

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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Senator Feinstein Introduces Second Annual “Endangered Species Day” Resolution

Washington, DC – U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein (D-Calif.) today introduced a resolution to designate May 18, 2007 as the Second Annual “Endangered Species Day.” This will help to raise awareness about the enduring threats to endangered wildlife, fish and plants, and success stories in species recovery.

Endangered Species Day was held for the first time in 2006 with events held across the country, thanks to the efforts of Senator Feinstein and others to establish this educational event.

“Endangered Species Day will provide opportunities for young people, students, and the general public to learn more about the more than 1,800 species in the U.S. and abroad, which are designated as ‘at risk’ for extinction,” Senator Feinstein said.

“Last year, we commemorated the first annual Endangered Species Day with 36 events across the country. It is my hope that this new tradition will spark interest in the rare wildlife, fish and plants that are on the brink of extinction. We must encourage our nation’s youth to take up the charge of conservation and help protect these endangered species before it is too late.”

The Second Annual Endangered Species Day will raise awareness about the threats to endangered species and the success stories in species recovery. It will provide an opportunity for schools, libraries, museums, zoos, botanical gardens, agencies, businesses, community organizations and conservation organizations to educate the public about the importance of protecting endangered species and highlight the everyday actions that individuals and groups can take to help protect our nation’s wildlife, fish and plants.

Activities could include attending workshops, library lectures, field trips, and having species actually come into classrooms.

The bill is cosponsored by Senators Susan Collins (R-Maine), Russ Feingold (D-Wisc.), Carl Levin (D-Mich.), Olympia Snowe (R-Maine), John Kerry (D-Mass.), Joseph Biden (D-Del.), Maria Cantwell (D-Wash.), Joseph Lieberman (I-Conn.), Ron Wyden (D-Ore.), Hillary Clinton (D-N.Y.), Mike Crapo (R-Idaho), and Bernard Sanders (I-Vt.).

The bill has the support of 70 environmental organizations including:

Association of Zoos and Aquariums

Audubon California

California Trout

Center for Biological Diversity

Earthjustice

Endangered Species Coalition

Environmental Defense

Defenders of Wildlife

The Humane Society of the United States

International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW)

National Association of Biology Teachers

National Wildlife Federation

Native Plant Conservation Campaign

Natural Resources Defense Council

Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility

Sierra Club

Society for Conservation Biology

World Wildlife Fund

Zoological Society of San Diego

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