



Assigned to Councilor Faircloth

CITY OF BANGOR

(TITLE.) **RESOLVE**, Supporting the Creation of a new National Park and National Recreation Area east of Baxter State Park

WHEREAS, Bangor must actively embrace positive regional economic development opportunities, given the long-standing and continuing economic challenges facing our region; and

WHEREAS, the economic strength of Bangor is highly dependent on the economic strength of our entire surrounding region; and

WHEREAS, a proposal as significant as a new National Park and National Recreation Area will have a major impact on all the communities of the entire eastern and northern Maine region; and

WHEREAS, a nonprofit foundation called Elliotsville Plantation, Inc. owns more than 100,000 acres of land along both sides of the East Branch of the Penobscot River, east of Baxter State Park; and

WHEREAS, Elliotsville Plantation Inc. proposes to give approximately 150,000 acres of land east of Baxter State Park to the federal government for the creation of a new National Park and National Recreation Area; and

WHEREAS, two economic studies conducted in 2012, vetted by prominent Maine economists, conclude that a new National Park and National Recreation Area east of Baxter State Park will lead to approximately 450 to 1,000 jobs in the Eastern/Northern Maine region; and

WHEREAS, the new National Park and National Recreation Area would provide the Eastern/Northern Maine region with economic diversification and increase economic activity, including the attraction of highly-mobile young professionals; and

WHEREAS, the proposed National Park and National Recreation Area could bring new jobs in the tourism industry, meanwhile preserving traditional recreation activities such as fishing and hunting as well as providing permanent snowmobile trails in the Recreational Area; and

WHEREAS, there is support for the creation of a new National Park and National Recreation Area from the Katahdin Area Chamber of Commerce which represents 140 members in the communities of Millinocket, East Millinocket, Medway, Lincoln, Patten, Sherman, Brownville, and the surrounding unorganized townships, the Greater Houlton Chamber of Commerce, the Katahdin Rotary and the Medway Town Council; and

WHEREAS, Bangor encourages other communities in the entire region to analyze economic studies and other factors regarding the proposed National Park and National Recreation Area so that we all may collaborate regarding regional economic growth; and

WHEREAS, Bangor encourages other communities in the region to participate in the discussion about the proposed National Park and National Recreation Area in order to raise any concerns or desires they have in order to assure that the new National Park and National Recreation Area is implemented in the most advantageous manner; and

WHEREAS, Bangor, as the largest city in the region, must, in these challenging times, support innovative new ideas that energize regional economic development; and

WHEREAS the great success of nearly a century of the national park system includes positive impact on gateway communities with regard to visitor spending, quality of life, and attracting workers and businesses; and

WHEREAS, the one hundredth anniversary of the National Park Service is in 2016, providing a unique opportunity for creation of this new National Park and National Recreation Area, and the need to act to create jobs for our region is urgent.

DRAFT

NOW THEREFORE, Be It Resolved By The City Council Of The City Of Bangor That

The City of Bangor supports the creation of a new National Park and National Recreation Area east of Baxter State Park; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BANGOR, THAT

Catherine M. Conlow, City Manager, send a copy of this Resolve to all members of the State of Maine's Congressional Delegation.

DRAFT