



Central Shenandoah Planning District Commission

RESOLUTION
ENCOURAGING ESTABLISHMENT OF PERPETUAL PUBLIC ACCESS
TO THE NATURAL BRIDGE OF VIRGINIA

WHEREAS, Natural Bridge has been deemed sacred by all Americans throughout modern history, from native tribes to the present day inhabitants and by visitors from every corner of the Nation and the world; and

WHEREAS, Natural Bridge was owned by American Founding Father and President of the United States Thomas Jefferson, from 1774 until his death on July 4, 1826; and

WHEREAS, President Jefferson believed that Natural Bridge should forever be available for public access; and

WHEREAS, Natural Bridge represents both a literal and symbolic image of the westward expansion of the United States of America; and

WHEREAS, as a result of its historic significance, Natural Bridge has been designated as a National Historic Landmark, a Virginia Historic Landmark, and is listed in the National Register of Historic Places; and

WHEREAS, the County of Rockbridge was named in honor of this natural and historic treasure; and,

WHEREAS, Natural Bridge is a source of pride and honor for Rockbridge County and its regional partners, the Cities of Lexington and Buena Vista; and

WHEREAS, the popularity of Natural Bridge as a destination for tourists and travelers provides significant economic opportunity to the entire region; and

WHEREAS, our Nation has been exceptionally fortunate that, subsequent to President Jefferson's ownership of Natural Bridge, a succession of owners has, since 1826, honored his vision by allowing public access and enjoyment of the natural splendor of Natural Bridge; and

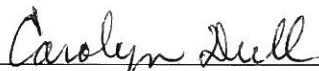
WHEREAS, Natural Bridge and its surrounding properties are currently being marketed for public sale; and

WHEREAS, the Central Shenandoah Planning District Commission fully recognizes the importance of keeping Natural Bridge fully accessible for future generations, and that one sure way to guarantee perpetual public access is for Natural Bridge to be publicly owned,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Central Shenandoah Planning District Commission encourages Leaders of our State and Nation to explore every possible avenue to ensure that Natural Bridge of Virginia be forever preserved for the enjoyment of the citizens of, and visitors to, the United States of America.

ADOPTED

The undersigned certifies that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of a resolution adopted at a legally convened meeting of the Central Shenandoah Planning District Commission of August 19, 2013.



Carolyn Dull, CSPDC Chairperson

August 19, 2013
Date