

106TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 864

To designate April 22 as Earth Day.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 22, 1999

Mr. BINGAMAN (for himself and Mr. CHAFEE) introduced the following bill;  
which was read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

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## A BILL

To designate April 22 as Earth Day.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Earth Day Act”.

5 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

6 The Congress finds that—

7 (1) April 22, 1970—the first national celebra-  
8 tion of Earth Day—enlisted 20 million Americans  
9 and greatly increased environmental awareness na-  
10 tionwide.

1           (2) Earth Day has been celebrated every year  
2           since then by increasing numbers of Americans, and  
3           is now observed in more than 140 countries.

4           (3) Earth day calls attention to harmful human  
5           impacts on the natural environment, including air  
6           pollution, water pollution, ocean pollution, strato-  
7           spheric pollution, and the disposal of hazardous  
8           wastes.

9           (4) Earth Day alerts the world to environ-  
10          mental threats to human health and well-being as  
11          well as the loss of native forests, wetlands, prairies,  
12          marine ecosystems, and other wildlife habitats and  
13          wilderness areas, and the diverse species that inhabit  
14          them.

15          (5) Earth Day educates the public about posi-  
16          tive opportunities to improve the world by: improv-  
17          ing energy efficiency; developing safe, renewable en-  
18          ergy sources; eliminating the production of harmful  
19          wastes; designing all goods to be durable, reusable,  
20          and recyclable; protecting biodiversity; and encour-  
21          aging sustainable development throughout the world.

22 **SEC. 3. AMENDMENT TO TITLE 36, UNITED STATES CODE.**

23          Title 36, United States Code, “Patriotic and National  
24          Observances, Ceremonies, and Organizations”, is amended  
25          by adding after section 143 the following:

1 **“§ 144. Earth Day**

2 “(a) DESIGNATION.—April 22 is Earth Day.

3 “(b) PURPOSE.—Earth Day draws attention to the  
4 impact of human activity on the natural environment,  
5 alerts the world to environmental threats to human health  
6 and well-being, and advocates personal actions and public  
7 policies to promote and preserve a healthy, diverse, resil-  
8 ient, and productive world for our children.

9 “(c) PROCLAMATION.—The President is requested to  
10 issue each year a proclamation calling on the people of  
11 the United States to—

12 “(1) renew their commitment to improve and  
13 protect the quality of the environment, and

14 “(2) observe the day with appropriate cere-  
15 monies and activities.”.

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