

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO.

5

## 2 INTRODUCED BY

Swysgood Funeral Home

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

6

7 WHEREAS, Virginia City is the best-preserved 1860s placer mining town in the American West; and  
8 WHEREAS, as the Territorial capital from 1865 to 1875, the town played a major role in the politics  
9 and formation of present-day Montana; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

28

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

1 That the United States Congress authorize and appropriate funds for the purchase of Virginia City  
2 by the National Park Service for the purpose of designating the town and its landmarks as a unit of the  
3 National Park System.

4 -END-



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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 3  
Swygaard, Fiebold, Tash

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INTRODUCED BY SWYSGOOD, OHS, TASH

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4           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, THAT THE SECRETARY OF STATE SEND COPIES OF THIS  
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