

Resolution



Connecticut Legislative Sportsmen's Caucus hereby declares on this day:

WHEREAS, the members of the Connecticut General Assembly have joined their collective voices in membership in the bi-partisan Connecticut Legislative Sportsmen's Caucus to advocate for the conservation and management of Connecticut's fish and wildlife resources and the values the public derives from them; and

WHEREAS, Connecticut is ecologically diverse featuring a wide range in habitats from Long Island Sound to major river valleys to the northwest hills, all of which serve as home to more than 20,000 species of native fish, wildlife and invertebrates; and

WHEREAS, Congress passed the Pittman-Robertson Act in 1937, the Dingell-Johnson Act in the 1950, and key additions like the Wallop-Breaux Amendment in 1984, all of which established dedicated funds to support conservation and science-based management of game and sport fish species financed by hunters, recreational shooters, anglers and boaters; and

WHEREAS, Connecticut's natural resources provide a great benefit to the state's economy, with a total annual economic impact from hunting, fishing, wildlife viewing, and boating adding \$1.7 billion to the state's economy and creating jobs for Connecticut families; and

WHEREAS, a similar sustainable, predictable and dedicated funding mechanism is needed to address significant conservation needs for thousands of species under state management jurisdiction in addition to those species that are hunted or fished; and

WHEREAS, the Connecticut Wildlife Action Plan works toward the conservation of all Connecticut species including those species not listed as game or sport fish; and

WHEREAS, the Connecticut Wildlife Action Plan details species of greatest conservation need and key habitats that require action to ensure future generations can enjoy a diversity of fish and wildlife resources in our state; and

WHEREAS, there is a recognized need to expand the funding base for fish and wildlife conservation in Connecticut and throughout the nation; and

WHEREAS, the recent Blue Ribbon Panel on Sustaining America's Diverse Fish and Wildlife Resources, made up of 26 business and conservation leaders including two Connecticut members, was tasked with recommending a new funding mechanism to

support state fish and wildlife conservation to ensure the sustainability of all fish and wildlife for current and future generations; and

WHEREAS, the Blue Ribbon Panel has called for the enactment of federal legislation to allocate \$1.3 billion in existing funding from the development of energy and mineral resources on federal land and waters for the Wildlife Conservation Restoration Program to effectively implement state wildlife action plans and conserve thousands of species of greatest conservation need; and


WHEREAS, the Alliance for America's Fish and Wildlife was established to advocate for and deliver on the recommendations from the Blue Ribbon Panel;

WHEREAS, the potential additional funds available for Connecticut's State Wildlife Action Plan would be approximately \$13 million annually, and securing dedicated federal funding is likely to require a state match similar to that in place for the Pittman-Robertson and Dingell-Johnson Acts.

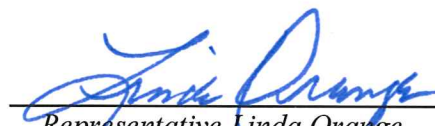
NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved by the Connecticut Legislative Sportsmen's Caucus:

- That the Caucus supports the Blue Ribbon Panel on Sustaining America's Diverse Fish and Wildlife Resources recommendation that Congress dedicate \$1.3 billion dollars annually in existing revenue from the development of energy and mineral resources on federal lands and waters to the Wildlife Conservation Restoration Program to diversify funding and management for all wildlife; and
- That the Caucus supports the efforts and is honored to be recognized as a member of the Alliance for America's Fish and Wildlife;
- That the Caucus supports efforts that would broaden dedicated funding mechanisms for wildlife conservation and implementation of Connecticut's Wildlife Action Plan, and to serve as the state's match if new, dedicated federal funding is secured; and

DONE AND RESOLVED, this 10th day of April, 2018.



Senator Craig Miner,
30th District, Co-Chair



Representative Linda Orange,
48th District, Co-Chair



Senator Cathy Osten,
19th District, Co-Chair



Representative Mark Tweedie,
13th District, Co-Chair