

No. R-29. House concurrent resolution designating February 12, 2025, as Vermont Outdoor Recreation Day at the State House.

(H.C.R.24)

Offered by: Representative White of Waitsfield

Whereas, Vermont is proud of its unparalleled and diverse natural landscape, and it is a global destination for many types of world-class outdoor recreation, and

Whereas, our State's outdoor recreational assets consist of over 8,000 miles of public access trails, including 150 miles of recreational rail trails; 360,000 acres of wildlife management areas, State forests, and State parks; more than six million acres of hunting-accessible land; and over 40 alpine and cross-country ski areas, and

Whereas, in 2012 Acts and Resolves No. 77, the General Assembly designated skiing and snowboarding as the State's official winter sports, and

Whereas, the importance of welcoming everyone, regardless of ethnicity or background, to enjoy outdoor recreational pursuits is recognized, and outdoor recreational venues embrace the intrinsic community values of inclusion and representation, and

Whereas, outdoor recreation creates business opportunities, attracts new residents, and offers workforce pathways that incentivize young Vermonters to remain in the State, and

Whereas, according to the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, in fiscal year 2023, in businesses located in all 14 Vermont counties, outdoor recreation generates \$2.1 billion in economic import, and the industry employed over 16,000 persons, comprising just over five percent of the Vermont workforce, and

Whereas, Vermont Outdoor Recreation Day is an occasion to celebrate the importance of outdoor recreation to the economy, the quality of life, and the mental and physical well-being of Vermonters and visitors, *now therefore be it*

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly designates February 12, 2025, as Vermont Outdoor Recreation Day at the State House, *and be it further*

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the Secretary of Commerce and Community Development; the Secretary of Natural Resources; the Commissioner of Forests, Parks and Recreation; the Commissioner of Tourism and Marketing; the Executive Director of the Vermont Outdoor Business Alliance; the Executive Director of the Vermont Mountain Bike Association; and the President of the Vermont Ski Areas Association.