

**RESOLUTION OF THE SPORTSMAN’S ALLIANCE OF MAINE REGARDING
A PROPOSED NATIONAL PARK IN NORTHERN MAINE**

WE, The 15,000 members of the Sportsman’s Alliance of Maine, assembled for the purpose of advocating for conservation of our natural resources and for the defense of our sporting heritage, contemplate with grave concern the troubled economy in rural Maine, and we stand in profound respect of the ability of the communities of the state to determine their own future prosperity. The north of Maine is home to a storied tradition of self-sufficiency and abounds in sporting opportunity for those who live, work, and visit there. Vast tracts of land are contemplated to be set aside, out of reach of all Maine residents and our visitors, and so we harbor profound concern about a proposed National Park in northern Maine, and so therefore **RESOLVE THAT:**

WHEREAS, the forests of Maine provide thousands of proud Mainers with self-sufficient livelihoods and sporting opportunities to recreate; and

WHEREAS, the creation of a National Park would prohibit economic activity such as logging, operation of sporting camps, and retail activities to support the businesses there; and

WHEREAS, management of Maine’s historic fisheries would be thrown into question, stifling the grandest opportunities to seek native brook trout and landlocked salmon in the nation; and

WHEREAS, sustainable forest practices enhance wildlife habitat and prevent fire danger; and

WHEREAS, hunting, trapping, snowmobiling, and other traditional outdoor activities would be severely limited or banned in a National Park, obliterating hundreds of years of traditional access; and

WHEREAS, even our tribal neighbors would lose the opportunity to hunt and trap on lands used by their nations for thousands of years; and

WHEREAS, hunting, fishing, and snowmobiling are worth hundreds of millions of dollars to Maine’s rural economy every year, employing outfitters, retailers, guides, and lodges, who would be adversely affected; and

WHEREAS, “eco-tourism” around a National Park can be manifestly defined as seasonal tee-shirt shops, water slides, and miniature golf courses as found in the approaches to Acadia National Park in areas that were once abundant farmland; and

WHEREAS, our sporting tradition and heritage is what makes Maine truly a special place and world-class destination that would be impossible to maintain in or around a National Park; and

WHEREAS, the 125th Maine Legislature enacted SP 519, JOINT RESOLUTION, MEMORIALIZING THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR, AND THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO OPPOSE THE CREATION OF A NATIONAL PARK IN MAINE'S NORTH WOODS; and

WHEREAS, the discussion of a National Park creates divisions within our communities when we should be working together, and could add to the dark climate around the possible sale of mills in the region, now, therefore, be it highly

RESOLVED; that the Sportsman's Alliance of Maine, as the state's largest conservation organization, opposes the creation of a National Park that would eliminate traditional activities in Maine's North Woods, stifle economic development, and stop wildlife and habitat management, to the detriment of the future of our State, and further, be it highly

RESOLVED; that the Charter of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts granted by King Charles II, which included the District of Maine, included provisions for submerged lands and navigable ways to be held in common for fishing, fowling, and hunting in seasonable times, and that therefore the creation of a National Park where such activities would be banned would corrupt the organic charters of our common laws; and further, be it highly

RESOLVED; that we stand in defense of our sporting heritage, in order to bestow and endow future generations with the same Blessings of God that have been bestowed to us, so that we therefore oppose efforts to sweep away our economic independence and traditional cultural heritage.

Adopted this day, August 23rd, 2011, by the Board of Directors.