

# 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

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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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