RESOLUTION NO. 2026-XX

A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ROADLESS AREA AND URGING THE UNITED STATES FOREST SERVICE TO RETAIN THE ROADLESS RULE IN PLACE

WHEREAS, since 2001, the federal Roadless Area Conservation Rule ("Roadless Rule"), promulgated by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, has protected nearly 45 million acres of America's wildest public lands from road building and development; and

WHEREAS, the Roadless Rule is one of America's most important bipartisan conservation achievements and the result of record-breaking public support; and

WHEREAS, over 152,000 acres of the Nantahala-Pisgah National Forest's 1 million+ acres, including 7,100 acres in Transylvania County, have been designated as roadless areas; and

WHEREAS, Western North Carolina's roadless areas provide irreplaceable benefits, including clean drinking water to local and downstream communities, crystal clear trout streams, support for local economies that depend on outdoor recreation and tourism dollars, iconic hiking trails, and habitat for wildlife; and

WHEREAS, North Carolina's roadless areas contain headwaters for several important watersheds, contributing to the drinking water for over 2 million North Carolinians; and

WHEREAS, it is estimated that more than $2.5 billion dollars in revenue is generated by recreational activities that depend on North Carolina's roadless areas, supporting nearly 13,000 jobs; and

WHEREAS, in Western North Carolina, in particular, the Nantahala-Pisgah's notable climbing routes, whitewater paddling runs, and mountain bike trails bring an estimated $83.3 million in visitor spending and $31.7 million in resident spending to the region every year, supporting an estimated 1,018 full-time jobs, including dozens of local camps, outfitters, and businesses; and

WHEREAS, North Carolina's roadless areas are a haven for wildlife such as black bear, deer, wild turkey, grouse, and hundreds of bird species, as well as 25 endangered and threatened species and several sensitive species such as the eastern hellbender and the brook trout; and

WHEREAS, U.S. Forest Service data show that most wildfires start within 50 yards of a road, and the Roadless Rule thus provides a critical safeguard against wildfire; and

WHEREAS, the Roadless Rule allows road construction and reconstruction in roadless areas when needed to protect public health and safety in cases of an imminent threat of flood, fire, or other catastrophic event; and

WHEREAS, the Roadless Rule allows the U.S. Forest Service to reduce wildfire fuel hazards through restoration projects in roadless areas; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Forest Service has managed roadless areas in the Nantahala-Pisgah National Forest responsibly and efficiently, to the benefit of all North Carolinians, and especially citizens of Brevard; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Forest Service now proposes to rescind the Roadless Rule, placing 143,972 acres of roadless areas in North Carolina at risk.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BREVARD, NORTH CAROLINA THAT:

Section 1. The Brevard City Council recognizes and celebrates the 25th anniversary of the Roadless Area Conservation Rule and acknowledges the importance of the rule's continued application in Western North Carolina.

Section 2. The Brevard City Council commends the U.S. Forest Service for its effective management of roadless areas in North Carolina pursuant to the Roadless Rule.

Section 3. The City Clerk is directed to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to the U.S. Forest Service, the public, and the press.

Approved and adopted this 8th day of September, 2026.

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Maureen Copelof
Mayor

ATTEST:

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Denise Hodsdon, CMC, NCCMC
City Clerk