



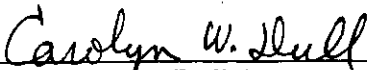
CITY OF STAUNTON, VIRGINIA

Resolution

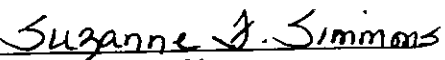
- WHEREAS,** Friends of Shenandoah Mountain, a local broad-based coalition of organizations, businesses, faith groups, and individuals, has proposed Congressional designation of a 90,000-acre tract of George Washington National Forest (GWNF) land between U.S. Route 33 and U.S. Route 250 as a Shenandoah Mountain National Scenic Area (SMNSA) with four embedded Wilderness areas that include Staunton Dam, Elkhorn Lake, and headwaters of the North River, which supply pure drinking water for residents in the City of Staunton; and
- WHEREAS,** the City of Staunton has a strong commitment to and has taken various actions in support of National Scenic Area Legislation, such as a resolution in support of clean drinking water in George Washington National Forest, opposition to hydraulic fracking, and language in its Comprehensive Plan that calls to protect and manage scenic and natural resources; and
- WHEREAS,** the designation of the SMNSA would protect the headwaters of various waterways, and the life in those, and would serve to maintain mature forests that would enhance flood protection of nearby communities; and
- WHEREAS,** a 2018 letter from the City of Staunton to the Forest Supervisor for the George Washington and Jefferson National Forests fully supported inclusion of Staunton Dam and Elkhorn Lake and the surrounding North River watershed on Hankey Mountain and Elkhorn Mountain (almost 3,000 acres) in the Shenandoah Mountain National Scenic Area, provided any legislation establishing the proposed scenic area sufficiently provides for the City's right to access, operate, maintain, replace and improve its existing water facilities in the proposed scenic area and, if necessary, to construct and maintain new water infrastructure; and
- WHEREAS,** there are numerous trails and recreational amenities within the designated area that would continue to be accessed, maintained and improved; and
- WHEREAS,** the SMNSA proposal has been endorsed by over 400 businesses and organizations, including many Staunton businesses and numerous neighboring landowners, and would support and enhance the local economy and quality of life for Staunton residents.
- NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,** the the City Council of the City of Staunton, Virginia supports Congressional designation of the Shenandoah Mountain National Scenic Area

and embedded Wilderness areas, as proposed by Friends of Shenandoah Mountain, provided any legislation establishing the proposed scenic area sufficiently provides for the City's right to access, operate, maintain, replace and improve its existing water facilities in the proposed scenic area and, if necessary, to construct and maintain new water infrastructure.

Adopted: January 23, 2020



Carolyn W. Dull, Mayor

ATTEST: 
Suzanne F. Simmons
Clerk of Council