Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to introduce a resolution recognizing the growing observance of Earth Day. On April 22, 1970, 20 million Americans celebrated the first Earth Day. Since Earth Day's first observance, the number of Americans celebrating Earth Day and the number of countries observing Earth Day has steadily risen. In fact, Earth Day is now observed in more than 140 countries.

Every year on April 22, millions of Americans and millions of people throughout the world participate in activities that call attention to harmful human activities that impact our natural environment. These calls have not gone unanswered. Since the first observance of Earth Day, Congress has passed the Clean Air Act, the Clean Water Act, and the Endangered Species Act in an effort to halt and roll back the harmful impacts of human activity. In addition, we have seen the creation of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and just recently, in the House Committee on Resources, we witnessed a successful bipartisan effort to provide funding for an array of conservation and wildlife programs.

Earth Day provides an opportunity to learn about the positive actions we can take to improve energy efficiency; to develop safe, renewable energy sources; to design goods that are durable, reusable, and recyclable; and to eliminate the production of harmful wastes while protecting our environment and encouraging sustainable development throughout the world.

Mr. Speaker, this resolution recognizes the importance of Earth Day and calls on the House of Representatives to recognize that Earth Day should be established to draw attention to the impact of human activity on the natural environment, to alert the world to environmental threats to human health and well-being, and to advocate personal actions and public policies to promote and preserve a healthy, diverse, resilient, and productive world for our children and our children's children.

This is a companion measure to one already introduced in the other chamber by Senator Jeff Bingaman of New Mexico.

Mr. Speaker, I ask this body to support this worthy resolution.