

Richland County Council



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July 2, 2003

Senator Fritz Hollings
1835 Assembly Street, Suite 1551
Columbia, South Carolina 29201

Dear Senator Hollings:

We are thrilled to learn of the legislation you have introduced to designate the Congaree National Monument a national park. Richland County does indeed have a national treasure within its borders that needs greater recognition by the people of the United States. The Congaree National Monument, while an important designation by the National Park Service, does not have the level of national recognition that the "national park" designation brings.

This recognition is vital to increasing the stature and visibility of the Congaree park area. This visibility is an essential element to enhancing America's appreciation for this particular natural treasure and understanding the critical role that the natural world plays in a modern society.

The Richland County Council recognizes this and has approved a resolution supporting the Congaree National Monument to be designated a national park. I am enclosing this resolution with this letter for your use in this worthy endeavor.

Thank you for lending your stature and skills to pursue the National Park designation for the Congaree area and bring further national attention to South Carolina's - and Richland County's - beautiful natural areas. If I may be of any further assistance to you in this regard, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Bernice G. Scott in cursive.

Bernice G. Scott
Chair, Richland County Council

Bernice G. Scott
Chairwoman
District Ten

Joan B. Brady
Vice-Chairwoman
District Eight

Susan Brill
District Nine

Paul Livingston
District Four

Doris M. Corley
District One

Joseph McEachern
District Seven

Anthony Mizzell
District Eleven

L. Gregory Pearce, Jr.
District Six

Kit Smith
District Five

Thelma M. Tillis
District Three

James Tuten
District Two

COUNTY OF RICHLAND)
STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA)

A RESOLUTION

**A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE
CONGAREE NATIONAL MONUMENT TO BE A NATIONAL PARK**

WHEREAS, the monument, authorized as a unit of the National Park Service on October 18, 1976, encompasses 21,891 acres and rests on a floodplain of the Congaree River and, while not a true swamp, preserves in a wilderness state the largest intact tract of old-growth bottomland hardwood forest in the United States; and

WHEREAS, three features of the monument have national significance, including some of the tallest trees in the East with one of the highest canopies in the world, broad biodiversity, and old-growth forest; and

WHEREAS, the monument is recognized as a National Natural Landmark (August 1974), an International Biosphere Reserve (June 1983), Wilderness Area (October 1988), and Globally Important Bird Area (July 2001); and

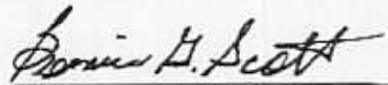
WHEREAS, to walk in this area is to walk among ancient giant trees of record size, through a storehouse of natural diversity encompassing hundreds of species of plants and animals, where beauty and tranquility reign supreme; and

WHEREAS, the Congaree National Monument, with all its natural resplendent beauty, diverse flora and fauna, old-growth forest, and many other attributes, fully meet and exceed the criteria established by the National Park Service for designating a national park: national significance, suitability, feasibility, and management alternatives; and

WHEREAS, an area designated as a national park has much greater national recognition, bringing with it a greater number of visitors to visit the area, experience the thrill and beauty of the natural world, and learn about the priceless natural treasure;

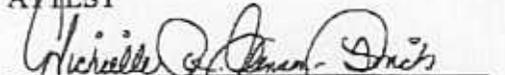
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Richland County Council supports and endorses the Congaree National Monument to be designated a National Park.

SIGNED AND SEALED this 2nd day of July, 2003, having been duly adopted by the Richland County Council on the 24th day of June, 2003.



Bernice G. Scott
Chair, Richland County Council

ATTEST


Michelle Cannon-Finch, Clerk of Council