

2015-K1570

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commemorating the 100th Anniversary of the establishment of the National Parks Service

WHEREAS, The health and well-being of the citizens, natural beauty and historic resources of the State of New York are of immense importance to this Legislative Body; and

WHEREAS, One hundred years ago, the National Parks Service was created under the auspices of the United States Department of Interior on August 25, 1916, through a bill signed by President Woodrow Wilson called, "The Organic Act," to protect and promote our national parks, monuments and reservations for future generations; and

WHEREAS, On June 10, 1933, President Franklin D. Roosevelt of Hyde Park, New York, signed Executive Order 6166 to transfer 56 national monuments and military sites to the National Parks Services for management, which had been previously split between the authority of the War Department and the Department of Agriculture's Forest Service; and

WHEREAS, In 1949, President Harry S. Truman signed the National Trust for Historic Preservation Act to facilitate public participation in the preservation of sites, buildings, and objects of national significance or of international interest; this vital legislation was instrumental in furthering the preservation movement and the work of the National Parks Service; and

WHEREAS, The National Parks Service has worked for a Century to sustain access to historical and natural sites to present and future citizens, encompassing more than 84.4 million acres of land, creating 252,000 jobs and bringing \$30.1 billion in visitor spending; and

WHEREAS, According to the United States Department of Interior, the National Parks System has been an economic engine for New York, leading to 7,300 jobs; in 2015, 16,328,212 people visited New York State's 22

National Parks, 268 National Historic Landmarks, 28 National Natural Landmarks, 4 National Heritage Areas, 307 Archeological Sites, three National Memorials, and six National Monuments, including the Statue of Liberty, a World Heritage Site; and

WHEREAS, The National Parks Service contributes to the continued biodiversity of ecosystems across the Nation through its stewardship of Natural Preserves like the Appalachian Trail, a 2,180+ mile scenic footpath which passes through New York, and Natural Landmarks like the Thompson Pond in Dutchess County; and

WHEREAS, The National Parks Service has maintained vital historical parks and landmarks such as the Statue of Liberty, the Homes of Presidents Franklin D. Roosevelt, Theodore Roosevelt and Martin Van Buren, as well as the home of our Former First Lady, Eleanor Roosevelt, the Vanderbilt Mansion and the location of the Seneca Falls Convention on Women's Suffrage; and

WHEREAS, With each dollar of funding, the National Parks Service returns four dollars in local economic activity and in 2015, New York alone saw \$606,700,000 in visitor spending, \$304,400,000 million in labor income, and \$742,700,000 in economic output; and

WHEREAS, The National Parks Service is proud to serve the People of New York State by protecting and preserving our environmental, recreational and cultural treasures in the community; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the establishment of the National Parks Service; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the National Parks Service in Hyde Park, New York.