

2013-J3993

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION urging the LG USA Corporation to lower the height of its proposed new headquarters in Englewood Cliffs, New Jersey to below the tree line, in order to preserve the scenic views and beauty of the Palisades

WHEREAS, The LG USA Corporation plans to build a new international headquarters in Englewood Cliffs, NJ, which, at 143 feet in height poses a new threat and precedent to the Palisades north of the George Washington Bridge as a source of visual pollution that forever would spoil the Interstate Park and the sweeping vistas which have been protected by more than a century of conservation; and

WHEREAS, The Palisades, a National Natural and Historic landmark formed of igneous (volcanic) rock 200 million years ago in the late Triassic period, and shaped during the last Ice Age 15,000 years ago, provide one of the last untouched natural vistas in the New York metropolitan region; and

WHEREAS, A late-19th Century threat to the Palisades from the ravages of industrial quarrying spawned a conservation effort by then-New York Governor Theodore Roosevelt and New Jersey Governor Foster McGowan Voorhees which began with the formation of the Palisades Interstate Parks Commission in 1900, and culminated with the dedication in 1909 of the Palisades Interstate Park to mark the 300th Anniversary of Henry Hudson's famous trip up the River that now bears his name; and

WHEREAS, The proposed LG headquarters, if built as designed, would rise well above the tree-line and is a fourfold increase upon existing zoning, even though LG's 27-acre site can easily accommodate a lower building which would bring in as many jobs and as much tax revenue; and

WHEREAS, The proposed LG tower would also open the door to more development, ruining a thousands-year-old vista seen by the original Native

American settlers, European explorer Henry Hudson and enjoyed by millions on both sides of the River to this day; and

WHEREAS, A wide coalition of citizens from New York, including many State Senators, Assembly Members, City Council Members, Community Boards in Manhattan and the Bronx, and countless thousands of concerned individuals, New Jersey, including four former New Jersey governors and six nearby New Jersey mayors and beyond, have appealed LG to be a good neighbor and build its new headquarters so that it does not exceed the tree line; and

WHEREAS, Recent letters from the National Park Service's National Historic Landmark Manager and NE Region Natural Resources Chief detail the significance of the area and how the construction of the building as currently proposed threatens the integrity of this nationally designated area; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body finds the height of the proposed LG USA Headquarters building above the tee line is against the public interest of our constituents and all New Yorkers and Americans who value our national resources and historic landmarks; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to urge the management of the LG USA Corporation to lower the proposed height of its new international headquarters in Englewood Cliffs, New Jersey, to below the tree line in order to preserve the scenic beauty of the Palisades; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the LG USA Corporation.