



# NEWS RELEASE

**Arizona House of Representatives**  
**Representative Justin Wilmeth (R-2)**  
1700 West Washington • Phoenix, Arizona • 85007

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## State Representative Justin Wilmeth Celebrates Committee Approval of Bill to Designate Pluto as Arizona's State Planet

**STATE CAPITOL, PHOENIX** – A bill establishing Pluto as the official state planet of Arizona took an important step forward today when it was passed by the House Government Committee. [HB 2477](#), sponsored by Representative Justin Wilmeth, honors Arizona's unique connection to the discovery of Pluto.

Pluto, the ninth celestial body in our solar system, was discovered on February 18, 1930, at the Lowell Observatory in Flagstaff, Arizona. Led by astronomer Clyde Tombaugh, the observatory's meticulous observations and groundbreaking work culminated in the identification of Pluto, adding a new dimension to our understanding of the cosmos.

**“This is not just about designating a state symbol; it's about recognizing Arizona's pivotal role in advancing astronomical knowledge,”** said Representative Wilmeth. **“The discovery of Pluto at the Lowell Observatory is a testament to our state's scientific legacy, and by designating Pluto as our state planet, we honor the curiosity and dedication of those who have expanded our cosmic horizons.”**

HB 2477 garnered bipartisan support, with committee members approving the bill 8-1. The bill must now be considered by the full House.

*Justin Wilmeth is a Republican member of the Arizona House of Representatives serving Legislative District 2 in North Phoenix and is Chairman of the House Commerce Committee. Follow him on X/Twitter at @JustinWilmethAZ.*

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