

2013-K1201

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION in support of the Palisades Interstate Park Commission's opposition to LG Electronics Corporation's plans for the construction of its new headquarters which pose a new threat and precedent to the scenic beauty of the Palisades

WHEREAS, The Palisades Interstate Park Commission was created to maintain and operate park land "for the use of the public and for the purpose of preserving the scenic beauty of the Palisades and other lands therein", and is comprised of five representatives from New York and five representatives from New Jersey, each appointed by their respective Governor; and

WHEREAS, On February 25, 2014, the Palisades Interstate Park Commission unanimously passed a resolution formally opposing LG Electronics' new headquarters as it is currently planned; and

WHEREAS, The Commission found LG Electronics' planned 143-foot building poses a new threat and precedent to the scenic beauty of the Palisades north of the George Washington Bridge which would spoil the Interstate Park and the sweeping vistas which have been protected by more than a century of conservation; and

WHEREAS, The Palisades, a National Natural and Historic landmark formed of igneous (volcanic) rock 200 million years ago in the late Triassic period, and shaped during the last Ice Age 15,000 years ago, provide one of the last untouched natural vistas in the New York metropolitan region; and

WHEREAS, A late-19th Century threat to the Palisades from the ravages of industrial quarrying spawned a conservation effort by then-New York Governor Theodore Roosevelt and New Jersey Governor Foster McGowan Voorhees which began with the formation of the Palisades Interstate Parks Commission in 1900, and culminated with the dedication in 1909 of

the Palisades Interstate Park to mark the 300th Anniversary of Henry Hudson's famous trip up the River that now bears his name; and WHEREAS, The proposed LG headquarters, if built as designed, would rise well above the treeline and is a fourfold increase upon existing zoning, even though LG's 27-acre site can easily accommodate a lower building which would bring in as many jobs and as much tax revenue; and WHEREAS, The proposed LG tower would also open the door to more development, ruining a several thousand-year-old vista seen by the original Native American settlers, European explorer Henry Hudson and enjoyed by millions on both sides of the River to this day; and

WHEREAS, A wide coalition of citizens from New York and beyond have appealed to LG to be a good neighbor and build its new headquarters so that it does not exceed the tree line; and

WHEREAS, Recent letters from the National Park Service's National Historic Landmark Manager and NE Region Natural Resources Chief detail the significance of the area and how the construction of the building as currently proposed threatens the integrity of this nationally designated area; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body joins the growing number of public officials who have raised their voices in opposition to the LG Electronics plan including Charles E. Schumer, US Senator; The Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo, Governor of the State of New York; and Eric T. Schneiderman, New York Attorney General; as well as numerous New York State Senators and Assembly Members, New York City Council Members, Manhattan and Bronx Community Board Members, and countless thousands of concerned individuals, including four former New Jersey governors and six nearby New Jersey mayors; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body finds the height of the proposed LG Electronics Headquarters building above the tree line is not in the public interest of New Yorkers and Americans who value our national resources and historic landmarks; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations in support of the Palisades Interstate Park Commission's opposition to LG Electronics Corporation's plans for the construction of its new headquarters which pose a new threat and precedent to the scenic beauty of the Palisades; and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the LG Electronics Corporation, the Palisades Interstate Park Commission, and Kathleen A. Donovan, Bergen County Executive.