

RESOLUTION

21-658

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

November 15, 2016

To declare the sense of the Council that the Eastern Legacy sites, including all of the District of Columbia, should be incorporated into the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail.

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this resolution may be cited as the “Sense of the Council Regarding Completion of the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail Resolution of 2016”.

Sec. 2. The Council finds that:

(1) It is clear that the Lewis and Clark Expedition was an important historical mission of exploration that benefits Americans and visitors today, over 200 years after the Corps of Discovery led by Meriwether Lewis and William Clark blazed what is known today as the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail (“Trail”).

(2) The Trail was established by Congress in 1978 and extended to the west from Wood River, Illinois to the mouth of the Columbia River in Oregon and Washington.

(3) Section 343 of the Consolidated Natural Resources Act of 2008, approved May 8, 2008 (Pub. L. No. 110-229; 122 Stat. 797) (“Act”), directed the Secretary of the Department of the Interior, of which the National Park Service is a part, to conduct a special resource study to determine the suitability and feasibility of adding the Eastern Legacy sites, which includes the District of Columbia, to the Trail. In July 2016, however, the National Park Service completed the study called for in the Act, and recommended against the extension of the Trail to include any areas within the District of Columbia.

(4) Extending the Trail eastward fulfills the objectives of the National Trails Systems Act, approved October 2, 1968 (82 Stat. 919; 16 U.S.C. § 1243), which are to establish a system of national recreation trails and scenic trails to provide for the ever-increasing outdoor recreation needs of an expanding population and to promote the preservation of, public access to, travel within, and enjoyment and appreciation of open-air, outdoor areas and historic resources of the nation.

Sec. 3. It is the sense of the Council that the United States Congress should overrule the determination of the National Park Service that the Eastern Legacy sites, including sites and segments associated with the Lewis and Clark Expedition in the District of Columbia, are not

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nationally significant, and should expand the Trail to include the historically significant eastern corridor of the Lewis and Clark Expedition, including the entirety of the District of Columbia.

Sec. 4. The Council shall transmit a copy of this resolution, upon its adoption, to the Mayor, the Delegate to the House of Representatives from the District of Columbia, the Chairman of the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives, the Chairman of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the United States Senate, the Secretary to the Department of the Interior, the Director of the National Park Service, and the Lewis and Clark Trust, Inc.

Sec. 5. This resolution shall take effect immediately upon the first date of publication in the District of Columbia Register.