



## *Proclamation*

### **National Travel and Tourism Week May 6-12, 2018**

**WHEREAS**, travel and tourism to Jackson County contributes significantly to the local economy and livelihoods of residents and impacts almost every employment sector.

**WHEREAS**, travel to Jackson County results in \$188.24 million annually in expenditures on lodging, food service, transportation, retail, recreation and entertainment. And the tourism economy has grown significantly in the last few years, seeing accommodation sales in the county rise from \$18 million (FY 13-14) to \$27 million (FY 17-18).

**WHEREAS**, travelers' spending directly generates local tax revenues of \$8.04 million used to support essential county services and programs. County taxpayers pay \$711 less per household as a result of tourist spending annually.

**WHEREAS**, tourism supports 1,810 jobs locally and is one of the largest private-sector employers in the United States. In Jackson County, tourism jobs' payroll is \$44 million a year.

**WHEREAS**, tourists that pay occupancy tax fund the Jackson County TDA whose mission it is to promote Jackson County as the premier mountain destination. The Jackson County TDA has since returned over \$100,000 in grant funding to local festivals and events, environmental groups and community groups.

**WHEREAS**, the Jackson County TDA appreciates all the community support making it successful, including but not limited to support by hoteliers and other accommodations, retailers, restaurants, the Jackson County Chamber and Visitor Center, the Cashiers Area Chamber and Visitor Center, city and county government and staff, its dedicated volunteer TDA board, and its partners.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, THE JACKSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS, hereby proclaims May 6-12 as "**NATIONAL TRAVEL AND TOURISM WEEK**" in Jackson County, and commends its observance to all citizens.

Date: April 16, 2018.

Attest:

By:

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Angela M. Winchester, Clerk to the Board

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Brian Thomas McMahan, Chairman