

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. SJ0002

150th Anniversary of the 1868 Treaty of Fort Laramie.

Sponsored by: Senator(s) Ellis, Anselmi-Dalton and Case and
Representative(s) Allen, Blake, Hunt,
Kinner, Kirkbride, Larsen and Steinmetz

A JOINT RESOLUTION

for

1 A JOINT RESOLUTION to commemorate the sesquicentennial of
2 the signing of the 1868 Treaty of Fort Laramie.

3

4 WHEREAS, the area in and around what is presently known as
5 Fort Laramie, Wyoming has served like a grand meeting hall,
6 described by author Starley Talbott as a place "where the
7 mountains meet the plains; where two rivers converge; where
8 Native American tribes gathered; where fur trappers and
9 traders rendezvoused; where emigrants met for rest and
10 supplies; where soldiers came and went; where homesteaders
11 linked the past to the present; and where today's travelers
12 come to partake in Fort Laramie's fascinating history;" and
13

1 WHEREAS, Fort Laramie and its surrounding area had been
2 occupied by tribes of the Great Plains throughout the
3 course of history; and

4

5 WHEREAS, in 1812, Robert Stuart was the first non-Indian
6 person to visit the area later known as Fort Laramie and
7 Alfred Jacob Miller became the first artist to record the
8 area's landscape in 1837; and

9

10 WHEREAS, beginning in 1841, emigrants bound for the West
11 Coast stopped in Fort Laramie as they traveled to what
12 would later become the Oregon, California and Mormon
13 Trails, with westward migration peaking in the early 1850s
14 at more than fifty thousand (50,000) people traveling these
15 trails annually; and

16

17 WHEREAS, the United States military purchased the Fort
18 Laramie Post in 1849 and stationed soldiers to protect
19 wagon trains, thereby establishing a social and economic
20 center for Indians and non-Indians; and

21

22 WHEREAS, despite efforts to secure peace between Native
23 Americans and the non-Indian emigrants and military

1 personnel, conflicts arose, culminating in wars between
2 Plains Tribes and the United States; and

3

4 WHEREAS, the indigenous Nations of the northern Great
5 Plains region entered into treaties with the United States
6 of America in 1868 at Fort Laramie, in the Dakota
7 Territory, which is now present day Wyoming, and at other
8 military posts in the region; and

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10 WHEREAS, these treaties are collectively regarded as the
11 1868 Treaty of Fort Laramie and include the following
12 Tribes in treaty with the United States:

13 Treaty with the Sioux and Arapaho

14 Brulé band of Sioux (presently "Brule Lakota":

15 Lower Brule and Rosebud Reservations)

16 Ogallalah band of Sioux (presently "Oglala

17 Lakota": Pine Ridge Reservation)

18 Minneconjou band of Sioux (presently "Miniconjou

19 Lakota": Cheyenne River Reservation)

20 Yanktonai band of Sioux (presently "Yanktonai

21 Dakota" and "Yankton": Standing Rock,

22 Yankton and Crow Creek Reservations)

1 Arapaho (presently "Southern Arapaho":
2 headquartered in Concho, Oklahoma, Cheyenne-
3 Arapaho Oklahoma Tribal Statistical Area)
4 Hunkpapa band of Sioux (presently "Hunkpapa
5 Lakota": Standing Rock Reservation)
6 Blackfeet band of Sioux (also "Blackfoot,"
7 presently "Blackfeet Lakota": Cheyenne River
8 and Standing Rock Reservations)
9 Cuthead band of Sioux (presently "Cuthead
10 Dakota": Standing Rock Reservation)
11 Two Kettle band of Sioux (presently "Two Kettle
12 Lakota": Cheyenne River Reservation)
13 Sans Arc band of Sioux (presently "Sans Arc
14 Lakota": Cheyenne River Reservation)
15 Santee band of Sioux (presently "Santee Dakota":
16 Santee Sioux, Flandreau, Crow Creek and Lake
17 Traverse Reservations and the Upper Sioux,
18 Lower Sioux, Prairie Island and Shakopee
19 Mdewakanton Indian Communities)
20 Treaty with the Crow (Crow Reservation)
21 Treaty with the Northern Cheyenne and Northern Arapaho
22 (Northern Cheyenne and Wind River Reservations,
23 respectively); and

