A RESOLUTION

Designating July 17, 2020, as "Park and Recreation Professionals Day" in Pennsylvania.

WHEREAS, This Commonwealth is home to more than 6,000 local parks, 121 State parks, various Federal parks and recreation facilities, numerous playgrounds, pools, beaches, campsites, marinas, picnic areas, athletic fields, skate parks, dog parks, festival venues, gardens, visitor centers, historic and cultural attractions and many other recreational facilities and amenities; and

WHEREAS, The value and importance that Pennsylvanians place on their access to parks and public spaces for their mental and physical health during the COVID-19 pandemic are demonstrated by a recent 128% increase in mobility to parks; and

WHEREAS, An April 2020 analysis by George Mason University reports that local park and recreation systems in Pennsylvania support 14,840 jobs and contribute $695 million in labor income and $2.28 billion in annual economic activity in the
Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, Park and recreation professionals are supported by
thousands of volunteers who serve on boards, committees and
Pennsylvania trails, friends and neighborhood groups; and
WHEREAS, Park and recreation professionals contribute
significantly to the health, well-being and quality of life of
Pennsylvanians of all ages; and
WHEREAS, Park and recreation professionals bring life-
enriching services to residents of all ages and abilities, work
to keep facilities clean, safe and ready to use, strengthen
community cohesion and resiliency, connect people with nature
and each other, develop and manage a wide range of public
programming and provide and promote opportunities for healthy
living, social equity and environmental sustainability;
therefore be it
RESOLVED, That the Senate designate July 17, 2020, as "Park
and Recreation Professionals Day" in Pennsylvania; and be it
further
RESOLVED, That the Commonwealth celebrate July 17, 2020, by
extending its thanks and gratitude to park and recreation
professionals for the indispensable services that they provide
to our residents and our communities.