

House of Representatives



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER

In the House, March 28, 2012

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 harvest of fish and wildlife, established game and fish agencies to protect fish, 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, Upon realizing that license fees alone were insufficient to restore and sustain healthy fish and wildlife populations, hunters, anglers and trappers supported excise taxes on firearms, ammunition and hunting and fishing equipment to raise additional funds to support restoration and enhancement efforts of the state agencies; and

Whereas, These efforts became known as the Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program that began 75 years ago with the passage of the Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act in 1937, and again with the Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration Act in 1950, and further expanded with the Wallop-Breaux amendment to the Sport Fish Restoration Act in 1984; and

Whereas, The combined contribution of the Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program to state fish and wildlife agencies exceeds \$13 billion since 1939, the first year money was distributed to the states, which is more than any other single conservation effort in American history; and

Whereas, This cooperative partnership among hunters, anglers, trappers and state natural resource agencies has resulted in the most successful model of fish and wildlife management in the world, restoring populations from coast to coast and in Alaska and Hawaii; therefore be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives recognize America's hunters, anglers and trappers for their leading role in restoring healthy populations of fish, wildlife and other natural resources, both game and nongame, to the abundance we see today; and be it further

Resolved, That the House of Representatives commemorate the 75th anniversary of the Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program and America's greatest conservation story; and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this resolution be transmitted to the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, the Pennsylvania Game Commission, the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission, the Pennsylvania Congressional Delegation and local, regional and national media sources so that all may know and appreciate the foresight and contributions from anglers, hunters and trappers on behalf of our nation's natural resources.

I certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of House Resolution No. 564, introduced by Gergely, Kortz, Hornaman, Harhai, Kula, Baker, Benninghoff, Boback, Bradford, Brennan, Brooks, Buxton, Callagirone, Clymer, D. Costa, Daley, Dentlinger, De Weese, DiGirolamo, Ellis, Geist, George, Gibbons, Godshall, Goodman, Hahn, Hanna, Harkins, Hennessey, M. K. Keller, Knowles, Kotik, Krieger, Longiotti, Mahoney, Major, Maloney, McGeehan, Millard, Mirabito, Moul, Murphy, Pashinski, Payne, Readshaw, Reed, Rock, Sainato, Santoni, Scavello, Schroder, Sonney, Staback, Stevenson, Sturla, Tallman, Vereb, Vulakovich and Youngblood.



Samuel H. Smith
Samuel H. Smith, Speaker