

[~117HR1075]



(Original Signature of Member)

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. _____

Expressing support for honoring Earth Day, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Ms. MATSUI submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the
Committee on _____

RESOLUTION

Expressing support for honoring Earth Day, and for other
purposes.

Whereas Earth Day was first celebrated on April 22, 1970;

Whereas the late Senator Gaylord Nelson, the founder of
Earth Day, called on the people of the United States to
hold elected officials accountable for failing to adequately
protect the health of people and the natural environment;

Whereas after witnessing years of environmental neglect, mil-
lions of Americans of all ages, walks of life, and political
affiliations gathered in cities across the Nation on the
first Earth Day to demand basic protections for our plan-
et and to commit to leaving behind a healthier world for
the next generation;

Whereas Earth Day united people who had been fighting against oil spills, polluting factories and power plants, raw sewage and toxic dumps, the loss of wildlife, and other environmental ills;

Whereas that work continues today;

Whereas Earth Day is an annual event created to promote environmental citizenship and action year-round;

Whereas the first celebration of Earth Day was the largest environmental grassroots event ever held at that time and is widely credited with launching the modern environmental movement;

Whereas the voices of inaugural Earth Day participants galvanized an unparalleled period of legislative and grassroots activity that changed the way we interact with the environment, leading to the creation of the Environmental Protection Agency and passage of legislation such as the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, the Clean Air Act, and the Endangered Species Act of 1973;

Whereas, by 1990, Earth Day was celebrated globally, with 200,000,000 people in 141 countries participating in Earth Day events;

Whereas Earth Day encourages environmental activism and stewardship around the world, and reminds people to find ways to protect the environment, including managing their own environmental impact;

Whereas Earth Day serves as an opportunity to learn from and build community with indigenous communities, who have stewarded the land for generations and have great wisdom on preserving biodiversity;

Whereas on Earth Day people engage in projects, initiatives, and campaigns to protect and restore the planet includ-

ing planting trees, removing litter, cleaning up coral reefs, conserving water and energy, and other environmentally responsible actions;

Whereas in recognition of the 50th anniversary of Earth Day, the Global Earth Challenge was launched in 2020, a global citizen science initiative to demonstrate how small acts of science can add up to global change;

Whereas new and continuing challenges, including climate change, pollution, and loss of forest, wetlands, and other wildlife habitats, reinforce the need for adequate protections for the air we breathe, the water we drink, the land we inhabit, and the animals we live alongside;

Whereas there is scientific consensus that climate change poses a dire threat to our planet and its inhabitants, and that urgent and unprecedented changes are needed to mitigate its worst effects;

Whereas Earth Day reaffirms our national responsibility in the global effort to combat climate change and protect our planet for all;

Whereas, in 2021, Congress passed the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, which made foundational investments in clean drinking water, clean transportation, clean energy, resilient infrastructure, and pollution cleanup;

Whereas, in 2022, Congress passed what is commonly referred to as the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022, the largest climate bill in American history and a transformative investment in our future, that includes unprecedented funding for clean energy, zero-emission vehicles, sustainable aviation, energy efficiency, climate-smart agriculture and forestry, and decarbonizing heavy industry, all while supporting and funding climate change mitiga-

tion and adaptation initiatives in those historically disadvantaged communities that are most vulnerable to the effects of climate change;

Whereas these recent legislative actions have demonstrated the capacity for climate investments to strengthen American industry, support resilient supply chains, build critical infrastructure, and generate economic opportunity;

Whereas Earth Day encourages us to acknowledge the prevalence of environmental injustices that directly affect the health and well-being of individuals and communities across the country, and affirms our commitment to ameliorating existing environmental injustices, and to preventing future injustices;

Whereas Earth Day reminds us of the need to expand environmental and climate literacy not only to strengthen environmental and climate protections but also to accelerate development of green technologies and creation of green jobs that will benefit all;

Whereas the mission and purpose of Earth Day remains relevant today because pollution, environmental degradation, and the climate crisis are transgenerational justice issues; and

Whereas Earth Day reminds us that we must not pass a world beyond repair to our children: Now, therefore, be it

- 1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—
- 2 (1) urges the President to issue a proclamation
- 3 recognizing Earth Day;
- 4 (2) encourages the American people to mark
- 5 Earth Day by working—

1 (A) to address environmental challenges
2 large and small, from climate change to litter;

3 (B) to uplift indigenous environmental
4 knowledge and stewardship practices;

5 (C) to educate their friends, neighbors, and
6 elected representatives about the need for year-
7 round action; and

8 (D) to otherwise honor the stewardship
9 ethic for which Senator Gaylord Nelson stood;

10 (3) urges governments and peoples around the
11 world to continue building upon the Paris Agree-
12 ment and other efforts to ensure that future genera-
13 tions inherit a livable, sustainable, and ecologically
14 rich planet Earth; and

15 (4) reaffirms that immediate action is needed to
16 reduce greenhouse gas emissions and ameliorate en-
17 vironmental injustices in order to protect the Earth,
18 the public health, and the overall well-being of all
19 people and wildlife.