

111TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

S. RES. 472

In recognition and support of National Safe Digging Month.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 26 (legislative day, MARCH 25), 2010

Mr. LAUTENBERG (for himself, Mr. THUNE, and Mr. ROCKEFELLER)
submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to

RESOLUTION

In recognition and support of National Safe Digging Month.

Whereas each year the Nation's underground utility infrastructure—including pipelines and electric, gas, telecommunications, water, sewer, and cable television lines—is jeopardized by unintentional damage due to those who fail to have underground lines located prior to digging;

Whereas some lines are buried only a few inches underground, making them easy to strike even during shallow digging projects;

Whereas such digging often has unintended consequences such as service interruption, environmental damage, personal injury, and even death;

Whereas April is the beginning of the peak of excavation projects around the Nation;

Whereas in 2002 Congress required the Department of Transportation and the Federal Communications Commission to establish a 3-digit, nationwide toll-free number to be used by State “One-Call” systems;

Whereas in 2005 the Federal Communications Commission designated “811” as the nationwide “One Call” number for homeowners and all excavators to call before conducting excavation activities;

Whereas the “One-Call” system has helped reduce the number of digging damages caused by failure to call before digging from 57 percent in 2004 to 37.5 percent in 2009;

Whereas the 1,400 members of the Common Ground Alliance, who are dedicated to ensuring public safety, environmental protection, and the integrity of services, promote the national “Call Before You Dig” campaign to increase public awareness about the importance, for homeowners and excavators, of calling 811 to find out the exact location of underground lines;

Whereas the Common Ground Alliance has designated April as National Safe Digging Month in order to increase awareness of safe digging practices across the country and to celebrate the anniversary of 811, the national “Call Before You Dig” number: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the Senate supports the goals of Na-
 2 tional Safe Digging Month and encourages homeowners
 3 and all excavators throughout the country to call 811 be-
 4 fore digging.

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