

As Introduced

**128th General Assembly
Regular Session
2009-2010**

H. C. R. No. 9

Representative Dyer

Cosponsors: Representatives Williams, B., Letson, Chandler, Bolon

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To designate the Portage Lakes area in Summit County 1
the Purple Martin Capital of Ohio. 2

**BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE
OF OHIO (THE SENATE CONCURRING):**

WHEREAS, The purple martin (*Progne subis*) is a beautiful, 3
iridescent blue-black songbird, the largest North American 4
swallow, and the only species of martin on this continent. Purple 5
martins spend the nonbreeding season in Brazil, then migrate to 6
North America to nest, and their diet consists entirely of 7
insects; and 8

WHEREAS, Because of purple martins' attractive 9
insect-reducing qualities and the beauty of their flight patterns, 10
plumage, and song, humans in North America traditionally have 11
constructed houses to attract the nesting birds, beginning with 12
Native Americans who cut holes in gourds and hung them in their 13
villages in order to coax the birds there. Gradually, purple 14
martins abandoned their natural nesting sites in deserted 15
woodpecker nest cavities and became dependent on human-supplied 16
nesting houses to the extent that today virtually all purple 17
martins east of the Rocky Mountains rely on human-supplied nesting 18
sites; and 19

WHEREAS, People in the Portage Lakes area in this state are 20
carrying on the tradition of providing nesting houses for purple 21
martins through an initiative called the Purple Martin Project 22
that was started in the year 2000 by the Portage Lakes Advisory 23
Council. The Purple Martin Project offers an environmentally safe 24
way to control nuisance insects in the Portage Lakes area and to 25
reduce the need for the spraying of insecticides; and 26

WHEREAS, As a result of the Purple Martin Project, the 27
Portage Lakes Purple Martin Association was formed and consists of 28
over fifty volunteers who built and maintain a Purple Martin 29
sanctuary at Portage Lakes State Park that includes more than two 30
hundred nesting sites. The Association has been successful in 31
attracting purple martins as evidenced by the growth of the purple 32
martin population in the Portage Lakes area, which increased from 33
one pair of the birds in 2000 to an estimated eighty pairs in 34
2003; and 35

WHEREAS, Fourteen other states have dedicated purple martin 36
capitals. Ohio likewise should recognize the value of the 37
beautiful purple martins and the success of the Portage Lakes 38
Purple Martin Association in attracting them for the purpose of 39
insect control; now therefore be it 40

RESOLVED, That the General Assembly of the State of Ohio 41
designates the Portage Lakes area in Summit County the Purple 42
Martin Capital of Ohio; and be it further 43

RESOLVED, That the Clerk of the House of Representatives 44
transmit duly authenticated copies of this resolution to the 45
Portage Lakes Purple Martin Association, the Portage Lakes 46
Advisory Council, the Chief of the Division of Wildlife in the 47
Department of Natural Resources, and the news media of Ohio. 48