

House Resolution No. 1880

96TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVES BURLISON (Sponsor), BLACK, BAHR, BARNES, BRATTIN, DAVIS, SCHNEIDER, FALLERT, DUGGER, FUNDERBURK, FRAKER, HAEFNER, CONWAY (14), ASBURY, GUERNSEY, MARSHALL, PARKINSON, LANT, RUZICKA, FLANIGAN, LICHTENEGGER, McNARY, CURTMAN, KOENIG, BROWN (116), SCHATZ, HOUGHTON, LAUER, FISHER, LAIR, KELLY (24), FREDERICK, SCHIEFFER, SWEARINGEN, HARRIS AND ATKINS (Co-sponsors).

5628L.011

2 **WHEREAS**, more than a century ago, hunters, anglers, and trappers were among the first
3 conservationists who realized America's natural resources were in peril and could not sustain
4 unregulated harvest and habitat destruction; and

5 **WHEREAS**, hunters, anglers, and trappers took it upon themselves to support laws that
6 stopped excessive harvest of fish and wildlife, established game and fish agencies to protect fish,
7 wildlife, and their habitat, and support special fishing and hunting license fees to help fund the
8 new agencies' efforts to provide for healthy natural resources for future generations; and

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10 **WHEREAS**, upon realizing that license fees alone were insufficient to restore and
11 sustain healthy fish and wildlife populations, hunters, anglers, and trappers supported excise
12 taxes on firearms, ammunition, archery equipment, hunting equipment, and fishing equipment
13 to raise additional funds to support restoration and enhancement efforts of the state agencies; and

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15 **WHEREAS**, these efforts became known as the "Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration
16 Program" that began 75 years ago with the passage of the Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration
17 Act in 1937, and then was bolstered with the passage of the Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration
18 Act in 1950, further expanded with the Wallop-Breaux amendment to the Sport Fish Restoration
19 Act in 1984; and

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21 **WHEREAS**, these federal efforts supplemented conservation efforts made by the citizens
22 of Missouri with the adoption of Article IV, Sections 40 to 42 of the Missouri Constitution in
23 1936, which created the Missouri Department of Conservation; and

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25 **WHEREAS**, the combined contribution of the Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration
26 Programs to state fish and wildlife agencies exceeds \$13 billion since 1939, the first year money
27 was distributed to the states - more than any other single conservation effort in American history;
28 and

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30 **WHEREAS**, industry has collected the excise taxes on firearms, ammunition, archery
31 equipment, manufactured fishing tackle, electric trolling motors, marine electronics, and
32 motorboat fuel, and provided these funds to the states through the United States Fish and
33 Wildlife Service; and

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35 **WHEREAS**, industry has supported the Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Programs
36 and continues to exhibit a spirit of cooperation with the state fish and wildlife agencies; and

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38 **WHEREAS**, this cooperative partnership between industry, hunters, anglers, trappers,
39 boaters, recreational shooters, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service and state natural
40 resource agencies has resulted in most successful model of fish and wildlife management in the
41 world, restoring populations from coast to coast, Alaska and Hawaii:

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43 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that we, the members of the Missouri
44 House of Representatives, Ninety-sixth General Assembly, hereby recognizes America's hunters,
45 anglers, trappers, boaters, recreational shooters, industry, state fish and wildlife agencies, and the
46 United States Fish and Wildlife Service for their leading role in restoring healthy populations of
47 fish, wildlife, and other natural resources, both game and non-game, to the abundance we see
48 today; and

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50 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Chief Clerk of the Missouri House of
51 Representatives be instructed to prepare properly inscribed copies of this resolution for the
52 Missouri Department of Conservation, each member of the Missouri Congressional delegation,
53 and local, regional, and national media sources so that people may know and appreciate the
54 foresight and contributions from anglers, hunters, trappers, recreational shooters, industry, state
55 fish and wildlife agencies, and the United States Wildlife Service on behalf of our nation's
56 natural resources.

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