



National Lieutenant Governors Association

1 **Resolution Recognizing the Economic Importance of Outdoor Recreation**

2 **WHEREAS**, our Nation’s natural landscapes and beautiful waterways provide access to diverse
3 outdoor recreation opportunities to all people with unique and unrivaled natural assets
4 that improve our health, enhance our quality of life, and strengthen our economy, and

5 **WHEREAS**, our Nation’s beautiful lands, stunning mountains, spectacular canyons, and
6 magnificent waterways represent the best of America to the rest of the world, and

7 **WHEREAS**, these natural assets draw millions of visitors each year among our states and from
8 around the world who generate \$887 billion in consumer spending and approximately \$59.2 billion in
9 state and local tax revenues, directly employing some 7.6 million Americans¹, and

10 **WHEREAS**, many of these natural assets contribute to the growth of thriving communities, both urban
11 and rural, and enable Americans to experience world class outdoor recreation close to home and to live
12 an active and healthy lifestyle, and

13 **WHEREAS**, outdoor recreation builds and supports each of our states’ economies in other significant
14 but less well-known ways, including:

- 15 1. acting as a critical tool for employee recruitment and retention;
- 16 2. driving economic development in proximity to recreation opportunities; and
- 17 3. diversifying our economies in ways that are resistant to recessions, and

18 **WHEREAS**, the private sector is a key partner in each of our states’ success, and Lieutenant Governors
19 are committed to responsibly partnering with the business community to ensure that our natural
20 assets can sustain economic growth for years to come, and

21 **WHEREAS**, each of our states is unique, we share a commitment to facilitating peoples love of the
22 outdoors through inclusion and diverse outdoor experiences that have the power to unify communities,
23 to bridge societal divides and to improve the mental and physical health of all people.

24 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the National Lieutenant Governors Association
25 recognizes the significance and broad economic importance of our nation’s natural assets to all people,
26 and draws particular attention to the fact that this economic importance flows not only directly from
27 outdoor recreation and tourism but also from other significant sources such as attracting people and
28 businesses who build our states’ economy in diverse ways.

¹ Outdoor Industry Association, [The Outdoor Recreation Economy Report 2017](#)



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29 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the NLGA expresses the intention to continue the legacy of
30 supporting and growing the broad economic value of our Nation's natural assets to benefit all people.

31 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Members of NLGA will encourage and support increased
32 opportunities for individuals and young people with disabilities to not only to enjoy and explore the
33 outdoors, but also to learn the teamwork and leadership skills that will empower them to become great
34 advocates for themselves and others.

35 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Members of NLGA acknowledge the impact of COVID-19 on
36 local and state economies and support actions that will promote outdoor recreation as a means of
37 furthering economic, social, and health benefits in communities throughout the nation during this public
38 health crisis.

39 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the NLGA will be an engaged forum for collaboration among
40 states to support the growth of the outdoor recreation industry, to foster conservation and stewardship
41 values, to ensure environmental quality, and to restore sustainable access to the outdoors for current and
42 future generations.

ADOPTED, this day, the 29th of July, 2020.

Sponsors: Lt. Governor Pamela Evette (R – South Carolina), Lt. Governor Garlin Gilchrist (D – Michigan), Lt. Governor Kate Marshall (D – Nevada), Lt. Governor Kevin Meyer (R – Alaska), Lt. Governor Billy Nungesser (R – Louisiana), Lt. Governor Boyd Rutherford (R – Maryland)