

**RESOLUTION No. \_\_\_\_\_**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE GREENVILLE COUNTY COUNCIL OPPOSING  
ANNEXATION BY THE CITY OF TRAVELERS REST TO BUILD A HOTEL ON  
PARIS MOUNTAIN**

**WHEREAS**, Paris Mountain is an iconic and treasured landmark, not only for the residents of Greenville County but also for the broader region and the State of South Carolina, recognized for its unique environmental, historical, and cultural significance; and

**WHEREAS**, Paris Mountain is zoned as an Environmentally Sensitive District (ESD-PM), the only such zoning designation in Greenville County, intended to protect its natural resources, unique ecosystem, and scenic beauty, with stringent restrictions placed on development; and

**WHEREAS**, property owners within this district have committed to preserving and protecting the nature of the land in accordance with zoning regulations that prohibit large-scale commercial development; and

**WHEREAS**, Altamont Road, the primary access road to Paris Mountain, is a narrow, winding, and hazardous route that is not designed to accommodate high traffic volumes or heavy construction equipment, posing significant public safety risks while also being an unwanted attractive nuisance for thrill-seeker motorists; and

**WHEREAS**, Paris Mountain is home to rare and sensitive plant and animal species, the destruction of which would irreversibly damage the mountain's biodiversity and ecological balance; and

**WHEREAS**, the annexation of land on Paris Mountain by the City of Travelers Rest for the purpose of rezoning from an environmentally sensitive designation to commercial use would set a dangerous precedent, allowing incompatible and harmful development that contradicts established land-use policies; and

**WHEREAS**, the proposed large-scale hotel and conference center, with its associated infrastructure demands, increased traffic, noise, lighting, and environmental impact, would be detrimental to the existing community and the integrity of the mountain's natural landscape; and

**WHEREAS**, the Travelers Rest Comprehensive Master Plan, updated in 2023, does not identify a need for annexing Paris Mountain or for expanding commercial development into environmentally sensitive areas; conversely, it prioritizes preserving existing character and natural areas, and

**WHEREAS**, significant concerns have been raised about the potential impact of such development on neighboring wells, water supply, waste management, emergency services, and public utilities, which are not currently designed to accommodate commercial use on Paris Mountain; and

**WHEREAS**, noise pollution from the proposed development, including rooftop bars, entertainment venues, increased service trucks, and increased public traffic, would disrupt the tranquility and natural experience valued by visitors of Paris Mountain State Park and the residents of Paris Mountain and surrounds; and

**WHEREAS**, any development of this scale must be subject to thorough environmental impact studies, traffic impact assessments, state historical and archeological reviews, and consultations with the Cherokee Nation, all of which are currently absent from this proposal; and

**WHEREAS**, the annexation and proposed commercial development provide limited benefits to the broader community while imposing substantial costs on residents, the environment, and Greenville County taxpayers, who will ultimately bear the burden of infrastructure and service upgrades; and

**WHEREAS**, the Greenville County public is opposed to “shoestring annexation” like this proposal, and in general, because it opens the door to a continuing domino consequence of “Pac-Man” style consumption of more and more attractive protected places in order to benefit the annexing city/developer, to the detriment of the area and county.

**WHEREAS**, evidence of growing public opposition of unfair annexation has emerged in the South Carolina General Assembly through legislative efforts such as the 2023-2024 H. 4651 Fairness in Annexation Act which seeks to amend unfair statutory annexation provisions; and,

**WHEREAS**, the following current Greenville County Council members jointly file this resolution:

District 18 – Kelly Long  
District 19 – Benton Blount  
District 20 – Steve Shaw  
District 21 – Curt McGahhey  
District 22 – Frank Farmer  
District 25 – Ennis Fant, Sr.  
District 26 – Rick Bradley  
District 27 – Garey Collins

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Greenville County Council opposes any effort by the City of Travelers Rest to annex land on Paris Mountain for the purpose of usurping current land use protections for commercial development that is inconsistent with the sensitive nature of this protected area; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Greenville County Council urges the City of Travelers Rest, Greenville County Planning Commission, and all relevant agencies to uphold the existing land use protections for Paris Mountain and to reject any development plans that compromise its ecological, historical, and recreational integrity; and

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED** that a copy of this resolution shall be forwarded to the City of Travelers Rest, the Greenville County Planning Commission, the South Carolina Department of Transportation, the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources, the Greenville County Legislative Delegation, and all relevant state and federal agencies to ensure that the concerns of Greenville County residents are duly considered and respected.

**DONE IN REGULAR MEETING THIS \_\_\_\_ DAY OF \_\_\_\_\_, 2025.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Benton Blount, Chairman  
Greenville County Council

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Regina McCaskill  
Clerk to Council

\_\_\_\_\_  
Joseph M. Kernell  
County Administrator