

United States Senate

October 27, 2017

The Honorable Ryan Zinke
Secretary of the Interior
1849 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20420

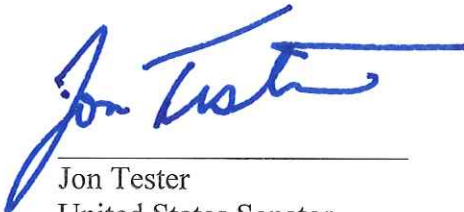
Dear Secretary Zinke,

We are writing to applaud your recent meeting with veteran service organizations to address veteran's access to public lands. We share your sentiments that encouraging veterans to access and use the very lands they fought to protect is an incredible healing opportunity for their physical and emotional wounds. In addition, we encourage you to use your authority as the Secretary of the Interior to reduce the barriers veterans face in accessing public lands.

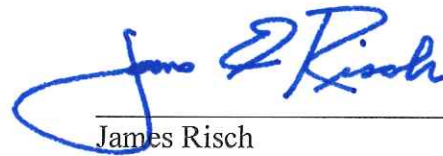
That is why we introduced the "Honoring Service Through National Park Access Act," to provide veterans better access to national parks by allowing them to purchase a National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Pass which would be valid through their entire lifetime. We believe this bill matches perfectly with the intent of your recent meeting with the veterans service organizations, and encourage you consider making a lifetime pass available to veterans for the same cost as the current year long pass.

It is critically important that we reduce the barriers veterans face when accessing our National Parks and public lands. We look forward to working with the Department of Interior as your advance initiatives to ensure more veterans are able to experience these treasured places.

Sincerely,



Jon Tester
United States Senator



James Risch
United States Senator