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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 844 Session of  
2020

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INTRODUCED BY DONATUCCI, MURT, KINSEY, YOUNGBLOOD, SCHLOSSBERG,  
MALAGARI, HOWARD, SANCHEZ, HILL-EVANS, KORTZ, NEILSON,  
SCHWEYER, DeLUCA AND READSHAW, APRIL 14, 2020

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES AND ENERGY,  
APRIL 14, 2020

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A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the month of May 2020 as "Rainforest Awareness  
2 Month" in Pennsylvania and urging residents of this  
3 Commonwealth to become aware of the disappearance of  
4 rainforests worldwide and make choices that can lead to  
5 protection of those remaining areas.

6 WHEREAS, Although rainforests now cover just 6% of the  
7 Earth's surface, they are home to more than one-half of the  
8 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; 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; and

25       WHEREAS, Nearly two-thirds of all tropical rainforest  
26 coverage and one-half of temperate rainforest coverage on Earth  
27 has been destroyed; therefore be it

28       RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize the  
29 month of May 2020 as "Rainforest Awareness Month" in  
30 Pennsylvania and urge residents of this Commonwealth to become

1 aware of the disappearance of rainforests worldwide and make  
2 choices that can lead to protection of those remaining areas;  
3 and be it further

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

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

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