

ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION No. 107

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 20, 2020

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman PARKER SPACE

District 24 (Morris, Sussex and Warren)

Assemblyman HAROLD "HAL" J. WIRTHS

District 24 (Morris, Sussex and Warren)

SYNOPSIS

Opposes certain parts of National Park Service's "Vision 2030" for Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 3/5/2020)

AR107 SPACE, WIRTHS

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1 **AN ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION** opposing certain parts of the National
2 Park Service’s “Vision 2030” for the Delaware Water Gap
3 National Recreation Area.
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5 **WHEREAS**, The Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area
6 (“Delaware Water Gap”) is a unit of the National Park Service
7 located in New Jersey and Pennsylvania, that currently
8 encompasses nearly 70,000 acres, of which 21,978 acres are in
9 Sussex County and 9,222 acres are in Warren County; and
10 **WHEREAS**, The Delaware Water Gap is among the top 10 most visited
11 units of the National Park System with approximately five million
12 visitors annually; and
13 **WHEREAS**, The Delaware Water Gap offers numerous recreational
14 opportunities, including bicycling, bird watching, boating, camping,
15 canoeing, cross country skiing, fishing, hiking, horseback riding,
16 hunting, swimming, walking, and special events, and is home to
17 numerous rare, threatened, and endangered species of plants,
18 amphibians, fish, mammals, and reptiles; and
19 **WHEREAS**, The Delaware Water Gap is enjoyed by the residents of
20 Sussex and Warren counties, as well as residents from throughout
21 the State and visitors from across the country; and
22 **WHEREAS**, Businesses in Sussex and Warren counties benefit
23 substantially from the tourism which the numerous and varied
24 recreational activities of the region’s federal and State lands
25 provide; and
26 **WHEREAS**, Staff of the National Park Service have created a plan
27 entitled “Vision 2030: A Vision For A Sustainable Future,” which
28 sets forth a vision for the Delaware Water Gap and the Middle
29 Delaware National Scenic and Recreational River; and
30 **WHEREAS**, This plan sets forth a proposal to acquire large tracts of
31 land and expand the jurisdiction of the National Park Service
32 outside of the current boundaries of the Delaware Water Gap,
33 including, at a minimum, any land that is within a watershed that
34 flows into the Delaware River in the area under the jurisdiction of
35 the National Park Service; and
36 **WHEREAS**, Vision 2030 also expresses a desire to establish the
37 Delaware Valley National Park and Preserve, a proposed area that
38 would include the Delaware Water Gap and the Middle Delaware
39 National Scenic and Recreational River in a larger park and
40 preserve complex, that would replace the Delaware Water Gap
41 while the Middle Delaware National Scenic and Recreational River
42 would continue under current management which it is believed may
43 eventually limit or prohibit hunting and recreation activities
44 currently enjoyed by residents and visitors; and
45 **WHEREAS**, Such a change would negatively affect the residents,
46 businesses, and tourism-related activities of Sussex and Warren
47 counties, as visitors come from all over the country to enjoy the
48 recreational activities offered by the Delaware Water Gap,

1 including hunting, which provides economic benefits to all of the
2 local businesses in Sussex and Warren counties; and

3 **WHEREAS**, Prohibiting or restricting recreational activities, including
4 hunting, will cause local businesses in Sussex and Warren counties
5 to suffer financially and force tourism to other states that offer these
6 activities; now, therefore,

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8 **BE IT RESOLVED** by the General Assembly of the State of New
9 Jersey:

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11 1. This House opposes the National Park Service's "Vision
12 2030: A Vision For A Sustainable Future" plan to take additional
13 property to expand the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation
14 Area beyond its current boundaries.

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16 2. This House further opposes the vision to establish the
17 Delaware Valley National Park and Preserve, a proposal that would
18 take the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area and the
19 Middle Delaware National Scenic and Recreational River and
20 include them in a larger park and preserve complex.

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22 3. Copies of this resolution, as filed with the Secretary of State,
23 shall be transmitted by the Clerk of the General Assembly to the
24 Governor, the Secretary of the Interior, the Director of the National
25 Park Service, the Regional Director of the Northeast Region of the
26 National Park Service, every member of Congress elected from this
27 State, and the Commissioner of the New Jersey Department of
28 Environmental Protection.

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31 STATEMENT

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33 This resolution expresses opposition to certain parts of the
34 National Park Service's "Vision 2030: A Vision For A Sustainable
35 Future" for the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area.
36 Specifically, the resolution opposes the proposals concerning the
37 acquisition of additional property to expand the Delaware Water
38 Gap National Recreation Area beyond its current boundaries and
39 the establishment of a Delaware Valley National Park and Preserve.