

By Senator Latvala

20-02421-16

20161758__

Senate Resolution

A resolution commemorating the 25th anniversary of the Fred Marquis Pinellas Trail.

WHEREAS, in 1983, the Fred Marquis Pinellas Trail began as the vision of a man who, after his son was killed while riding his bicycle, helped form the Pinellas County Metropolitan Planning Organization's Bicycle Advisory Committee, and

WHEREAS, this committee, in conjunction with the Pedestrian Safety Committee, hoped to find a safe and convenient place to enjoy bicycle riding, walking, and jogging, and

WHEREAS, at the same time, Pinellas County was attempting to find a use for a 34-mile corridor of abandoned CSX railroad right-of-way, and

WHEREAS, in 1990, the first 6-mile section of the Fred Marquis Pinellas Trail opened and later grew into a 47-mile greenway that reaches from St. Petersburg to Tarpon Springs, and

WHEREAS, the Fred Marquis Pinellas Trail is a unique greenway corridor linking some of Pinellas County's most picturesque parks, scenic coastal areas, and residential neighborhoods, and

WHEREAS, the trail is a priceless haven in a busy, urban environment in the most densely populated county in Florida, and officials estimate that more than 90,000 residents and guests use the multimodal transportation facility each month, and

WHEREAS, outdoor enthusiasts can enjoy quiet glades, waterways, and tidal streams with all varieties of land and water birds, and

WHEREAS, the trail is named in honor of former Pinellas County Administrator Fred Marquis, who was a tireless proponent of converting the abandoned rail corridor to public use, and

WHEREAS, Pinellas Trails, Inc., an all-volunteer, nonprofit

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33 organization, in partnership with Pinellas County government,
34 has helped to make the trail a model of outdoor recreation, NOW,
35 THEREFORE,

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37 Be It Resolved by the Senate of the State of Florida:

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39 That the Florida Senate recognizes the 25th anniversary of
40 the Fred Marquis Pinellas Trail and acknowledges the support of
41 citizens, county employees, and communities along the trail
42 which have helped to make it a unique gem in this state.