

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 989

By Vital

A RESOLUTION to honor the Land Trust of Tennessee on the occasion of its twenty-fifth anniversary.

WHEREAS, we take great pleasure in recognizing a conservation organization that has worked with purpose to conserve the unique character of Tennessee's natural and historic landscapes and sites for future generations; and

WHEREAS, founded in 1999 by a group of visionary conservation leaders, including future Governor Phil Bredesen, the Land Trust of Tennessee (LTTN) has worked to conserve land statewide for the past twenty-five years; and

WHEREAS, LTTN believes that protecting Tennessee landscapes for future generations will provide benefits to citizens and communities, including a stronger economy, diverse food products, improved well-being, and clean water; and

WHEREAS, LTTN's first conservation success took place in Leiper's Fork in December 1999; the nonprofit organization has since expanded its footprint across the State, most frequently through the use of conservation easements; and

WHEREAS, LTTN was the first land trust in Tennessee to earn accreditation by The Land Trust Alliance Accreditation Commission, and the first to become re-accredited, for meeting the highest industry standards for excellence and conservation permanence; and

WHEREAS, in 2020, LTTN received the Land Trust Alliance National Land Trust Excellence Award for its strategic and visionary work in conserving land that matters to people and places across Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, over the past twenty-five years, LTTN has protected more than 136,000 acres of land across the State and completed 455 diverse conservation projects in seventy-six counties, thus protecting more than 35,000 acres of working agricultural land, nearly 600 miles

of rivers and streams, approximately 97,000 acres of forested land, more than 62,400 acres of priority wildlife habitat, and more than 200 miles of scenic-road frontage visible to the public; and

WHEREAS, LTTN has also conserved several historic sites and landscapes around historic structures and partnered with the State, local governments, and other nonprofit partners to conserve and expand a host of public parks over the years; and

WHEREAS, deeply committed to increasing the quality, pace, and impact of land conservation across Tennessee, LTTN has developed a Strategic Conservation Plan, titled "Forever Tennessee," that outlines a focused vision for the organization to conserve farms, forests, historic sites, recreation areas, wildlife habitat, and scenic landscapes; and

WHEREAS, employing twenty-one professional staff in its Nashville and Chattanooga offices, LTTN is fortunate to enjoy the leadership and acumen of two veterans of the organization, President and CEO Liz McLaurin and Vice President Emily Parish, and its Board of Directors, which is currently chaired by Rosemary McIlhenny; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRTEENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor and recognize the management, leadership, and staff of Land Trust of Tennessee on the occasion of LTTN's twenty-fifth anniversary and thank them for their ongoing commitment to "a Tennessee whose irreplaceable landscapes are protected forever."

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.