





APPROVED BY COM ON EDUCATION  
AND CULTURAL RESOURCES

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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 5

INTRODUCED BY

*Swygood Kucelch Tash*

A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA URGING NATIONAL PARK STATUS FOR VIRGINIA CITY.

WHEREAS, Virginia City is the best-preserved 1860s placer mining town in the American West; and

WHEREAS, as the Territorial capital from 1865 to 1875, the town played a major role in the politics and formation of present-day Montana; and

WHEREAS, Virginia City's gold rush, along with its subsequent growth as a town, is a prime example of the mining frontiers in the Far West that served to shape settlement patterns, transportation corridors, economic development, and federal policies, all of which were pivotal in the growth and settlement of the United States; and

WHEREAS, the town was the first administrative site of the nation's first national park, Yellowstone, and played a role in early preservation and tourism promotion; and

WHEREAS, gold mined from Alder Gulch added to the industrial growth of the United States and gold mining continues to play an important role in the state, national, and world economies; and

WHEREAS, from American Indian hunting and gathering area to boom town to stable community, Virginia City exemplifies the challenges, conflicts, and struggles encountered in remote western mining towns; and

WHEREAS, Virginia City was designated a registered national historic landmark July 4, 1961, and today includes 154 structures in the town and a surrounding cultural landscape of historic significance; and

WHEREAS, Virginia City is listed by both the National Trust and the National Park Service as one of the nation's most threatened national historic landmarks; and

WHEREAS, three of the five action alternatives identified in the Department of the Interior's Draft Special Resource Study and Environmental Assessment propose the inclusion of Virginia City in the National Park System.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:



**SJR 5**  
SECOND READING



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