1

2 WHEREAS, each of the Tribes and the United States
3 Government desiring for peace, the parties signed the 1868
4 Treaty of Fort Laramie to cease wars among the parties and
5 bring about and maintain peace; and

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7 WHEREAS, the 1868 Treaty of Fort Laramie did not end
8 conflict, as terms of the Treaty were broken resulting from
9 the discovery of gold in the Black Hills, the area of Fort
10 Laramie remained a supply and communications center for the
11 United States military's efforts to confine Native people
12 onto reservations; and

13

14 WHEREAS, the United States military abandoned Fort Laramie
15 in 1890, and all but one (1) of the fort's sixty (60)
16 structures were sold at private auction and were used as
17 private dwellings, businesses, a dance hall and livestock
18 shelters during the fort's homestead period of 1890 to
19 1937; and

20

21 WHEREAS, interested homesteaders, local residents and
22 others recognized the historical significance of Fort
23 Laramie in the 1930s and the State of Wyoming acquired Fort

1 Laramie in 1937, which eventually became a unit of the
2 national park system in 1938; and

3

4 WHEREAS, today, the Fort Laramie National Historic Site is
5 open to the public and restoration of many of the
6 structures to their historic appearances provides visitors
7 with a glimpse of a bygone era; and

8

9 WHEREAS, the legacy of the 1868 Treaty of Fort Laramie has
10 had an impact in numerous ways on the lives of Tribal
11 members of Tribes party to the Treaty from generation to
12 generation since the signing; and

13

14 WHEREAS, the indigenous Nations of the northern Great
15 Plains and their people have endured difficult burdens,
16 sometimes navigating treacherous trails in their dedicated
17 effort to preserve and pass along their physical and
18 cultural identity, while at the same time making
19 significant contributions to the development of the
20 Republic; and

21

1 WHEREAS, the indigenous Nations of the northern Great
2 Plains and their people continue to defend their inherent
3 sovereignty and celebrate their cultural heritage; and

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5 WHEREAS, the anniversary of the signing of the 1868 Treaty
6 of Fort Laramie will be commemorated throughout 2018 at the
7 Fort Laramie National Historic Site to honor the spirit of
8 this area's rich past and its First Nations, with events
9 from sunrise to sunset slated for April 28 and ending
10 festivities on November 6. Throughout the anniversary year,
11 celebrations will commemorate individual Tribe signing
12 dates and may include traditional culture and history
13 demonstrations; and

14

15 WHEREAS, Wyoming values and respects the historical and
16 modern contributions of American Indian people, as
17 evidenced by the 2017 passage of the American Indian
18 Educational Program Act, which will educate all Wyoming
19 students about American Indian tribes of the region, to
20 ensure the cultural heritage, history and contemporary
21 contributions of American Indians are addressed.

22

1 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE
2 LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WYOMING:

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4 **Section 1.** That the Wyoming legislature commemorates
5 the one hundred fiftieth (150th) anniversary of the signing
6 of the 1868 Treaty of Fort Laramie by educating people
7 about the Treaty and history of this nationally significant
8 place.

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10 **Section 2.** That the Wyoming legislature supports
11 nationwide public education about the heritage, history and
12 contributions of Native American tribes and urges the
13 federal government to uphold its federal trust
14 responsibilities.

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16 **Section 3.** That the Wyoming legislature supports
17 permanently displaying in Wyoming the original treaties
18 that comprise the 1868 Treaty of Fort Laramie, which are
19 presently on file with the National Archives.

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1 **Section 4.** That the Secretary of State of Wyoming
2 transmit copies of this resolution to the President of the
3 United States, the Secretary of the Interior, the Speaker
4 of the United States House of Representatives, the
5 President Pro Tempore of the United States Senate and the
6 majority and minority leader and whip of each house, the
7 Wyoming Congressional Delegation, each state governor and
8 the business council of each tribal nation that signed the
9 1868 Treaty of Fort Laramie.

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(END)