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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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# HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 199 Session of  
2013

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INTRODUCED BY MCCARTER, COHEN, KORTZ, READSHAW, CALTAGIRONE,  
HENNESSEY, MILLARD, V. BROWN, JAMES, MAHONEY, GINGRICH,  
PAINTER, SCHLOSSBERG, EVERETT, FRANKEL, ROZZI, D. COSTA AND  
FARINA, APRIL 3, 2013

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INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,  
APRIL 3, 2013

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A RESOLUTION

1 Declaring the week of April 14 through 20, 2013, as "Bat  
2 Protection and Awareness Week" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Although some mammals are able to glide, bats are  
4 the only mammals that are truly able to fly; and

5 WHEREAS, Bats are so unique that they belong to their own  
6 order of mammals known as Chiropteran, meaning hand-winged; and

7 WHEREAS, This Commonwealth is home to nine different species  
8 of bats, who all feed on insects and can consume 25% or more of  
9 their body weight during a single feeding; and

10 WHEREAS, A typical colony of 100 bats feeding roughly 200  
11 days has been estimated to consume more than 2,220 pounds of  
12 insects or approximately 600,000,000 bugs according to the  
13 United States Fish and Wildlife Service; and

14 WHEREAS, Notwithstanding that the large-scale ecological  
15 importance of bats may not be readily apparent, the United  
16 States Geological Survey estimates that bats save the

1 agricultural industry billions of dollars annually through the  
2 consumption of harmful insects; and

3 WHEREAS, This Commonwealth has experienced a significant  
4 decline in populations of certain bat species in recent years  
5 due to the disease known as White-Nose Syndrome; and

6 WHEREAS, Since it was first discovered in this Commonwealth  
7 in 2008, White-Nose Syndrome has been confirmed in 23 counties  
8 and is suspected in seven others; and

9 WHEREAS, According to studies conducted by the Pennsylvania  
10 Game Commission, there has been about a 99% decrease in the  
11 Northern Long-Eared Bat, Tri-Colored Bat and Little Brown Bat  
12 populations; and

13 WHEREAS, The loss of these species could have an enormous  
14 impact on this Commonwealth and a devastating effect on our  
15 economy; and

16 WHEREAS, As such, it is vital that the citizens of this  
17 Commonwealth recognize the importance of bats and develop  
18 measures to conserve and protect these amazing creatures;  
19 therefore be it

20 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives declare the week  
21 of April 14 through 20, 2013, as "Bat Protection and Awareness  
22 Week" in Pennsylvania.