

A CEREMONIAL RESOLUTION

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

To celebrate and recognize the national and local environmental movements and the contributions the District of Columbia and its residents make to improving the climate and environment, and to recognize April 22, 2021 as Earth Day in the District of Columbia.

WHEREAS, on April 22, 1970, 20 million people across the United States participated in the first Earth Day to protest environmental destruction, marking the beginning of the modern environmental movement;

WHEREAS, the first Earth Day was inspired by Rachel Carson's groundbreaking book, *Silent Spring*, which documents adverse environmental impacts caused by chemical pesticides, the first color photos of Earth from space, and environmental disasters, including fires in the Cuyahoga River and an oil spill in Santa Barbara;

WHEREAS, United States Senator Gaylord Nelson envisioned the first Earth Day as a nationwide teach-in to educate the public and elected officials about our role in protecting the environment;

WHEREAS, Earth Day is a time to reflect on the impact humans have on Earth, how we affect to the global environment and climate, and how that, in turn, affects our own health and well-being;

WHEREAS, Earth Day is an occasion to clean up local parks, green spaces, and waterways and to address everyday actions that contribute to climate change and environmental harm;

WHEREAS, Earth Day is more relevant now than ever as we confront the rise in global temperature, catastrophic weather events, rising sea levels, and longer and more devastating hurricane and wildfire seasons;

WHEREAS, the District of Columbia is vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change, including increased hurricane intensity, flooding, and sea level rise due to the city's location along tidal waterways and proximity to the Atlantic Ocean;

39 WHEREAS, the District of Columbia is home to many local organizations dedicated to
40 ensuring that the District has a healthy environment for its residents, native plants, and wildlife,
41 including the Anacostia Watershed Society, Ward 8 Woods, Anacostia Riverkeepers, Potomac
42 Waterkeepers, the Rock Creek Conservancy, the Earth Conservation Corps, the youth-led DC
43 chapter of Fridays for Future, and many others;

44 WHEREAS, the District of Columbia is a member of the C40 Climate Leadership Group,
45 a network of the world’s largest cities taking action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and has
46 taken many steps to become a more sustainable city through initiatives such as Sustainable DC
47 2.0, Clean Energy DC, Climate Ready DC, Zero Waste DC, and Carbon Neutral DC; and

48 WHEREAS, April 22, 2021 is the 51st Earth Day and an opportunity for District residents
49 to take action in their homes and neighborhoods to improve the environment and climate in DC
50 and beyond.

51 RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, that this
52 resolution may be cited as the “District of Columbia Earth Day Recognition Resolution of 2021”.

53 Sec. 2. The Council of the District of Columbia recognizes and honors the past and future
54 efforts in the District to protect and preserve Earth today and for future residents.

55 Sec. 3. This resolution shall take effect immediately upon the first date of publication in
56 the District of Columbia Register.