
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 179 Session of
2015

INTRODUCED BY DONATUCCI, ROZZI, BISHOP, SCHWEYER, HARHART,
VEREB, FRANKEL, VITALI, ACOSTA, KIRKLAND, KIM, THOMAS,
McNEILL, MURT, HENNESSEY, KINSEY, O'BRIEN, DIGIROLAMO,
BROWNLEE, YOUNGBLOOD, WHEELAND, MILLARD, COHEN, READSHAW,
SCHLOSSBERG, D. COSTA, FARINA, MAHONEY, GINGRICH AND
BRADFORD, MARCH 24, 2015

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES AND ENERGY,
MARCH 24, 2015

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the month of May 2015 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

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

5 WHEREAS, When forests are destroyed, often by burning, huge
6 amounts of CO2 are released, exacerbating the greenhouse effect
7 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 H2O; 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 bring essential rain all over the
16 world; and

17 WHEREAS, Rainforests are also responsible for maintaining the
18 hydrological cycle and rainfall patterns, and one tree can
19 release as much as 75 gallons of water 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; therefore be it

25 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the
26 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania join with the Rainforest Foundation
27 US in designating May 2015 as "Rainforest Awareness Month" in
28 Pennsylvania and urge all Commonwealth residents to make small,
29 everyday choices which can have a far-reaching positive impact
30 on rainforest protection by choosing products that include

1 sustainably harvested rainforest resources that do not
2 compromise the well-being of rainforest communities and species;
3 and be it further

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

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