Public Law 102-34
102d Congress

Joint Resolution

To designate April 22, 1991, as "Earth Day" to promote the preservation of the global environment.

Apr. 23, 1991
[S.J. Res. 119]

Whereas the world faces an international environmental crisis which demands the attention of citizens of every nation of the world, including the United States, so that alliances can be built that transcend the boundaries dividing countries, continents, and cultures;

Whereas there is a need to confront environmental problems of increasing severity, including climate change, depletion of the stratospheric ozone layer, loss of forests, wetlands, and other wildlife habitats, acid rain, air pollution, ocean pollution, and hazardous and solid waste buildup;

Whereas it is important that the next generation be guided by a conservation ethic in all of its relations with nature;

Whereas education and understanding is necessary for individuals to recognize the environmental impact of daily living and to become environmentally responsible consumers by conserving energy, increasing recycling efforts, and promoting environmental responsibility in communities;

Whereas major public policy initiatives are necessary to cure the causes of environmental degradation, such as eliminating the manufacture and use of chlorofluorocarbons, minimizing and recycling solid wastes, improving energy efficiency, protecting biodiversity, promoting reforestation, and initiating sustainable development throughout the world;

Whereas nearly 21 years ago, millions of individuals in the United States joined together on Earth Day to express an unprecedented concern for the environment, and such collective action resulted in the passage of sweeping laws to protect the air, water, and land;

Whereas the 1990's should be observed as the "International Environmental Decade" in order to forge an international alliance in response to global environmental problems; and

Whereas to inaugurate the new environmental decade, individuals should again stand together in cities, towns, and villages around the world for a day of collective action to declare a shared resolve: Now, therefore, be it

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Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That April 22, 1991 is designated as "Earth Day", and the people of the United States are called upon to observe the day with appropriate ceremonies and activities in our grade schools, high schools, colleges and local communities with the objective of making every day Earth Day.

Approved April 23, 1991.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY—S.J. Res. 119:

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, Vol. 137 (1991):
Apr. 11, considered and passed Senate.
Apr. 17, considered and passed House.