

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the month of May 2018 as "Rainforest Awareness
2 Month" in Pennsylvania and urging Commonwealth residents to
3 become aware of the disappearance of rainforests worldwide
4 and to make choices that can lead to protection of those
5 remaining areas.

6 WHEREAS, Rainforests originally covered 12% of the earth's
7 surface and now cover just 6%; and

8 WHEREAS, Rainforests are home to more than one half of the
9 planet's species; and

10 WHEREAS, Fifty million indigenous peoples call the
11 rainforests home and have lived there sustainably for thousands
12 of years; and

13 WHEREAS, More than 25% of the medicines in general use today
14 originated in the rainforests; and

15 WHEREAS, Although they cover only a small portion of the
16 earth's surface, rainforests affect climate and weather
17 worldwide; and

18 WHEREAS, Tropical rainforests replenish 20% of the oxygen in
19 the atmosphere through photosynthesis; and

1 WHEREAS, Tropical rainforests store vast amounts of carbon in
2 their biomass which is, in large part, the carbon released by
3 the burning of fossil fuels for cars, electricity and industry;
4 and

5 WHEREAS, When forests are destroyed, often by burning, huge
6 amounts of carbon dioxide are released, exacerbating the
7 greenhouse effect and global warming; and

8 WHEREAS, Rainforests play a key role in controlling flooding,
9 erosion and siltation in many parts of the world, as they absorb
10 huge amounts of rainfall and then slowly release it as a
11 constant supply of clean water; and

12 WHEREAS, Global weather patterns are impacted by the dark,
13 warm and humid rainforests due to the slowly released water
14 vapor that rises to the atmosphere and forms clouds, which
15 travel great distances and deliver essential rain; and

16 WHEREAS, Rainforests are also responsible for maintaining the
17 hydrological cycle and rainfall patterns; and

18 WHEREAS, One tree can release as much as 75 gallons of water
19 per day; and

20 WHEREAS, According to the Rainforest Foundation US,
21 rainforest acreage equal to the size of a football field is
22 destroyed every second; and

23 WHEREAS, Approximately 32 million acres of rainforest are
24 lost each year around the globe; therefore be it

25 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the
26 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania recognize the month of May 2018 as
27 "Rainforest Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania, and urge all
28 Commonwealth residents to make small, everyday choices which can
29 have a far-reaching positive impact on rainforest protection by
30 choosing products that include sustainably harvested rainforest

1 resources that do not compromise the well-being of rainforest
2 communities and species; and be it further

3 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the
4 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania urge all Commonwealth residents to
5 become more conscious of the benefits of the world's
6 rainforests, that schools hold discussions about the effects
7 that the disappearance of rainforests may have on the world and
8 that all residents speak out to the President and the Congress
9 of the United States, corporate officials and others about any
10 concerns they may have about the need to protect the world's
11 rainforests; and be it further

12 RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to
13 the Rainforest Foundation US, to the presiding officers of each
14 house of Congress and to each member of Congress from
15 Pennsylvania.

