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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 186 Session of  
2009

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INTRODUCED BY QUINN, BARRAR, BEYER, BRENNAN, CALTAGIRONE,  
CIVERA, CONKLIN, D. COSTA, DELOZIER, DIGIROLAMO, EVERETT,  
FLECK, GEORGE, GINGRICH, GOODMAN, GRUCELA, HELM, KILLION,  
KORTZ, MAJOR, McILVAINE SMITH, MELIO, MENSCH, MILLARD,  
MILLER, MOUL, MURT, MYERS, O'NEILL, PALLONE, PARKER,  
PASHINSKI, PAYNE, PEIFER, READSHAW, REICHLEY, ROSS, SAINATO,  
SANTONI, SCAVELLO, SIPTROTH, K. SMITH, SONNEY, SWANGER, TRUE,  
VEREB, VULAKOVICH, WATSON, YOUNGBLOOD, CREIGHTON, MILNE,  
PHILLIPS AND HESS, MARCH 24, 2009

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INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35, MARCH  
24, 2009

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A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing April 2009 as "Children and Nature Awareness Month"  
2 in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, During September 2008 the United States House of  
4 Representatives voted to approve the No Child Left Inside Act of  
5 2008 with an intent to require public school systems to improve  
6 upon environmental literacy, strengthen teacher training and  
7 provide Federal grants to help schools fund outdoor education;  
8 and

9 WHEREAS, The No Child Left Inside Act was backed by  
10 nationwide support from the rapidly growing No Child Left Inside  
11 coalitions, including the No Child Left Inside - Bucks County  
12 Coalition, whose vast and diverse membership includes nonprofit,  
13 environmental organizations and recreation organizations,  
14 municipalities, Bucks County Departments of Health and Parks and

1 Recreation, State legislators and the Department of Conservation  
2 and Natural Resources; and

3 WHEREAS, All members of the No Child Left Inside - Bucks  
4 County Coalition recognize the pervasive need to help the State,  
5 its counties and municipalities provide high-quality outdoor  
6 recreation and environmental instruction; and

7 WHEREAS, A growing body of research indicates that a lack of  
8 outdoor activity corresponds to increased rates in childhood  
9 obesity, juvenile diabetes and attention deficit disorders; and

10 WHEREAS, Agencies, including the Department of Conservation  
11 and Natural Resources, the Bucks County Department of Parks and  
12 Recreation and the Department of Health work toward the goals of  
13 reducing chronic illness in children, promoting physical  
14 activity, healthy eating habits and educating and mobilizing  
15 communities; and

16 WHEREAS, All levels of government should work collectively to  
17 reconnect children and nature, using a growing network of  
18 individuals, organizations and agencies to develop and promote  
19 opportunities for all children to experience frequent, regular  
20 play and exploration in natural outdoor settings; and

21 WHEREAS, Programs, policies and practices that reconnect  
22 children and nature in enduring, meaningful ways, utilizing the  
23 great wealth of natural resources and recreational  
24 opportunities, have been and continue to be afforded by the  
25 careful planning, preservation and thoughtful legislative and  
26 administrative actions; and

27 WHEREAS, The No Child Left Inside - Bucks County Coalition  
28 will host a community event, "Turn Off, Step Out, Tune In...To  
29 Nature" on April 11, 2009, at Doylestown Township's Central Park  
30 in the County of Bucks and representatives from various

1 organizations, including the Department of Conservation and  
2 Natural Resources, will provide opportunities to educate and  
3 inspire families to reconnect with nature and the wealth of  
4 parks, preserved natural areas and recreation facilities; and

5 WHEREAS, Activities across Pennsylvania which reconnect  
6 children to nature and the natural resources of this  
7 Commonwealth are to be encouraged; therefore be it

8 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize April  
9 2009 as "Children and Nature Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania.