

2017 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 65

BY REPRESENTATIVE SCHEXNAYDER

COMMENDATIONS: Commemorates the eightieth anniversary of the American System of Conservation Funding

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To commemorate the eightieth anniversary of the American System of Conservation
3 Funding.

4 WHEREAS, more than a century ago, sportsmen and women were among the first
5 conservationists who realized America's natural resources were in peril and could not sustain
6 unregulated harvest and habitat destruction; and

7 WHEREAS, sportsmen and women took it upon themselves to support laws that
8 stopped excessive harvest of fish and wildlife, established game and fish agencies to protect
9 fish and wildlife and their habitat, and supported fishing and hunting license fees to help
10 fund the new agencies' efforts to provide for healthy natural resources for future generations;
11 and

12 WHEREAS, upon realizing that license fees alone were insufficient to restore and
13 sustain healthy fish and wildlife populations, sportsmen and women supported excise taxes
14 on firearms, ammunition, archery equipment, hunting equipment, and fishing equipment to
15 raise additional funds to support restoration and enhancement efforts of the state agencies;
16 and

17 WHEREAS, this "user-pays, public-benefits" system became known as the Wildlife
18 and Sport Fish Restoration Program, and it began eighty years ago with the passage of the
19 Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act in 1937 and then was bolstered with the passage of
20 the Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration Act in 1950 and the Wallop-Breaux amendment
21 to the Sport Fish Restoration Act in 1984; and

1 WHEREAS, the Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program also permanently
2 linked revenue from hunting and angling licenses to conservation, creating the American
3 System of Conservation Funding as it exists today; and

4 WHEREAS, the combined contribution of the American System of Conservation
5 Funding to state fish and wildlife agencies exceeds \$57 billion, more than any other single
6 conservation effort in American history; and

7 WHEREAS, the manufacturers of firearms, ammunition, and hunting, fishing, and
8 boating equipment have collected excise taxes on firearms, ammunition, archery equipment,
9 manufactured fishing tackle, electric trolling motors, marine electronics, and motorboat fuel
10 and distributed these funds to the states through the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; and

11 WHEREAS, this cooperative partnership between industry, hunters, anglers, trappers,
12 boaters, recreational shooters, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and state natural resource
13 agencies has resulted in the most successful model of fish and wildlife management in the
14 world, restoring populations from coast to coast and in Alaska and Hawaii.

15 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the
16 Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commemorate the eightieth anniversary of the
17 American System of Conservation Funding and does hereby commend America's hunters,
18 anglers, trappers, boaters, recreational shooters, state fish and wildlife agencies, and the U.S.
19 Fish and Wildlife Service for their leading role in restoring healthy populations of fish and
20 wildlife and other natural resources, both game and nongame, to the abundance we see
21 today.

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted
23 to the secretary of the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and to each member
24 of the Louisiana congressional delegation.

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]
