

[~119HR734]

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(Original Signature of Member)

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. RES. _____

Recognizing the importance of Latino community leadership and engagement in outdoor recreation and conservation activities that protect United States natural resources, and expressing support for the designation of September 12 through September 20, 2026, as “Latino Conservation Week”.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Ms. BARRAGÁN submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on _____

RESOLUTION

Recognizing the importance of Latino community leadership and engagement in outdoor recreation and conservation activities that protect United States natural resources, and expressing support for the designation of September 12 through September 20, 2026, as “Latino Conservation Week”.

Whereas “Latino Conservation Week” was created by the Hispanic Access Foundation in 2014, to celebrate and strengthen Latino communities’ connections to the outdoors and their engagement in activities that promote

conservation and stewardship of United States natural resources;

Whereas, throughout this week, Latino communities across the United States lead and participate in outdoor recreation and conservation activities, including hiking, camping, fishing, birdwatching, and stewardship events, on National Conservation Lands, national monuments, national parks, public lands and waters, and other outdoor spaces, highlighting their vital role in protecting and enjoying these treasured places;

Whereas local and national events, such as film screenings, community roundtable discussions, hikes, neighborhood cleanups, tree plantings, and community gardens, demonstrate Latino communities' leadership in advancing environmental justice, fostering community well-being, and preserving cultural and ecological heritage;

Whereas Latino communities are on the front line of environmental change, with 78 percent reporting personal experiences with environmental issues impacting their health, communities, or livelihoods, yet they continue to lead solutions and mobilize for clean air, safe water, and resilient communities;

Whereas access to nature, public lands, and water provides measurable physical and mental health benefits, reduces long-term health care costs, and enhances local economies by strengthening outdoor recreation infrastructure;

Whereas communities of color, including Latino communities, are more likely to live in areas with limited access to parks, green spaces, and natural resources, particularly in urban heat islands, underscoring the urgent need for equitable urban planning, investment, and restoration;

Whereas Latino identity, heritage, and stewardship are deeply connected to the Nation’s public lands and waters, reflecting centuries of cultural, agricultural, and ecological contributions that continue to shape the natural history and conservation future of the United States;

Whereas, with more than 70,100,000 Latinos representing 21 percent of the United States population, Latinos are a growing force in the outdoor economy and conservation movement;

Whereas equitable access to nearby green spaces, safe and inclusive transportation options, and park features that recognize diverse languages, histories, and cultural uses should be available to all communities; and

Whereas, September 12 through September 20, 2026, is a fitting time to celebrate the growing leadership, engagement, and environmental vision of Latino communities across the Nation to designate as “Latino Conservation Week”: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

2 (1) recognizes the Latino community’s long-
3 standing commitment to and leadership in conserva-
4 tion and environmental stewardship;

5 (2) affirms that the future of public lands and
6 waters, environmental health, and climate resilience
7 is strengthened by the inclusion, vision, and agency
8 of Latino youth, families, and community leaders;
9 and

10 (3) supports the designation of “Latino Con-
11 servation Week”.