



SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 14-022

BY SENATOR(S) Baumgardner and Heath, Aguilar, Balmer, Brophy, Cadman, Crowder, Grantham, Guzman, Harvey, Herpin, Hill, Hodge, Jahn, Johnston, Jones, Kefalas, Kerr, King, Lambert, Lundberg, Marble, Newell, Nicholson, Renfroe, Rivera, Roberts, Scheffel, Schwartz, Steadman, Tochtrop, Todd, Ulibarri, Zenzinger, Carroll;
also REPRESENTATIVE(S) DelGrosso and Becker, Buck, Buckner, Conti, Coram, Court, Dore, Duran, Everett, Exum, Fields, Fischer, Foote, Garcia, Gardner, Gerou, Ginal, Hamner, Holbert, Hullinghorst, Humphrey, Joshi, Kagan, Kraft-Tharp, Labuda, Landgraf, Lawrence, Lebsock, Lee, May, McCann, McLachlan, McNulty, Melton, Mitsch Bush, Moreno, Murray, Navarro, Nordberg, Pabon, Peniston, Pettersen, Primavera, Priola, Rankin, Rosenthal, Ryden, Saine, Salazar, Schafer, Scott, Singer, Stephens, Swalm, Szabo, Tyler, Vigil, Waller, Williams, Wilson, Wright, Young, Ferrandino, Sonnenberg.

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

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

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

WHEREAS, The fragile alpine tundra encompasses one-third of RMNP and is one of the largest examples of alpine tundra ecosystems preserved in the National Park System in the lower 48 states; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, More than 170 million visitors have visited RMNP since its establishment in 1915, and the park continues to serve the people of

Colorado, the United States, and the world with a place of outstanding natural beauty and refuge; and

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

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

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

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

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

(1) That the Colorado General Assembly:

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

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

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

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

Morgan Carroll
PRESIDENT OF
THE SENATE

Mark Ferrandino
SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE
OF REPRESENTATIVES

Cindi Markwell
SECRETARY OF
THE SENATE

Marilyn Eddins
CHIEF CLERK OF THE HOUSE
OF REPRESENTATIVES