

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 426
By Cohen

A RESOLUTION To honor and commend award-winning actor, producer and director, Robert Redford, for his extraordinary efforts as a spokesman and champion for environmental preservation, First Amendment freedoms and other public issues.

WHEREAS, The members of this General Assembly are proud to salute those citizens who, through their extraordinary talents, have distinguished themselves as great professional actors, producers and directors and, in addition, have employed their abilities and resources for the betterment of this nation and the world; and

WHEREAS, One such noteworthy person is Robert Redford, an award-winning actor, producer and director, who has enthralled several generations of American film viewers over his four-decade professional career; scenes from his films are indelibly embedded in the collective memories of film viewers; and

WHEREAS, Not totally consumed by his professional career, Robert Redford stands at the forefront of the effort to preserve the great natural beauty and environmental diversity of this nation and the world; he has worked tirelessly on behalf of endangered wildlife and their habitats and has been a voice of environmental conscience in the face of governmental policy which he considers misguided; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Redford has been in Nashville over the past several weeks working on a film being shot at the old state prison. While here, Mr. Redford recently received the 2001 Freedom in Film Award for Lifetime Achievement at the Nashville Independent Film Festival; and

WHEREAS, At the presentation, he stated the need to assure that independent filmmakers are able "...to make films that are not governed by corporate control." He went on to say that, "Freedom of speech is something that shapes our nation...Free expression is an important pulse of our society, it is vital. Look around us and we see people dying for something we have; we can't afford to lose it"; and

WHEREAS, For several years, Mr. Redford has led the fight to curb the activities of those large corporations and their allies in the extractive industries from unrestrained mining, drilling, logging and road-building in the nation's parks, national forests, natural areas and remaining unspoiled land in this nation; and

WHEREAS, He has not hesitated to confront national, state and local officials who do not share his views about environmental preservation, habitat protection and safeguards for endangered species; his support of these causes includes his activism as a spokesman and fundraiser as well as his personal financial contributions; and

WHEREAS, Robert Redford is to be commended for his dedication to his beliefs from which he refuses to be swayed; and

WHEREAS, An example of such dedication is his recent refusal to join Secretary of the Interior Gale Norton, at her request, in releasing a condor into the wild; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Redford, instead, used the invitation as an opportunity to question the Secretary's environmental record and concern for the "nation's public health, public lands and wildlife"; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Redford's refusal to have his environmental record co-opted for political purposes is an inspiration to all who find themselves faced daily with forces designed to erode their beliefs and dedication; and

WHEREAS, This General Assembly finds it appropriate to pause in its deliberations to acknowledge and applaud Mr. Robert Redford for his long and distinguished career as an actor, producer and director, but especially to thank him for his dedication to the cause of environmental preservation, First Amendment freedoms and other issues of public importance; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That we hereby honor and commend Robert Redford for championing the causes of environmental preservation, First Amendment freedoms and other political and social issues important to our national life.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we welcome him to the State of Tennessee and encourage him to choose our State as a site for future films.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.