

As Introduced

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

S. C. R. No. 16

Senators Hottinger, Peterson

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To express support for the nomination of the Hopewell 1
Ceremonial Earthworks as a United Nations Educational, 2
Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) World 3
Heritage Site. 4

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

WHEREAS, The Hopewell Ceremonial Earthworks, located in 5
Warren County, Ross County, and Licking County, were the 6
epicenter of a vibrant American Indian culture that lived in 7
Ohio approximately 2,000 years ago; and 8

WHEREAS, These sites were ceremonial and social centers, 9
characterized by enormous earthwork constructions that feature 10
precise geometric shapes, standard units of measure, accurate 11
alignments to the rising and setting of the sun and moon, and 12
deposits of artifacts of exceptional artistic merit crafted from 13
exotic raw materials obtained from as far away as the coast of 14
the Atlantic Ocean and the Rocky Mountains; and 15

WHEREAS, Together, the Hopewell Ceremonial Earthworks are 16
the best preserved examples of monumental earthworks constructed 17
by the indigenous people and cultures in the Ohio Valley, which 18
are distinct from other mound-building cultures in Eastern North 19
America; and 20

WHEREAS, The Hopewell Ceremonial Earthworks have helped 21

shape the public understanding of American Indian cultural 22
developments and heritage in North America; and 23

WHEREAS, The Hopewell Ceremonial Earthworks are recognized 24
nationally and internationally as a masterpiece of human 25
creative genius and an exceptional testimony to past American 26
Indian cultural traditions and knowledge; and 27

WHEREAS, The Hopewell Ceremonial sites at the Newark 28
Earthworks and Fort Ancient, which are owned and managed by the 29
Ohio History Connection, are currently listed as National 30
Historic Landmarks; and 31

WHEREAS, The Hopewell Ceremonial sites of Hopeton, High 32
Bank, Seip, Mound City, and Hopewell Mound Group are owned and 33
managed by the National Park Service and are currently listed as 34
National Historic Landmarks; and 35

WHEREAS, World Heritage Site designation of this collection 36
of sites by UNESCO will attract significant domestic and 37
international tourism to the Hopewell Ceremonial Earthworks and 38
to the region, resulting in millions of dollars in increased 39
spending and investment; and 40

WHEREAS, The 126th Ohio General Assembly designated the 41
Newark Earthworks as Ohio's official prehistoric monument; and 42

WHEREAS, The Eastern Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma, the Pokagon 43
Band of Potawatomi, the National Congress of American Indians, 44
and other Tribal Nations have expressed their support for the 45
nomination of the Hopewell Ceremonial Earthworks as a UNESCO 46
World Heritage Site; and 47

WHEREAS, The Hopewell Ceremonial Earthworks would be the 48
first and only World Heritage Site located in Ohio; now 49
therefore be it 50

RESOLVED, That we, the members of the 131st General 51

Assembly of the state of Ohio, recognize the Hopewell Ceremonial 52
Earthworks as having universal cultural significance and express 53
support for the nomination of the Hopewell Ceremonial Earthworks 54
as a UNESCO World Heritage Site; and be it further 55

RESOLVED, That the Clerk of the Senate transmit duly 56
authenticated copies of this resolution to the Director of the 57
United States Department of the Interior, each member of the 58
Ohio Congressional delegation, and the news media of Ohio. 59