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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 213 Session of  
2019

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INTRODUCED BY DONATUCCI, BURNS, DIGIROLAMO, CALTAGIRONE,  
WILLIAMS, SONNEY, KORTZ, SCHLOSSBERG, NEILSON, HOWARD,  
FREEMAN, MURT, YOUNGBLOOD, PASHINSKI, MILLARD, DALEY, HILL-  
EVANS, McCLINTON, READSHAW AND MARKOSEK, APRIL 9, 2019

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INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,  
APRIL 9, 2019

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A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the month of May 2019 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

1 the atmosphere through photosynthesis; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

26 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize the  
27 month of May 2019 as "Rainforest Awareness Month" in  
28 Pennsylvania and urge Commonwealth residents to become aware of  
29 the disappearance of rainforests worldwide and to make choices  
30 that can lead to protection of those remaining areas; and be it

1 further

2 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives urge all  
3 Commonwealth residents to make small, everyday choices which can  
4 have a far-reaching positive impact on rainforest protection by  
5 choosing products that include sustainably harvested rainforest  
6 resources that do not compromise the well-being of rainforest  
7 communities and species; and be it further

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

17 RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to  
18 the Rainforest Foundation US, to the presiding officers of each  
19 house of Congress and to each member of Congress from  
20 Pennsylvania.