

## A RESOLUTION

1 Directing the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee to  
2 conduct a study and issue a report on the feasibility of  
3 establishing conservation corridors in this Commonwealth.

4 WHEREAS, Outdoor recreation is among our nation's largest  
5 economic sectors; and

6 WHEREAS, Pennsylvania is a leader in outdoor recreation  
7 consumer spending, a critical component of our tourism industry;  
8 and

9 WHEREAS, Pennsylvania hosts a magnificent diversity of plants  
10 and wildlife and a great array of ecosystems and preserving and  
11 connecting high-quality habitats for plants and wildlife can  
12 create habitat strongholds so species can continue to thrive as  
13 they face stressors and changing environmental conditions; and

14 WHEREAS, Preservation of this Commonwealth's natural  
15 resources is necessary for our tourism industry to continue to  
16 expand and thrive; and

17 WHEREAS, It is recognized as a public good that habitat  
18 connectivity for wildlife be maintained and expanded; and

1       WHEREAS, Many State agencies, nonprofit organizations and  
2 coalitions, as well as public-private partnerships that are  
3 interested in advancing connectivity across this Commonwealth,  
4 could benefit from a science-based understanding of current and  
5 potential conservation corridors in this Commonwealth and  
6 nonstate coalition partners can add value by helping to advance  
7 the habitat connectivity goals of State agencies that seek to  
8 advance conservation corridors; and

9       WHEREAS, A study that identifies and evaluates conservation  
10 corridors would be beneficial to all wildlife and residents;  
11 therefore be it

12       RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives direct the  
13 Legislative Budget and Finance Committee to conduct a study and  
14 issue a report on the feasibility of establishing conservation  
15 corridors in this Commonwealth and make recommendations for  
16 measures proposed or undertaken for the establishment of such  
17 corridors; and be it further

18       RESOLVED, That the study:

19           (1) identify and examine the statutes, best practices  
20 and proposed measures of other states to assist in the  
21 establishment of conservation corridors in the Commonwealth;

22           (2) identify existing and needed conservation corridors,  
23 including riparian corridors and potential crossings of  
24 transportation arteries;

25           (3) include a study of the economic benefits of  
26 conservation corridors attributed to increased opportunity  
27 for outdoor recreation, tourism and ecosystem services,  
28 including, but not limited to, clean water, flood protection,  
29 air pollution removal, mineral resources and agriculture  
30 products;