LRB-5608/1 CMH:cjs

2023 SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 98

January 19, 2024 - Introduced by Senators Quinn and Tomczyk, cosponsored by Representatives Edming, Green and Armstrong. Referred to Committee on Senate Organization.

AUTHORS SUBJECT TO CHANGE

| 1 | Relating to: celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the American Birkebeiner and |
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| 2 | proclaiming February 19 to 25, 2024, as American Birkebeiner Week in |
| 3 | Wisconsin. |
| 4 | Whereas, the American Birkebeiner has grown from humble beginnings in |
| 5 | 1973 to the largest cross-country ski race in North America and is currently the only |
| 6 | race representing the United States of America within the Worldloppet Ski |
| 7 | Federation; and |
| 8 | Whereas, the American Birkebeiner is a uniquely American tradition that |
| 9 | brings in over $15,000$ cross-country skiers and an estimated $35,000$ spectators each |
| 10 | February to race between Cable and Hayward, Wisconsin, as well as celebrate and |
| 11 | participate in the American Birkebeiner Ski Foundation's annual Birkie Week of |
| 12 | cross-country skiing festivities, which includes events for all ages and abilities; and |
| 13 | Whereas, over 360,000 skiers have participated in American Birkebeiner Ski |
| 14 | Foundation races since 1973; and |

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| Whereas, Hayward and the surrounding communities will host participants | |
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| from at least 25 countries, 49 states, and the District of Columbia (in 2024) to join | |
| in Birkie Week festivities; and | |
| Whereas, 2,500 volunteers from all points north, south, east, and west | |
| volunteer at Birkie Week events in support of the 15,000 competitors; and | |
| Whereas, the American Birkebeiner is celebrating its 50th year in 2024; and | |
| Whereas, the over 100 kilometer American Birkebeiner recreational trail was | |
| ranked the number one cross-country ski destination in the United States in 2016. | |
| This recreational corridor is utilized by an estimated 100,000 visitors annually and | |
| draws tourists to the northwestern Wisconsin region; and | |
| Whereas, Birkie Week events and year-round users of the Birkie trail | |
| contribute significantly to the economy in Sawyer and Bayfield Counties; and | |

Whereas, the mission of the American Birkebeiner Ski Foundation, a 501 (c) (3) nonprofit organization, is to conduct the finest international cross-country ski competitions, to serve as good stewards of the American Birkebeiner trail system, and to support a healthy and active lifestyle among people of all ages and abilities; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the senate, the assembly concurring, That the legislature, in recognition of the importance of the American Birkebeiner and its contribution to the state of Wisconsin and its citizens, celebrates the 50th Anniversary of the American Birkebeiner and does hereby proclaim February 19 to 25, 2024, to be American Birkebeiner Week in Wisconsin; and, be it further

Resolved, That the senate chief clerk shall provide a copy of this resolution to the American Birkebeiner Ski Foundation.