

City of Bayfield

Office of the Clerk/Treasurer and Mayor

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RESOLUTION NO. 621

A Resolution in Opposition to H.R. 9111

Whereas; The City of Bayfield is the Gateway to the Apostle Islands, as the majority of Apostle Islands National Lakeshore visitors transit from City docks; and

Whereas; H.R. 9111 would redesignate the Apostle Islands National Lakeshore as the Apostle Islands National Park and Preserve, and for other purposes; and,

Whereas; The stated reason for the proposed redesignation is to increase tourism to create economic growth by creating more jobs, private investment in hospitality facilities and services, and public infrastructure investments; and,

Whereas; There were no local public informational meetings held to inform the public, the tourist industry, and park users about the proposal which would have allowed the public to ask questions, receive answers, and to offer their suggestions and input; and,

Whereas; There was no coordination with local governments or officials or meaningful information, communication, consultation, or questions answered about the proposal with the Native American Tribes, or the counties, towns, and cities that would be most affected by this proposal prior to its being introduced in Congress; and,

Whereas; No feasibility study has been proposed or completed to establish what private and public facilities, accommodations, and infrastructure would be required to accommodate more tourists, as well what the Federal land and nearby communities' capacities are for accommodating more tourists; and,

Whereas; The proposal is much more than just a name change. Changing the Apostle Islands National Lakeshore to a National Park and Preserve deserves a deliberate, thoughtful, transparent, in-depth, and inclusive public process so all voices can be heard and their questions answered; and,

Whereas; Native American rights on Reservation lands and Native American treaty rights to hunt, fish and gather on ceded territory lands may be negatively affected; and,

Whereas; The proposal would prohibit hunting and trapping on approximately 39,000 acres of land which are now open and available to these recreational activities; and,

Whereas; Designating Sand Island as a preserve would reduce the protection of the natural, historical and cultural resources on the island since natural resource extractions and uses such as mining and logging could be allowed and commercial development such as resorts and marinas could be allowed; and,

Whereas; The proposal could negatively impact privately reserved rights and uses on Sand and Rocky Islands; and,

Whereas; The proposal could negatively impact historical designated sites on the islands; and,

Whereas; The 1964 Wilderness Act defines wilderness as possessing "outstanding opportunities for solitude" any significant increase in park visitation and use of the Gaylord Nelson Wilderness in the Apostle Islands may damage and degrade those important opportunities; and,

Whereas; The proposal does not address the existing backlog of deferred maintenance on the Federal property. Representative Tiffany, as chair of the US House of Representatives Subcommittee on Federal Lands, is in a position to work with the both the House and Senate Appropriations committee to address the deferred maintenance backlog before the property is redesignated as National Park which would increase visitation rates; and,

Whereas; The Proposal does not address the resources and services the Park Service needs for both the current visitation rates and for the anticipated increase in visitor use if it becomes a National Park. This should be addressed before any consideration is given to redesignation as a National Park; and,

Whereas; The City of Bayfield already has a shortage of emergency service personnel and facilities. The proposal does not include any Federal help or assistance to address these issues and needs; and,

Whereas; The City of Bayfield already has a shortage of workforce housing due to a lack of new construction, paired with conversion of single-family homes into short-term rentals for tourism, which has increased housing costs and reduced available supply. The proposal does not include any Federal help or assistance to address these issues and needs; and

Whereas; The current National Lakeshore designation adequately and appropriately protects the natural, cultural and historic resources while allowing for public use and enjoyment. The proposal is a 'solution' in search of a problem;

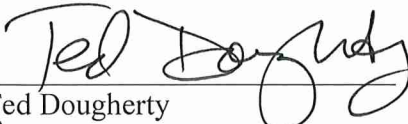
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: that the Common Council of Bayfield assembled, this 14th day of August 2024, does hereby oppose H. R. 9111 which would redesignate the Apostle Islands National Lakeshore as the Apostle Islands National Park and Preserve, and for other purposes.

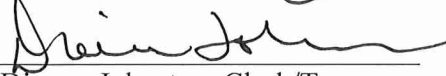
DATED this 14th day of August 2024

Adopted by the City of Bayfield Common Council this 14th day of August 2024.

(SEAL)

City of Bayfield:

Mayor: 
Ted Dougherty

Attest: 
Dionne Johnston, Clerk/Treasurer