A RESOLUTION

Championing FIFA to choose Philadelphia as the site of the 2026 World Cup.

WHEREAS, The Federation Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) was founded on May 21, 1904, to provide unity among the original seven national soccer associations; and

WHEREAS, FIFA now has 211 member nations that comprise varying confederations over the entire world; and

WHEREAS, Every four years, the FIFA World Cup is held with 32 teams competing to determine one winner; and

WHEREAS, The first championship was held in 1930 and has been held every four years since then, except in 1942 and 1946 due to World War II; and

WHEREAS, Using a ballot system, a host country is chosen by FIFA's Council to determine where the World Cup will be held; and

WHEREAS, For the first time in FIFA World Cup history, FIFA's
Council determined the 2026 World Cup will be held in Canada, Mexico and the United States, with 48 teams competing; and

WHEREAS, Mexico and Canada will each host 10 matches, and the remaining 60 games will be hosted by the United States; and

WHEREAS, Philadelphia is one of 17 cities bidding for the opportunity to host matches in the United States during the championship; and

WHEREAS, As America's birthplace, Philadelphia will be the center of America's 250th anniversary celebration in 2026 and the perfect place to welcome the world for the FIFA World Cup; and

WHEREAS, Philadelphia is the first city in America to be recognized as a World Heritage City, and the designation elevates the city and gives it a new status among international cities; and

WHEREAS, The 2015 papal visit and the 2017 National Football League draft have proven that Philadelphia is successful in coordinating large scale events; and

WHEREAS, The Lincoln Financial Field venue in Philadelphia welcomed Manchester United and FC Barcelona as its inaugural event in 2003 and has the capacity to hold thousands of individuals who will travel from across the world to watch the World Cup; and

WHEREAS, Numerous soccer events have been held at the Lincoln Financial Field in the past, including the CONCACAF Gold Cup, Copa America, FIFA Women's World Cup, the United State Women's National Team Victory Tour and countless International Friendlies; and

WHEREAS, Philadelphia broke the United States Women's National Team attendance record in August 2019 with nearly 202,000.
50,000 fans at Lincoln Financial Field in the United States versus Portugal match; and

WHEREAS, The stadium is highly accredited for the sustainability practices implemented at all sporting events; and

WHEREAS, The Philadelphia Eagles were the first professional sports team in the world to receive the prestigious ISO 20121 Event Sustainability Management System certification in 2018; and

WHEREAS, As the nation's fourth largest media market, Philadelphia is within 150 miles of 40 million people, the most of any city in the United States; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives champion FIFA to choose Philadelphia as the site of the 2026 World Cup; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be sent to the FIFA President and Council.