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RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, any official position of the City of Los Angeles with respect to legislation, rules, regulations, or policies proposed to or pending before a local, state, or federal governmental body or agency must have first been adopted in the form of a Resolution by the City Council; and

WHEREAS, on April 9, 2024, the U.S. House of Representatives passed H.R. 6492, known as the Expanding Public Lands Outdoor Recreation Experiences (“EXPLORE”) Act with overwhelming bipartisan support; and

WHEREAS, the EXPLORE Act is a wide-reaching piece of legislation that will improve the lives of outdoorsmen and women while also expanding access to America's public lands and waters; and

WHEREAS, more specifically, the EXPLORE Act will improve public land access and modernize technology to improve visitor experiences through 1) increasing broadband connectivity and creating digital passes, 2) streamlining the permitting process to reduce fees for small businesses that depend on public land access, 3) protecting rock climbing in iconic places and creating new long-distance bike trails, 4) restoring campgrounds and modernizing infrastructure, 5) supporting gateway communities by addressing housing shortages and outdated infrastructure, and 6) improving accessibility for military service members, veterans, individuals with disabilities, and kids; and

WHEREAS, alongside the overwhelming bipartisan support, this legislation is supported by a host of outdoor-oriented organizations, including advocates for hunting, fishing, horseback riding, recreational boating, camping, rock climbing, and more; and

WHEREAS, one-third of Americans—including 28 million children—don’t have a park, or other natural areas, within a 10-minute walk of their home. Lower-income and BIPOC communities are more likely to lack parks—and the parks that do exist are four times smaller on average than those in more affluent areas; and

WHEREAS, through the passage of the EXPLORE Act, H.R. 5413, the Outdoors for All (“O4A”) Act was brought forward in this legislative package and included in the bipartisan EXPLORE Act; and

WHEREAS, the O4A Act would codify the Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership grant program, a nationally competitive federal grant program, through the National Park Service, that provides funding for new or significantly improved parks and recreation spaces in economically

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disadvantaged communities with few parks and little to no access to public outdoor recreation spaces; and

WHEREAS, the O4A Act is an effort to fund essential urban park projects, revitalize green spaces, and expand outdoor access for communities across the country; and

WHEREAS, far too many communities in the 44th Congressional District, and the One-Five specifically, do not have adequate access to parks and green spaces; and

WHEREAS, the EXPLORE Act and O4A Act would ensure that funding will go to communities such as Watts and Wilmington that have dealt with inadequate access to local parks for far too long:

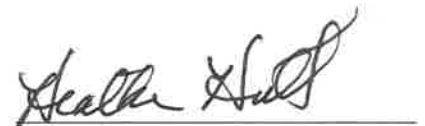
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that by the adoption of this Resolution, the City of Los Angeles hereby includes in its 2023-2024 State Legislative Program SUPPORT for H.R. 6492, the Expanding Public Lands Outdoor Recreation Experiences (“EXPLORE”) Act, and H.R. 5413, the Outdoors for All (“O4A”) Act, which would expand access to America’s public lands and waters as well as increase funding for communities without adequate access to local parks.

PRESENTED BY:


TIM McOSKER

Councilmember, 15th District

SECONDED BY:



ORIGINAL