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RESOLUTION NO.2015-04-06

A RESOLUTION OF THE MINIDOKA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS EXPRESSING TO THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS, THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES AND PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES, ITS QUALIFIED SUPPORT OF THE DESIGNATION OF 54,000 ACRES KNOWN AS THE ORIGINAL CRATERS OF THE MOON NATIONAL MONUMENT AS EXISTED PRIOR TO 2009, AS A NATIONAL PARK, UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES BY ARTICLE IV, SECTION 3, OF THE UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION.

WHEREAS, The Craters of the Moon National Monument is an area of unique and profound natural beauty and diversity. Craters of the Moon provides habitat for dozens of species of wildlife such as mule deer, pronghorn, elk, coyote, fox, bobcats, mountain lions, lizards, snakes, bats, marmots, hawks, eagles and chipmunks just to name but a few as well as over 750 different species of plants. Craters of the Moon landscape is dominated by breathtaking basaltic lava flows and volcanism;

WHEREAS, the 54,000 acres known as the original Craters Moon National Monument as it existed prior to 2009, resides within Butte County, Idaho;

WHEREAS, the State of Idaho is the only western US state without a National Park situated entirely within its borders;

WHEREAS, according to the Idaho Department of Labor, approximately 40,000 jobs are supported by Idaho's tourist industry, and pay wages over \$500,000,000 total, annually;

WHEREAS, according to recent studies by the Outdoor Industry Foundation, active outdoor recreation similar to the activities that occur at Craters of the Moon, account for \$2.2 billion in annual retail sales and services across Idaho (over 5% of Idaho's Gross State Product) and \$154 million in State Tax revenue;

WHEREAS, establishing Craters of the Moon National Park in the 54,000 acres currently known as the original Craters of the Moon National Monument as existed prior to 2009 would enhance economic opportunities and job creation for Idaho by increasing tourism and outdoor recreation business opportunities;

WHEREAS, no existing uses or boundaries would change by the proposed National Park status on any surrounding lands and the new designation would only effect the name designation of the original 54,000 acres of the National Monument as it existed prior to 2009;

WHEREAS, President Coolidge created the Monument in 1924 with the intent of establishing a National park;


NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED by the Commissioners of Minidoka County, Idaho as follows:

The Commissioners of Minidoka County, Idaho support the US Congress establishing a National Park at the original site of Craters of the Moon National Monument.

The Minidoka County Commissioners support the continued efforts to promote tourism and community involvement and outreach at Craters of the Moon.

Dated this 6<sup>th</sup> day of ~~March~~<sup>April</sup>, 2015.



  
Robert Moore, Chairman

  
Sheryl Koyle, Commissioner

  
Kent McClellan, Commissioner

Attest:   
Patty Temple, Clerk