



## **RESOLUTION ENCOURAGING ESTABLISHMENT OF PERPERTUAL PUBLIC ACCESS TO THE NATURAL BRIDGE OF VIRGINIA**

**Whereas** The Natural Bridge of Virginia was formed by the forces of God and nature; and,

**Whereas** The Bridge has been deemed sacred by all Americans throughout modern history, from native tribes to the present day inhabitants of Rockbridge County and the Cities of Lexington and Buena Vista, and by visitors from every corner of the Nation and the world; and,

**Whereas** The Bridge was owned by American Founding Father and President of the United States Thomas Jefferson, from 1774 until his death on July 4<sup>th</sup>, 1826; and,

**Whereas** President Jefferson believed that The Bridge should forever be available for public access; and,

**Whereas** The Bridge represents both a literal and symbolic image of the westward expansion of the United States of America; and

**Whereas** and as a result of its historic significance, the 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 this natural and historic treasure; and,

**Whereas**, The 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 The 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 The Bridge, a succession of owners has, since 1826, honored his vision by allowing public access and enjoyment of the natural splendor of The Bridge; and,

**Whereas** The Bridge and its surrounding properties are currently being marketed for public sale; and,

**Whereas** the Chamber of Commerce serving Lexington, Buena Vista and Rockbridge County fully recognizes the importance of keeping The Bridge fully accessible for future generations, and that one sure way to guarantee perpetual public access is for The Bridge to be publicly owned,

**Now therefore be it resolved** that the Chamber of Commerce serving Lexington, Buena Vista and Rockbridge County encourages Leaders of our State and Nation to explore every possible avenue to ensure that The Natural Bridge of Virginia be forever preserved for the enjoyment of the citizens of, and visitors to, the United States of America.

Adopted this 13th day of August, 2013

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Sammy Moore – Executive Director

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Ward Huffman - President

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Bob Huch – Vice President

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Steve McAllister - Treasurer

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Jay Lewis – Ex-Officio