

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 86 (Substitute for House Concurrent Resolution No. 15 by Representative LaCombe)

BY REPRESENTATIVES LACOMBE, BUTLER, COATES, DEWITT, ECHOLS, FIRMENT, MARTINEZ, AND SAWYER AND SENATORS BOUDREAUX, CARTER, CATHEY, EDMONDS, HENRY, JENKINS, LAMBERT, MIGUEZ, MIZELL, MYERS, PRESSLY, AND PRICE

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To express legislative support for a request by Senator John N. Kennedy of Louisiana to the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) to initiate a formal study to evaluate how land use changes and habitat loss affect migratory waterfowl productivity and breeding population distribution, behavior, wintering distributions, and associated economic outcomes in the Mississippi Flyway.

WHEREAS, Senator John N. Kennedy of Louisiana wrote a letter to the USFWS concerning the recent decline in annual waterfowl migration to Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, as a result of continental wetland loss and changes to land use and policy, substantial landscape alteration has occurred in areas important to Mississippi Flyway waterfowl hunters; and

WHEREAS, data from the USFWS shows that the Louisiana wintering mallard population declined from approximately eight hundred thousand in 1999, to three hundred thousand in 2018, representing a three and two-tenths of a percent average annual decline over those years, the largest decline in mallards among the fourteen states in the Mississippi Flyway; and

WHEREAS, this same data also shows that states to the north, from Iowa to Mississippi, have observed average annual increases in their mallard populations of roughly eleven percent; and

WHEREAS, the annual mallard harvest in Louisiana declined by approximately ninety-five percent between 1999 and 2021, marking the most significant decline among states within the Mississippi Flyway; and

WHEREAS, fewer waterfowl migrating south will likely accelerate this decline in harvest, leading to additional losses in conservation revenues and other funding sources that support wildlife habitat programs; and

WHEREAS, in anticipation of improving habitat in the breeding grounds and in Louisiana to increase the numbers of wintering waterfowl in Louisiana, Senator John N. Kennedy has requested that the USFWS conduct a study examining migratory waterfowl behavior, their habitats, winter distribution patterns, and related economic effects within the Mississippi Flyway.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby express its support for the request by Senator John N. Kennedy to the USFWS to conduct a study to evaluate variables that contribute to the observed changes in migratory waterfowl behavior, winter distributions, continental populations, and related economic outcomes in the Mississippi Flyway.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be forwarded to the director of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service.

---

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

---

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE