

Senate Engrossed

Arizona's outdoors; recreation; supporting

State of Arizona
Senate
Fifty-fifth Legislature
Second Regular Session
2022

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 1010

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF OUTDOOR EXPERIENCES TO STATE RESIDENTS.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

1 Whereas, communities across Arizona recognize that outdoor
2 recreation supports health, contributes to a high quality of life and
3 attracts and sustains employers and families; and

4 Whereas, scientific research shows that both children and adults are
5 spending more time inside than previous generations, are increasingly
6 distanced from nature, are engaging in less physical exercise and are at
7 an increased risk for poor health because of sedentary practices; and

8 Whereas, research shows that time spent in nature by all people can
9 lead to physical, developmental and behavioral health benefits; and

10 Whereas, there is significant value in providing opportunities for
11 the people of this state to experience awe-inspiring moments while gazing
12 and reflecting on the natural beauty of the Grand Canyon State's uniquely
13 spectacular outdoor places; and

14 Whereas, quality time in the natural world encourages curiosity and
15 provides hands-on field experience and experiential learning, resulting in
16 improved learning across various fields of science; and

17 Whereas, outdoor pursuits result in a unique and intimate
18 relationship with the land, wildlife, clean water, clear skies and
19 cultural resource protection; and

20 Whereas, the outdoor industry in Arizona is a major economic engine
21 that brings jobs, prosperity and wellness to all state residents. The
22 outdoor industry employs 201,000 people and annually generates \$21.2
23 billion in consumer spending and \$1.4 billion in local and state tax
24 revenues; and

25 Whereas, public lands represent a significant portion of this
26 state's land base and are critical components of a healthy outdoor
27 environment that are low cost to access and ubiquitous for all residents;
28 and

29 Whereas, fostering equity of access to outdoor opportunities is
30 fundamental to ensuring that all state residents can enjoy Arizona's
31 natural resources; and

32 Whereas, investments in outdoor spaces and amenities will serve to
33 enhance the quality and quantity of outdoor experiences for all Arizonans.
34 Therefore

35 Be it resolved by the Senate of the State of Arizona, the House of
36 Representatives concurring:

37 1. That the Members of the Legislature recognize that it is
38 critical for the physical, mental and social well-being of Arizona's
39 residents that the state promote healthy, active lifestyles filled with
40 outdoor experiences of all types for Arizona residents, while respecting
41 private property rights.

42 2. That the Members of the Legislature recognize that each resident
43 in Arizona should have the opportunity to:

44 (a) Enjoy and observe nature and wildlife in Arizona through
45 activities like hunting, fishing, hiking, backpacking, trail running,

- 1 trail riding, mountain biking, four-wheeling, rock climbing, stargazing,
2 wildlife watching or just wandering in the outdoors.
- 3 (b) Learn about, appreciate and respect indigenous cultural
4 resources, petroglyphs, pictographs, ancient habitation sites and sacred
5 landscapes as places best left undisturbed.
- 6 (c) Explore Arizona's parks, forests, public lands and wild places.
- 7 (d) Experience Arizona's mountains, deserts, grasslands and
8 canyons.
- 9 (e) Gaze at a starry sky or sleep outdoors in a tent.
- 10 (f) Bring along a friend to discover nearby nature right outside
11 one's own backyard and beyond.
- 12 (g) Splash or refresh in Arizona's rivers, lakes, streams and hot
13 springs.
- 14 (h) Follow a trail.
- 15 (i) Plant a seed, tend a garden or create a wildlife habitat
16 garden.
- 17 (j) Be a steward and take care of Arizona's outdoor places and
18 landscapes so future generations will also be able to enjoy these precious
19 assets.