

As Adopted by the Senate

**131st General Assembly
Regular Session
2015-2016**

S. R. No. 367

Senator Coley

A RESOLUTION

Designating Ohio Safe Digging Month, April 2016.

WHEREAS, The members of the Senate of the 131st General Assembly of Ohio are pleased to designate April 2016 as Safe Digging Month in Ohio; and

WHEREAS, The U.S. underground infrastructure includes nearly twenty million miles of buried pipelines and cables that transport petroleum, natural gas, electricity, communications, cable television, steam, water, and sewer. Each year, many Ohioans risk personal injury, damage to the environment, service interruptions, and even death due to accidentally digging near these facilities; and

WHEREAS, In 2005, the Federal Communications Commission established the 8-1-1 national call number to provide a means for potential excavators and homeowners to request utility line locations, and this service is monitored locally by the Ohio Utilities Protection Service. A vital resource for Ohio residents and businesses, OUPS serves as a communication link between utility companies and individuals, and it processes more than one million calls annually; and

WHEREAS, The Ohio Revised Code requires all individuals and companies to contact the Ohio Utilities Protection Service at least forty-eight hours before digging, and in an effort to raise awareness of this important issue, OUPS has partnered with the Common Ground Alliance to promote the National Call Before You Dig number, as well as the use of safe digging practices. The many individuals who have been involved with this endeavor are certainly deserving of high praise for their commitment to safety; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That we, the members of the Senate of the 131st 28
General Assembly of Ohio, in adopting this Resolution, designate 29
April 2016 as Ohio Safe Digging Month and encourage all Ohioans to 30
take part in appropriate observances; and be it further 31

RESOLVED, That the Clerk of the Senate transmit duly 32
authenticated copies of this Resolution to the Ohio Utilities 33
Protection Service and to the news media of Ohio. 34