



HR1029

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, Endangered Species Day is celebrated by many
3 states, such as Texas, Florida, Tennessee, and California; the
4 day is dedicated to bringing awareness and helping endangered
5 species in our country; this year, Endangered Species Day will
6 take place on May 18, 2012; and

7 WHEREAS, The people of the State of Illinois recognize that
8 a healthy environment is an integral part of Illinois' economy,
9 society, and culture; and

10 WHEREAS, The alligator snapping turtle is the largest
11 freshwater turtle in North America, and helps to control fish
12 populations everywhere; as of 2006, the alligator snapping
13 turtle was listed as an endangered species, while being an
14 important part of Illinois' ecosystem; and

15 WHEREAS, There are roughly 450 endangered species other
16 than the alligator snapping turtle, including 18 species of
17 fish, 3 species of amphibians, 8 species of reptiles, 26
18 species of birds, 5 species of mammals, 37 species of
19 invertebrates, and 251 species of plants; these numbers do not
20 include threatened animals; and

21 WHEREAS, Despite this vast list of endangered species, the

1 State of Illinois does not recognize an Endangered Species Day;
2 by bringing awareness to the entire State and putting emphasis
3 on youth-organized campaigns, a recognized awareness day could
4 aid in preventing further damage done to our environment; and

5 WHEREAS, As stated in Article 11 of the Illinois
6 Constitution, "The public policy of the State and the duty of
7 each person is to provide and maintain a healthful environment
8 for the benefit of this and future generations. The General
9 Assembly shall provide by law for the implementation and
10 enforcement of this public policy."; and

11 WHEREAS, The members of this body have an obligation to our
12 children and to future generations to be influential leaders of
13 our atmosphere and to pave an affirmative path of stewardship
14 in protecting endangered species and their habitats; and

15 WHEREAS, By placing more emphasis on the importance of
16 preserving our environment, youth in general would become more
17 educated on the consequences and future problems caused by
18 neglecting our earth now; focusing on these issues would help
19 instill responsibility, leadership, humanitarianism, and
20 consideration in students in Illinois; and

21 WHEREAS, The obliteration of a species and their habitat is
22 a severe hazard to our own society, as nature is the foundation

1 of our most frequently-prescribed medicines; the loss of a
2 species could result in the loss of life-saving drugs; and

3 WHEREAS, The members of this body have the responsibility
4 to utilize the finest technology accessible to ensure the
5 protection against the extinction of many valued creatures and
6 to guarantee their availability for all needs to future
7 generations; and

8 WHEREAS, For over 30 years, the Endangered Species Act has
9 served as the nation's safety net for wildlife, saving hundreds
10 of plants and animals for extinction, putting hundreds more on
11 the path to recovery, and safeguarding the habitats on which
12 they all depend; therefore, be it

13 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
14 NINETY-SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
15 we pledge to uphold the nation's standards of the Endangered
16 Species Act and continue to take all appropriate action to
17 protect our plants and wildlife and the places that they live,
18 in honor of Operation Endangered Species and the Alligator
19 Snapping Turtle project at Pontiac Township High School; and be
20 it further

21 RESOLVED, That we designate the date of May 18, 2012 as
22 Endangered Species Day in the State of Illinois in furtherance

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1 of this goal.