

108TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. CON. RES. 172

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Whereas travel and tourism has a major impact on the economy of the United States as the 3rd largest retail sales industry in the Nation;

Whereas 1 out of every 7 people employed in the United States civilian labor force is directly or indirectly employed in the travel and tourism industry;

Whereas international travel to the United States is the largest service export, having generated a trade surplus for 14 consecutive years;

Whereas domestic and international travel generated an estimated \$537.2 billion in expenditures in 2002, supporting more than 7.9 million jobs, and creating more than \$98.7 billion in tax revenue for Federal, State, and local governments;

Whereas the slowing of the United States economy and international conflicts have had a tremendous negative effect on the tourism industry;

Whereas the Department of Commerce has released the 2002 international year-end arrivals data, revealing that the level of international travel to the United States declined an additional 7 percent between 2001 and 2002;

Whereas tourism contributes substantially to personal growth, education, appreciation of intercultural differences, and the enhancement of international understanding and good will;

Whereas the abundant natural and man-made attractions of the United States and the hospitality of the American people establish the United States as the preeminent destination for both foreign and domestic travelers;

Whereas National Tourism Week was established by Congress in 1983, and first celebrated in May 1984, when President Ronald Reagan signed a proclamation urging citizens to observe the week with appropriate ceremonies and activities;

Whereas, since 1984, National Tourism Week has been celebrated each May by the travel and tourism community,

travel industry associations, as well as many States, cities, and localities throughout the Nation; and

Whereas May 10 through 18, 2003, is the 20th Annual National Tourism Week: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*
2 *concurring)*, That the Congress—

3 (1) supports National Tourism Week; and

4 (2) requests that the President issue a procla-
5 mation calling upon the people of the United States
6 and interested groups to observe National Tourism
7 Week with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

Passed the House of Representatives June 2, 2003.

Attest:

Clerk.

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Supporting the 20th Annual National Tourism
Week.