

ORIGINAL SENATE
JOINT RESOLUTION. SJ0002

ENROLLED JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 1, SENATE

SIXTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WYOMING
2018 BUDGET SESSION

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

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

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

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

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

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

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WHEREAS, despite efforts to secure peace between Native Americans and the non-Indian emigrants and military personnel, conflicts arose, culminating in wars between Plains Tribes and the United States; and

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

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

Treaty with the Sioux and Arapaho

Brulé band of Sioux (presently "Brule Lakota":
Lower Brule and Rosebud Reservations)

Ogallalah band of Sioux (presently "Oglala
Lakota": Pine Ridge Reservation)

Minneconjou band of Sioux (presently "Miniconjou
Lakota": Cheyenne River Reservation)

Yanktonai band of Sioux (presently "Yanktonai
Dakota" and "Yankton": Standing Rock,
Yankton and Crow Creek Reservations)

Arapaho (presently "Southern Arapaho":
headquartered in Concho, Oklahoma, Cheyenne-
Arapaho Oklahoma Tribal Statistical Area)

Hunkpapa band of Sioux (presently "Hunkpapa
Lakota": Standing Rock Reservation)

Blackfeet band of Sioux (also "Blackfoot,"
presently "Blackfeet Lakota": Cheyenne River
and Standing Rock Reservations)

Cuthead band of Sioux (presently "Cuthead
Dakota": Standing Rock Reservation)

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Two Kettle band of Sioux (presently "Two Kettle
Lakota": Cheyenne River Reservation)
Sans Arc band of Sioux (presently "Sans Arc
Lakota": Cheyenne River Reservation)
Santee band of Sioux (presently "Santee Dakota":
Santee Sioux, Flandreau, Crow Creek and Lake
Traverse Reservations and the Upper Sioux,
Lower Sioux, Prairie Island and Shakopee
Mdewakanton Indian Communities)

Treaty with the Crow (Crow Reservation)

Treaty with the Northern Cheyenne and Northern Arapaho
(Northern Cheyenne and Wind River Reservations,
respectively); and

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

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

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

WHEREAS, interested homesteaders, local residents and
others recognized the historical significance of Fort

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Laramie in the 1930s and the State of Wyoming acquired Fort Laramie in 1937, which eventually became a unit of the national park system in 1938; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(END)

Speaker of the House

President of the Senate

Governor

TIME APPROVED: _____

DATE APPROVED: _____

I hereby certify that this act originated in the Senate.

Chief Clerk