

HOUSE RESOLUTION 88

By Mannis

A RESOLUTION to celebrate May 4, 2021, as "Tennessee State Natural Areas Day".

WHEREAS, Tennessee is blessed with a proud cultural history and a thriving economy, and both of these factors are grounded in our vast and diverse natural resources; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee is home to spectacular natural beauty, abundant streams and lakes, diverse and plentiful plant and animal life, and unique geologic features; and

WHEREAS, the State Natural Areas Program protects significant natural resources, including geological features, rare species, natural communities, and endangered ecosystems across the State; and

WHEREAS, this year marks the fiftieth anniversary of the Tennessee Natural Areas Preservation Act of 1971, as signed on May 4, 1971, by Governor Winfield Dunn; and

WHEREAS, this seminal bipartisan legislation was supported by both parties in recognition of its benefit to citizens of Tennessee, including Senator Bill Bruce and Representative Victor Ashe, and then signed enthusiastically by Governor Dunn; and

WHEREAS, fifty years later, this act now protects more than 129,000 acres of unique natural areas and habitats in eighty-four State Natural Areas located throughout the State of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, the State Natural Areas Program enjoys the diligence, determination, and unflagging support of Tennessee's corporate and private citizens, conservation groups, local, State, and federal partners, and elected officials; and

WHEREAS, it is essential that the people of Tennessee recognize the importance of these natural areas to the outstanding quality of life we enjoy in our State; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of the fiftieth anniversary of the passage of the Tennessee Natural Areas Preservation Act, Governor Bill Lee recently proclaimed May 4, 2021, as "Tennessee State Natural Areas Day"; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we hereby join in the celebration of May 4, 2021, as "Tennessee State Natural Areas Day" on the fiftieth anniversary of the passage of the Tennessee Natural Areas Preservation Act.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.