



WHEREAS, the Power of Travel has been a consistent driver of Gaston County's economy and workforce; and,

WHEREAS, a robust local travel industry provides significant economic benefits for our county, generating more than \$291 million in visitor spending in 2019; and,

WHEREAS, travel has been the foundation of a healthy workforce, serving as one of our largest private-sector employers in the County, supporting 2,000 million jobs in 2019; and,

WHEREAS, spending by travelers has aided state and local governments alike, generating \$21 million in tax revenue in 2019 to support essential services and programs; and,

WHEREAS, travel and tourism-dependent businesses and organizations, 83% of which are small businesses, are responsible for welcoming visitors from all around the world to explore Gaston County and all we have to offer; and,

WHEREAS, last year, the coronavirus pandemic devastated every sector of the travel industry with staggering declines in 2020 compared to 2019, affecting every community in the country, including Gaston County; and,

WHEREAS, Gaston County hotel room demand declined 11% in 2020 compared to 2019 and Gaston County hotel room revenue declined 23% in 2020 compared to 2019; and,

WHEREAS, the travel industry cannot recover without the full return of leisure and business travel, as well as associated meetings and events, by both domestic and international visitors; and,

WHEREAS, the rebound of travel will drive the rebuilding of the U.S. economy and American workforce; and,

WHEREAS, the Power of Travel will revive Gaston County and the United States driving us forward to a more prosperous future.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Gaston County Board of Commissioners do hereby proclaim May 2-8, 2021 as

National Travel and Tourism Week

and urges our citizens to join us in recognizing the critical role this industry plays in our Nation, the State of North Carolina and in Gaston County.

Tom Keigher, Chairman

Chad Brown

Kim Johnson

Allen R. Fraley, Vice-Chairman

Tracy L. Philbeck

Bob Hovis

Ronald E. Worley

To be Adopted the 25th Day of May 2021