

## 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.

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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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1 WHEREAS, since the arrival of Henry Hudson, the  
2 unrestrained development of buildings, highways, and urban  
3 sprawl on Manhattan has destroyed habitat, displaced  
4 indigenous peoples and disrupted what had been the delicate  
5 Muir Web; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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1 WHEREAS, the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge has an area of  
2 approximately 29,687 square miles and Area 1002, the area  
3 for development in the refuge, has an area of approximately  
4 2,344 square miles; and

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6 WHEREAS, Central Park makes up approximately six percent of  
7 Manhattan and Area 1002 makes up approximately eight  
8 percent of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge; and

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10 WHEREAS, 16 U.S.C. 3143 requires an authorization by an Act  
11 of Congress before leasing or other development leading to  
12 the production of oil and gas in the Arctic National  
13 Wildlife Refuge may proceed.

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

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18 **Section 1.** That the Wyoming State Legislature urges  
19 the President of the United States and the United States  
20 Congress to acquire the area commonly known as Central Park  
21 on behalf of the federal government.

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

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5           **Section 3.** That the Wyoming State Legislature urges  
6 the United States Congress to enact a provision similar to  
7 16 U.S.C. 3143 to prohibit any further improvement or  
8 development of Central Park unless authorized by an Act of  
9 Congress.

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

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(END)