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HOUSE MEMORIAL 19

51ST LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2013

INTRODUCED BY

Candy Spence Ezzell

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE GOVERNOR TO ISSUE A PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE WILDLIFE AND SPORT FISH RESTORATION PROGRAM.

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

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

WHEREAS, the house of representatives then and now

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1 recognizes that the primary authority to protect and manage
2 fish and resident wildlife resides in the state fish and
3 wildlife agencies; and

4 WHEREAS, the user-pay-public benefit system became known
5 as the wildlife and sport fish restoration program, which began
6 seventy-five years ago with the passage of the Federal Aid in
7 Wildlife Restoration Act in 1937, and then was bolstered with
8 the passage of the Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration Act in
9 1950, later expanded by the Wallop-Breaux amendment to the
10 Sport Fish Restoration Act 1984; and

11 WHEREAS, the combined contribution of the wildlife and
12 sport fish restoration programs to state fish and wildlife
13 agencies exceeds thirteen billion dollars (\$13,000,000,000)
14 since 1939 (the first year money was distributed to the
15 states), which is more than any other single conservation
16 effort in American history and which constitutes, collectively,
17 the American system of conservation funding; and

18 WHEREAS, the contributions in New Mexico amount to one-
19 third of the budget of the department of game and fish; and

20 WHEREAS, the manufacturers of firearms, ammunition and
21 hunting, fishing and boating equipment have collected excise
22 taxes on firearms, ammunition, archery equipment, manufactured
23 fishing tackle, electric trolling motors, marine electronics
24 and motorboat fuel and distributed these funds to the states
25 through the United States fish and wildlife service; and

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1 WHEREAS, the manufacturers of firearms, ammunition and
2 hunting, fishing and boating equipment have supported the
3 wildlife and sport fish restoration program and continue to
4 exhibit a spirit of cooperation with the state fish and
5 wildlife agencies; and

6 WHEREAS, this cooperative partnership between industry,
7 hunters, anglers, trappers, boaters, recreational shooters, the
8 United States fish and wildlife service and state natural
9 resource agencies has resulted in the most successful model of
10 fish and wildlife management in the world, restoring
11 populations from coast to coast;

12 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
13 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the governor be
14 requested to issue a proclamation recognizing the anniversary
15 of the wildlife and sport fish restoration program on the
16 seventy-fifth anniversary of America's hunters, anglers,
17 trappers, boaters, recreational shooters, industry, state fish
18 and wildlife agencies and the United States fish and wildlife
19 service playing a leading role in restoring healthy populations
20 of fish, wildlife and other natural resources supported by the
21 American system of conservation funding; and

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
23 transmitted to the governor, the director of the department of
24 game and fish, the New Mexico congressional delegation and the
25 congressional sportsmen's foundation.

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