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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 338 Session of  
2019

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INTRODUCED BY McCARTER, DALEY, McCLINTON, READSHAW, HILL-EVANS,  
FRANKEL, DONATUCCI, WILLIAMS, SCHLOSSBERG, BURNS, VITALI,  
KIRKLAND, KORTZ, FREEMAN, DiGIROLAMO, YOUNGBLOOD,  
CALTAGIRONE, MARKOSEK AND O'MARA, MAY 15, 2019

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON GAME AND FISHERIES, MAY 15, 2019

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A RESOLUTION

1 Designating May 17, 2019, as "Endangered Species Day" in  
2 Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Prior to the European settlement of the land that  
4 eventually came to be known as the United States, plants and  
5 animals occasionally faced environmental pressures such as  
6 natural disasters or predators that led to their individual and  
7 collective demise; and

8 WHEREAS, As the population of the United States grew  
9 exponentially and migrated westward in the 18th and 19th  
10 centuries, the flora and fauna of the country faced new  
11 stressors due to human encroachment; and

12 WHEREAS, Species such as the Passenger Pigeon (*Ectopistes*  
13 *migratorius*), which had flourished for centuries, were decimated  
14 as a result of over harvesting and the destruction of their  
15 habitat; and

16 WHEREAS, Sportsmen and conservationists alike began to  
17 recognize that unless Federal legislation was enacted, it was

1 plausible that future generations would be unable to enjoy the  
2 biological diversity witnessed by our founding fathers; and

3 WHEREAS, Having recognized that extinction is irreversible,  
4 in 1973, the Congress of the United States passed the Endangered  
5 Species Act, which many consider to be the "bill of rights" for  
6 animals and plants, and

7 WHEREAS, The Endangered Species Act of 1973 has been heralded  
8 as one of the most comprehensive laws enacted for the protection  
9 of plant and animal species; and

10 WHEREAS, In 2006, the Congress of the United States first  
11 designated "Endangered Species Day" as a celebration of our  
12 nation's natural environments and wildlife and recognized the  
13 importance of protecting and restoring all threatened and  
14 endangered species; and

15 WHEREAS, Each year, beginning on the third Friday in May and  
16 continuing throughout the month of May, zoos, aquariums, parks,  
17 botanic gardens, wildlife refuges, museums, schools, community  
18 centers, conservation groups and other organizations throughout  
19 the country hold tours, special speaker presentations, exhibits,  
20 children's activities and other activities and events to  
21 celebrate and raise greater awareness of endangered species  
22 conservation; and

23 WHEREAS, "Endangered Species Day" is supported by the  
24 National Wildlife Federation's EcoLeaders Program, the United  
25 States Fish and Wildlife Service, the National Park Service, the  
26 United States Forest Service, the National Oceanic and  
27 Atmospheric Administration, Girl Scouts USA, the Association of  
28 Zoos and Aquariums, the North American Association for  
29 Environmental Education, the Sierra Club, the National  
30 Association of Biology Teachers, the National Science Teachers

1 Association, the Center for Biological Diversity, the Jane  
2 Goodall Institute, the National Audubon Society and Defenders of  
3 Wildlife; and

4 WHEREAS, In addition to raising awareness for the need to  
5 conserve and protect endangered species, "Endangered Species  
6 Day" is used to advocate for the need to maintain and protect  
7 the Endangered Species Act; and

8 WHEREAS, Unfortunately, according to a recent report  
9 published by the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on  
10 Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES), 1 million of the  
11 planet's 8 million species are now threatened with extinction as  
12 a result of human actions; and

13 WHEREAS, The report concluded that a shrinking habitat, the  
14 exploitation of natural resources, climate change and pollution  
15 are the main drivers of widespread species loss; and

16 WHEREAS, According to the IPBES' findings, it has been  
17 determined that humans are the main culprits of biodiversity  
18 damage, finding that humans have altered 75% of Earth's land and  
19 66% of marine ecosystems since pre-industrial times; and

20 WHEREAS, Current levels of global consumption have been  
21 deemed unsustainable and must be altered immediately; and

22 WHEREAS, "Endangered Species Day" is an opportunity to  
23 generate greater awareness of endangered species conservation  
24 and the importance of individual actions that can be taken to  
25 make a difference for wildlife and the environment; therefore be  
26 it

27 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate May 17,  
28 2019, as "Endangered Species Day" in Pennsylvania.