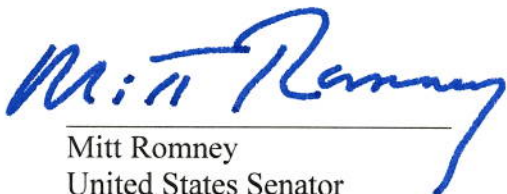
The National Park Service (NPS) is moving forward with a capacity study that could mandate a reservation system for Zion National Park (ZNP). We write to reiterate our strong opposition to any reservation system and instead request that NPS give ample consideration to locally-driven alternative solutions that preserve visitor access and enjoyment.


As the fourth most visited national park in the country, ZNP is a pillar of the local tourism economy – helping support jobs and generate revenue. If the ZNP Capacity Study concluded that a reservation system is necessary to meet new capacity standards were necessary and recommended a reservation system to implement the standards, it would likely result in reduced visitation and negative economic impacts.

We strongly urge the Department to find solutions that will preserve access to ZNP while enhancing the visitor experience. State and local leaders have proposed several solutions including improved public outreach and use of the state's marketing resources, state and local investment in trails or road infrastructure alternatives outside of Zion Canyon, and shuttle system changes to manage peak visitation.

We are encouraged by the many ideas NPS can explore with state and local stakeholders to improve the visitor experience without severely restricting visitors from accessing ZNP. We urge the Department to carefully evaluate these proposals rather than pursuing burdensome visitor limitations and reservation systems.

Sincerely,

  
Mitt Romney  
United States Senator

  
Mike Lee  
United States Senator



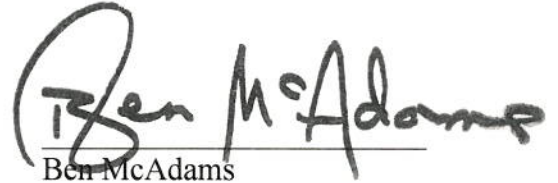
Rob Bishop  
Member of Congress



Chris Stewart  
Member of Congress



John Curtis  
Member of Congress



Ben McAdams  
Member of Congress

cc: Washington County Commissioners  
Jeff Bradybaugh, Superintendent, Zion National Park  
David Vela, Director, National Park Service  
Mike Reynolds, Regional Director, National Park Service