

## HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. HJ0013

Resolution in support of Central Park wilderness.

Sponsored by: Representative(s) Jaggi and Burkhart and  
Senator(s) Jennings

A Bill

for

1 A JOINT RESOLUTION requesting Congress to acquire the area  
2 commonly known as Central Park on Manhattan in New York  
3 City on behalf of the federal government; urging the United  
4 States Congress to declare Central Park to be a wilderness  
5 area and to prohibit any further improvement or development  
6 of Central Park unless authorized by an Act of Congress.

7

8 WHEREAS, before Henry Hudson's landing on September 12,  
9 1609, Manhattan was a remarkably diverse and natural  
10 landscape of hills, valleys, forests, fields, freshwater  
11 wetlands, salt marshes, beaches, springs, ponds and streams  
12 and supported a rich and abundant community of wildlife,  
13 and sustained people for thousands of years; and

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15 WHEREAS, since the arrival of Henry Hudson, the  
16 unrestrained development of buildings, highways, and urban

1 sprawl on Manhattan has destroyed habitat, displaced  
2 indigenous peoples and disrupted what had been the delicate  
3 Muir Web; and

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5 WHEREAS, at least 1,000 species of plants and vertebrates,  
6 including 24 species of mammals, 233 species of birds, 32  
7 species of reptiles and amphibians, 85 species of fish, and  
8 627 species of plants, and an unknown number of species of  
9 fungi, lichens, mosses, insects, shellfish and other  
10 invertebrates previously inhabited Manhattan; and

11

12 WHEREAS, resident mammals previously included the gray  
13 wolf, gray fox, beaver, white-tailed deer, elk, short-  
14 beaked common dolphin, long-finned pilot whale, bobcat,  
15 mountain lion, cottontail rabbit, white-footed mouse, river  
16 otter, black bear and red bat; and

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18 WHEREAS, resident bird species previously included the bald  
19 eagle, belted kingfisher, wood duck, green heron, cedar  
20 waxwing, passenger pigeon, American goldfinch, Baltimore  
21 oriole, peregrine falcon, wild turkey and red-bellied  
22 woodpecker; and

23

1 WHEREAS, resident plants previously included the sugar  
2 maple, mountain holly, wild sarsaparilla, American ginseng,  
3 purple milkweed, yellow birch, wild cucumber, white oak,  
4 red hickory, white ash, red pine, black spruce, mountain  
5 ash and eastern cottonwood; and

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7 WHEREAS, resident reptiles previously included the  
8 loggerhead sea turtle, brown snake, timber rattlesnake,  
9 eastern mud turtle, diamondback terrapin and redbelly  
10 snake; and

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12 WHEREAS, in 1609, Manhattan's biodiversity density for each  
13 acre rivaled that of national parks such as Yellowstone,  
14 Yosemite and Great Smoky Mountains; and

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16 WHEREAS, Manhattan once had more than 570 hills, 60 miles  
17 of streams, 20 ponds and 300 springs; and

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19 WHEREAS, sandy beaches once reached from the tip of  
20 Manhattan to a point past 42nd Street on the Hudson River  
21 shore; beyond the shore was the vibrant, dynamic tidal  
22 estuary with complex currents, sedimentary patterns and the  
23 influence of the Hudson River; and

24

1 WHEREAS, Manhattan's Upper West Side and Tribeca were once  
2 a coastal oak-pine forest with red maple swamps; and

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4 WHEREAS, Manhattan once had 55 different ecological  
5 communities, including terrestrial communities, wetlands,  
6 pond and stream communities and estuarine communities; and

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8 WHEREAS, the Lenape and their ancestors lived in this area  
9 for thousands of years before European contact, obtaining  
10 all the food, water and materials they needed from the  
11 local forests, wetlands and waters; and

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13 WHEREAS, in northeastern Algonquin culture, the Lenape were  
14 considered the "ancient ones," and their folklore suggests  
15 a close connection to the land and appreciation of their  
16 role as a member of the ecosystem that was shared with the  
17 plentiful other species; and

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19 WHEREAS, Manhattan has an area of approximately 22.7 square  
20 miles and Central Park has an area of approximately 1.3  
21 square miles; and

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23 WHEREAS, in the event Congress authorizes the creation of  
24 the Central Park Wilderness, the state of Wyoming shall

1 donate a breeding pair of grey wolves to begin the  
2 recolonization of the grey wolf to Manhattan, an area, like  
3 Wyoming, encompassing the grey wolf's historic range; and

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5 WHEREAS, the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009  
6 creates two million (2,000,000) acres of new wilderness in  
7 nine (9) states and expands twenty-six (26) existing  
8 wilderness areas; and

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10 WHEREAS, there are over three million (3,000,000)  
11 designated roadless acres of national forest land in  
12 Wyoming which cannot be utilized consistent with the  
13 directives of multiple-use and sustained yield; and

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15 WHEREAS, the state of Alaska faces the same issues as the  
16 state of Wyoming with congressional action required before  
17 leasing and other mineral development can occur in Area  
18 1002 of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

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20 *NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE*  
21 *LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WYOMING:*

22

23 **Section 1.** That the Wyoming State Legislature urges  
24 the President of the United States and the United States

1 Congress to acquire the area commonly known as Central Park  
2 on behalf of the federal government.

3

4       **Section 2.** That the Wyoming State Legislature urges  
5 the United States Congress to declare Central Park to be a  
6 wilderness area.

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8       **Section 3.** That the Wyoming State Legislature urges  
9 the United States Congress to enact a provision similar to  
10 16 U.S.C. 3143 to prohibit any further improvement or  
11 development of Central Park unless authorized by an Act of  
12 Congress.

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14       **Section 4.** That the Secretary of State of Wyoming  
15 transmit copies of this resolution to the President of the  
16 United States, to the President of the Senate and the  
17 Speaker of the House of Representatives of the United  
18 States Congress and to the Wyoming Congressional  
19 Delegation.

20

21

(END)