

**First Regular Session
Seventy-first General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO**

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. R17-1184.01 Kurt Woock x4349

SJR17-033

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Kerr,

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Benavidez,

Senate Committees

Agriculture, Natural Resources, & Energy
State, Veterans, & Military Affairs

House Committees

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 17-033

101 **CONCERNING THE RECOGNITION OF EARTH DAY ON APRIL 22, 2017.**

1 WHEREAS, This year marks the 47th anniversary of Earth Day,
2 a day when we draw attention to environmental issues, from recycling
3 efforts in our communities to global environmental efforts; and

4 WHEREAS, The concept of Earth Day originated in 1969 and was
5 established in March 1970 by John McConnell, a peace activist who
6 resided in Denver until his death on October 20, 2012; and

7 WHEREAS, The original date was chosen to coincide with the
8 vernal equinox and is also the date on which the United Nations and
9 several countries in the international community celebrate Earth Day each
10 year; and

11 WHEREAS, Soon afterward, in April 1970, U.S. Senator Gaylord

*Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.
Capital letters indicate new material to be added to existing statute.
Dashes through the words indicate deletions from existing statute.*

1 Nelson organized an environmental teach-in, which has since evolved
2 into the popular Earth Day celebrated on April 22 of each year in the
3 United States and throughout much of the world; and

4 WHEREAS, Earth Day is celebrated annually as a recommitment
5 to the goals of a healthy environment and a peaceful, just, and sustainable
6 world; and

7 WHEREAS, The state of Colorado and our citizens recognize the
8 importance of clean air, recreation, and wildlife to the state's economy,
9 identity, and public health, and are therefore committed to the
10 conservation and stewardship of our natural landscape, open space, rivers,
11 mountains, lakes, and sensitive ecosystems; and

12 WHEREAS, The state of Colorado fosters and encourages
13 environmentally sound business practices and promotes the development
14 of renewable energy to increase Colorado's supply of clean, reliable
15 power and to bring jobs and economic development to communities
16 across the state; and

17 WHEREAS, Colorado is leading the nation's transition into a
18 sustainable way of life by instituting standards to ensure a prepared and
19 educated workforce to compete in the new energy economy; and

20 WHEREAS, Colorado has built a framework conducive to the new
21 energy economy through the use of financial incentives, including sales
22 tax exemptions and refunds for renewable energy investments, property
23 tax exemptions for renewable energy production, tax incentives to
24 encourage the purchase of more energy-efficient vehicles, and
25 low-interest loans to help K-12 schools invest in energy efficiency and
26 renewable energy production; and

27 WHEREAS, The Colorado General Assembly supports the
28 deployment of technologies that offer operational savings,
29 customer-choice energy management, better grid reliability, greater
30 energy efficiency and conservation options, increased use of renewable
31 energy sources, and support for plug-in hybrid electric vehicles and
32 appliances to create "intelligent homes"; and

33 WHEREAS, We support policies that create vibrant
34 neighborhoods, promote public transportation, and rely on the principles
35 of smart growth and community sustainability; and

1 WHEREAS, The citizens of Colorado are committed to preserving
2 our agricultural land and encouraging activities that support locally grown
3 food; and

4 WHEREAS, We acknowledge that, to protect Colorado's natural
5 resources and landscapes, our state, and our Earth, we, as elected
6 representatives of the state, must provide leadership, tap into the expertise
7 and talent of our community, and engage the hearts and minds of all
8 citizens; now, therefore,

9 *Be It Resolved by the Senate of the Seventy-first General Assembly*
10 *of the State of Colorado, the House of Representatives concurring herein:*

11 That we, the members of the Colorado General Assembly, reaffirm
12 our commitment to the goals and principles of our responsibilities as
13 stewards of the Earth. In recognition of Earth Day 2017, and in keeping
14 with our moral obligation to protect and enhance the long-term health of
15 the state's natural environment, economy, and community, we support
16 Earth Day by:

17 (1) Inviting and encouraging all citizens, businesses,
18 organizations, schools, clubs, congregations, neighborhoods, and families
19 to participate in community Earth Day activities on April 22, 2017, and
20 to engage in environmentally sound practices in their everyday lives;

21 (2) Using the observance of Earth Day as a springboard for
22 exploring new avenues to sustainability;

23 (3) Demonstrating leadership and continually evaluating state
24 operations, facilities, and services to ensure the highest standard of
25 efficiency, sustainability, and environmental protection;

26 (4) Forging partnerships with local organizations, environmental
27 professionals, businesses, and citizens to encourage the adoption of
28 statewide sustainability practices and the development of green
29 technologies, and become a model for the region and country; and

30 (5) Encouraging teachers and parents to emphasize environmental
31 awareness among young people so that they have the knowledge to make
32 sound choices in their daily lives to preserve and enhance our natural
33 environment and that they are able to join the workforce of our state with
34 a strong environmental ethic.

1 *Be It Further Resolved*, That a copy of this Joint Resolution be
2 sent to Colorado's Congressional Delegation, Governor John
3 Hickenlooper, Lieutenant Governor Donna Lynne, the National
4 Renewable Energy Laboratory, and Kathleen Staks of the Governor's
5 Energy Office.