

State of Vermont House of Representatives



Montpelier, Vermont

Concurrent House Resolution

H.C.R. 215

House concurrent resolution commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Wilderness Act of 1964 and the 30th anniversary of the Vermont Wilderness Act of 1984.

Offered by: Representative Deen of Westminster

Whereas, on a bipartisan vote, Congress passed the Wilderness Act of 1964, Pub.L. 88-577 (the Act), which President Lyndon Johnson signed on September 3 of that year, and

Whereas, in the Act, Congress sought “to secure for the American people of present and future generations the benefits of an enduring resource of wilderness,” and

Whereas, to implement this objective, the Act created the National Wilderness Preservation System, providing for the designation of federal wilderness areas, and

Whereas, the Act defines wilderness as “an area of undeveloped federal land retaining its primeval character and influence, without permanent improvements or human habitation, which is protected and managed so as to preserve its natural conditions,” and

Whereas, subsequently, Congress adopted the Eastern Wilderness Areas Act of 1975, Pub.L. 93-622, the Vermont Wilderness Act of 1984, Pub.L. 98-322, and the New England Wilderness Act of 2006, Pub.L. 109-382, and

Whereas, annually since 2009, President Barack Obama has proclaimed September as National Wilderness Month, and in his 2011 proclamation declared “The mystery and wonder of wilderness is deeply rooted in our national character,” and

Whereas, in 2014, there are eight federal wilderness areas in Vermont, containing thousands of acres within the Green Mountain National Forest, and

Whereas, the National Wilderness Preservation System has greatly enhanced our nation’s appreciation of its natural heritage, and

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly commemorates the 50th anniversary of the Federal Wilderness Act and the 30th anniversary of the Vermont Wilderness Act, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the Vermont Chapter of the Sierra Club.