
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 769 Session of
2014

INTRODUCED BY DONATUCCI, COHEN, FREEMAN, CALTAGIRONE, THOMAS,
YOUNGBLOOD, O'BRIEN, KIRKLAND, READSHAW, MCNEILL, KORTZ,
CLAY, MILLARD, MIRABITO, BROWNLEE, FLECK, FRANKEL, V. BROWN,
GINGRICH, GROVE, MAHONEY, FARINA AND MURT, APRIL 8, 2014

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES AND ENERGY,
APRIL 8, 2014

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the month of May 2014 as "Rainforest Awareness
2 Month" in Pennsylvania and urging Commonwealth residents to
3 become aware of the disappearing rainforests worldwide and to
4 make choices that can lead to protection of those remaining
5 areas.

6 WHEREAS, Rainforests originally covered 12% of the earth's
7 surface, and now cover just 6%, yet are home to more than one
8 half of the planet's species; and

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

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

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

17 WHEREAS, Tropical rainforests replenish 20% of the oxygen in
18 the atmosphere through photosynthesis, but more importantly

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

4 WHEREAS, When forests are destroyed, often by burning, huge
5 amounts of CO2 are released, exacerbating the greenhouse effect
6 and global warming; and

7 WHEREAS, Rainforests play a key role in controlling flooding,
8 erosion and siltation in many parts of the world, as they absorb
9 huge amounts of rainfall and then slowly release it as a
10 constant supply of clean H2O; and

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

16 WHEREAS, Rainforests are also responsible for maintaining the
17 hydrological cycle and rainfall patterns, and one tree can
18 release as much as 75 gallons of water per day; and

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

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

24 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives join with the
25 Rainforest Foundation US in designating May 2014 as "Rainforest
26 Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania and urge all Commonwealth
27 residents to make small, everyday choices which can have a far-
28 reaching positive impact on rainforest protection by choosing
29 products that include sustainably harvested rainforest resources
30 that do not compromise the well-being of rainforest communities

1 and species; and be it further

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

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