

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. HJ0005

Moose-Wilson roadway.

Sponsored by: Representative(s) Nicholas, B., Gingery,
Petroff and Stubson and Senator(s) Anderson,
J.D. (SD02), Barnard, Burns, Christensen,
Coe, Driskill, Esquibel, F., Landen,
Perkins, Peterson and Von Flatern

A Bill

for

1 A JOINT RESOLUTION to the United States secretary of the
2 interior, the director of the national park service and the
3 superintendent of Grand Teton National Park relating to
4 maintenance of the Moose-Wilson road.

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6 WHEREAS, the pedestrian and bicycle pathways built in Grand
7 Teton National Park are a resounding success, allowing
8 people of all abilities - seniors, children, and adults,
9 able-bodied as well as persons with disabilities - the
10 chance to safely experience public lands without fear of
11 being injured or killed by vehicles; and

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13 WHEREAS, in 2007 the final environmental impact statement
14 for the Grand Teton National Park transportation plan
15 approved pathways and transit as a means to enhance

1 visitors' safety and experiences in their national park;
2 and

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4 WHEREAS, before the pathways were approved and constructed,
5 two (2) people were killed on roads in Grand Teton National
6 Park on road segments where no pedestrian or bicycle
7 pathway existed prior to 2007, and

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9 WHEREAS, currently there is a seven (7) mile long gap along
10 the Moose-Wilson road within the planned or built pathway
11 network that links Teton County's pathways with the Grand
12 Teton National Park; and

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14 WHEREAS, two-way vehicle access from Teton County along the
15 rural Moose-Wilson road is important and meaningful for
16 public access to the park, as it has been for the last 120
17 years, predating the establishment of this national park;
18 and

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20 WHEREAS, Wyoming residents and other visitors should have a
21 choice to experience Grand Teton National Park outside
22 their vehicle if a pathway provides them that opportunity;
23 and

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1 WHEREAS, private funding will pay for the costs and
2 maintenance of the Moose-Wilson pathway section in Grand
3 Teton National Park, so as not to burden taxpayers of the
4 United States; and

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6 WHEREAS, Teton Village, the Town of Jackson and Teton
7 County are key gateway communities to Grand Teton National
8 Park and should be stakeholders in solutions on planning
9 for public safety and public access; and

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11 WHEREAS, the increased presence of grizzly bears along the
12 Moose-Wilson road shows successful management of the
13 species and should not mean a closure to the public when
14 such a precedent would have implications on federal lands
15 and national parks throughout the western United States.

16

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

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20 **Section 1.** That the legislature of the state of
21 Wyoming supports continued two-way vehicle access on the
22 Moose-Wilson road for the continued historic access on
23 these national park lands within Wyoming.

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1 **Section 2.** That the legislature of the state of
2 Wyoming encourages Grand Teton National Park to work with
3 adjacent gateway communities and communicate cooperatively
4 on key issues of public safety and public access.

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6 **Section 3.** That the legislature of the state of
7 Wyoming encourages Grand Teton National Park to study a
8 complete pathway designed and constructed in an
9 environmentally sensitive way that keeps visitors and their
10 children safe.

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12 **Section 4.** That the legislature of the state of
13 Wyoming encourages Grand Teton National Park to partner
14 with private donors to construct the needed pathway and
15 recreational infrastructure so that the visitors on the
16 Moose-Wilson road are safe and their enjoyment is enhanced.

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18 **Section 5.** That the legislature of the state of
19 Wyoming firmly cautions Grand Teton National Park about
20 creating a precedent with regard to grizzly bears being
21 used as a trigger for the federal government's closure of
22 public lands, as such a precedent would have major
23 implications for hikers, horseback riders, hunters,

1 sportsmen, bikers, birders and overall public uses
2 throughout the West.

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4 **Section 6.** That the Secretary of State of Wyoming
5 transmit copies of this resolution to the Secretary of the
6 Interior, to the Director of the National Park Service, to
7 the Wyoming Congressional Delegation, and to the
8 Superintendent of Grand Teton National Park.

9

10 (END)