

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 75

Senators McCann, Wojno, Brinks, Moss, Santana, Bullock, Chang, Geiss, Polehanki and Hollier offered the following resolution:

1 A resolution to recognize September 22-29, 2019, as Michigan
2 Trails Week.

3 Whereas, Michigan's wealth of trails provides an abundance of
4 opportunities for residents and visitors to enjoy our state's
5 spectacular natural resources. Michigan is known as The Trails
6 State because of the more than 12,500 miles of designated land
7 trails and 4,280 miles of locally-designated water trails; and

8 Whereas, The state's trail system is the result of a
9 successful partnership between state agencies, local trails groups,
10 local units of government, and non-profit organizations and
11 businesses all over the state coming together to connect

1 communities and people; and

2 Whereas, Our trail systems are designed to accommodate both
3 motorized and nonmotorized activities in appropriate areas to allow
4 for a variety of uses and, through a carefully-designed master
5 plan, will continue to reflect emerging trail needs in the state
6 while also striving to meet the number one recreational need of
7 citizens for more miles of trails at the local level; and

8 Whereas, Destination trails continue to be an emerging need to
9 attract both residents and out-of-state visitors; and

10 Whereas, Route 1 of the Great Lake to Lake Trails will be the
11 state's first fully-marked destination trail stretching from South
12 Haven to Port Huron. When ultimately completed, The Iron Belle
13 Trail, stretching from Belle Isle in Detroit to Ironwood in the
14 western Upper Peninsula, will also be a destination trail and one
15 of the longest such trails in the nation; and

16 Whereas, The state's trails and trail towns are prominently
17 featured in the new Pure Michigan Trail Designation program that
18 will be helpful in promoting the state's specially-designated
19 trails. Our state's trail system plays a significant role in
20 strengthening Michigan's economy and supporting thousands of jobs,
21 primarily through small-business owners; and

22 Whereas, The state's trail system provides residents with
23 broad access to a low-cost, accessible, and enjoyable way to
24 improve health and reduce obesity; and

25 Whereas, Trail-related activities, including hiking, walking,
26 snowmobiling, running, biking, horseback riding, cross-country
27 skiing, paddling and using off-road vehicles, are among the most
28 popular and growing means of outdoor enjoyment; and

29 Whereas, The state of Michigan hosts more than 5,000 miles of

1 hiking trails designed for walkers, hikers, trail runners, and
2 other outdoor enthusiasts to explore the state's natural areas,
3 including 1,200 miles of the nation's longest National Scenic
4 Trail, the North Country National Scenic Trail; and

5 Whereas, Michigan is also known as one of the top states for
6 mountain biking, with an unmatched diversity of trail systems and
7 over 1,600 miles of natural surface trails. Many people already
8 refer to Michigan as the mountain biking capital of the Midwest;
9 and

10 Whereas, The Department of Natural Resources, working in
11 conjunction with the Michigan Trails and Greenways Alliance, has
12 established a new water trail designation process that resulted in
13 eight new water trail designations this past year, will continue to
14 designate new inland water trails in the future; and

15 Whereas, The existence of quality trails helps to strengthen
16 the appeal of communities by boosting quality-of-life amenities
17 that attract businesses and increase property values. Trails
18 provide alternative, scenic transportation routes that help to
19 decrease road congestion and pollution and serve to connect
20 communities to each other; now, therefore, be it

21 Resolved by the Senate, That the members of this legislative
22 body recognize September 22-29, 2019, as Michigan Trails Week; and
23 be it further

24 Resolved, That Michigan's rich network of trails throughout
25 the Upper and Lower peninsulas continue to provide residents and
26 visitors with scenic spaces to explore nature, appreciate wildlife,
27 experience solitude, or enjoy time with family and friends.