

Second Regular Session
Sixty-ninth General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. R14-0050.01 Meghan O'Connor x4143

SJR14-022

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Baumgardner and Heath,

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

DelGrosso and Becker,

Senate Committees

House Committees

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 14-022

101 CONCERNING THE RECOGNITION AND COMMENDATION OF THE PEOPLE
102 OF COLORADO AND THE UNITED STATES ON THE 100TH
103 ANNIVERSARY OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF ROCKY MOUNTAIN
104 NATIONAL PARK.

1 WHEREAS, 100 years ago, groups of citizens and officials in
2 Colorado displayed great foresight in recognizing the potential benefits
3 of a national park in the southern Rocky Mountains; and

4 WHEREAS, On January 26, 1915, President Woodrow Wilson
5 signed the Rocky Mountain National Park Act, creating Rocky Mountain
6 National Park (RMNP) in the state of Colorado; and

7 WHEREAS, The fragile alpine tundra encompasses one-third of

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.
Capital letters indicate new material to be added to existing statute.
Dashes through the words indicate deletions from existing statute.

1 RMNP and is one of the largest examples of alpine tundra ecosystems
2 preserved in the National Park System in the lower 48 states; and

3 WHEREAS, RMNP serves as a place for visitors to enjoy 359
4 miles of hiking trails, 150 lakes, scenic drives, and extensive wildlife
5 viewing; and

6 WHEREAS, The National Park Service provides unique outdoor
7 education within RMNP that provides visitors with opportunities to learn
8 about the diverse park ecosystems, environmental stewardship, wilderness
9 areas, and the principles of Leave No Trace; and

10 WHEREAS, RMNP is an internationally recognized biosphere
11 reserve with scientific interest and significance, where biological and
12 cultural resources represent a natural laboratory of extraordinary diversity
13 in which researchers can explore and make discoveries for the benefit of
14 present and future generations; and

15 WHEREAS, RMNP has a higher average altitude than any other
16 national park in the United States, with at least 60 mountains higher than
17 12,000 feet, including Longs Peak, which stands at a massive 14,259 feet;
18 and

19 WHEREAS, The Continental Divide runs through RMNP, and the
20 park contains the headwaters of several river systems, including the
21 Colorado River; and

22 WHEREAS, Trail Ridge Road, RMNP's highway to the sky, spans
23 48 miles, 11 miles of which are above treeline, and peaks at an
24 astounding 12,183 feet; and

25 WHEREAS, Trail Ridge Road provides access to breathtaking
26 views, an abundance of wildlife, and spectacular alpine wildflower
27 exhibitions; is one of 10 America's Byways; and is a designated All
28 American Roadway; and

29 WHEREAS, On March 30, 2009, 95% of RMNP was designated
30 as wilderness, thereby conferring the highest level of conservation
31 protection for federal lands in order to protect the park's majestic terrain
32 from future development; and

33 WHEREAS, More than 170 million visitors have visited RMNP

1 since its establishment in 1915, and the park continues to serve the people
2 of Colorado, the United States, and the world with a place of outstanding
3 natural beauty and refuge; and

4 WHEREAS, The National Park Service will continue its long
5 tradition of protecting and providing enjoyment to citizens with the
6 wilderness, wildlife, and wonder found within RMNP, inspiring
7 stewardship in future generations for the next hundred years and beyond;
8 and

9 WHEREAS, In 1909, reflecting on the beauty of RMNP, Enos
10 Mills wrote, "In years to come when I am asleep beneath the pines,
11 thousands of families will find rest and hope in this park"; and

12 WHEREAS, More than one century later, RMNP is the most
13 popular attraction in Colorado, drawing 3 million annual visitors to its
14 416 square miles of mountain beauty; and

15 WHEREAS, This anniversary marks the celebration of more than
16 100 years of work by many committed stakeholders, from the local
17 communities to the federal government; now, therefore,

18 *Be It Resolved by the Senate of the Sixty-ninth General Assembly*
19 *of the State of Colorado, the House of Representatives concurring herein:*

20 (1) That the Colorado General Assembly:

21 (a) Honors the 100th anniversary of the signing of the Rocky
22 Mountain National Park Act;

23 (b) Recognizes more than 100 years of work by many committed
24 stakeholders, from local communities to the federal government; and

25 (c) Commends the National Park Service and so many Coloradans
26 for their dedication to preserving this region of the southern Rocky
27 Mountains for future generations.

28 *Be it further resolved* that copies of this Joint Resolution be sent
29 to the National Park Service; the Board of Trustees of Grand Lake,
30 Colorado; the Board of Trustees of Granby, Colorado; and the Board of
31 Trustees of Estes Park, Colorado.