

HOUSE RESOLUTION No. 6031

A RESOLUTION commemorating the 80th anniversary of the American System of Conservation Funding.

WHEREAS, More than a century ago, hunters, anglers, and trappers were among the first conservationists to realize that America's natural resources were in peril and such resources 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 fishing and hunting license fees to help fund the new agencies' efforts to provide 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, archery equipment, hunting equipment, and fishing equipment to raise additional funds to support restoration and enhance the efforts of state wildlife agencies; and

WHEREAS, This "user-pays, public-benefits" system became known as the Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program, which began with the passage of the Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act in 1937, was bolstered by the passage of the Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration Act in 1950, and was further expanded by the Wallop-Breaux amendment to the Sport Fish Restoration Act in 1984; and

WHEREAS, The Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program also permanently linked revenue from hunting and fishing licenses to conservation, which created the American System of Conservation Funding as it exists today; and

WHEREAS, Since 1939, the combined contribution of the American System of Conservation Funding to state fish and wildlife agencies has exceeded \$57 billion – more than any other single conservation effort in United States history; and

WHEREAS, The manufacturers of firearms, ammunition, and hunting, fishing, and boating equipment have collected excise taxes on firearms, ammunition, archery equipment, manufactured fishing tackle, electric trolling motors, marine electronics, and motorboat fuel, and distributed these funds to the states through the United States Fish and Wildlife Service; and

WHEREAS, This cooperative partnership between industry, hunters, anglers, trappers, boaters, recreational shooters, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, and state natural resource agencies has resulted in the most successful model of fish and wildlife management in the world, restoring species populations from coast to coast and in Alaska and Hawaii: Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of Kansas: That we recognize America's hunters, anglers, trappers, boaters, recreational shooters, equipment manufacturers, state fish and wildlife agencies, and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service for their role in restoring healthy populations of fish, wildlife, and other natural resources, both game and non-game, to the abundance we see today through the American System of Conservation Funding, on this, the 80th anniversary year of America's greatest conservation story.

I hereby certify that the above RESOLUTION originated in the HOUSE, and was adopted by that body

Speaker of the House.

Chief Clerk of the House.