

ONE HUNDRED SECOND LEGISLATURE

SECOND SESSION

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 604

Introduced by Fulton, 29.

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 habitat, 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, state legislatures then and now recognize that the primary authority to protect and manage fish and resident wildlife within a state's borders resides in state fish and wildlife agencies; 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, archery equipment, hunting equipment, and fishing equipment to raise additional funds to support restoration and enhancement efforts of the state fish and wildlife 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

Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act in 1937 and then was bolstered with the passage of the Dingell-Johnson Sport Fish Restoration Act in 1950; and

WHEREAS, the combined contribution of the Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program to state fish and wildlife agencies since 1939 exceeds thirteen billion dollars, more than any other single conservation effort in American history; and

WHEREAS, the fish and wildlife industry has collected the excise taxes on firearms, ammunition, archery equipment, manufactured fishing tackle, electric trolling motors, marine electronics, and motorboat fuel and provided these funds to the states through the United States Fish and Wildlife Service; and

WHEREAS, the fish and wildlife industry has supported the Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program and continues to exhibit a spirit of cooperation with state fish and wildlife agencies; and

WHEREAS, this cooperative partnership between the fish and wildlife industry, hunters, anglers, trappers, boaters, recreational shooters, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, and state fish and wildlife 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.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA, SECOND SESSION:

1. That the Legislature recognizes America's hunters, anglers, trappers, boaters, recreational shooters, fish and wildlife industry, state

fish and wildlife agencies, and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service 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.

2. That a copy of this resolution be provided to the Game and Parks Commission.