

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 25

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY REPRESENTATIVES NEUMAN, Johnson, Chenault, Stoltze, Olson, Fairclough, Feige, Thompson, Costello, Hawker, Saddler, Keller, Petersen, Lynn, Gara, Gatto, Millett, Muñoz, Pruitt, Tuck, Seaton

Introduced: 2/22/12

Referred: House Special Committee on Fisheries

A RESOLUTION

1 **Celebrating the 75th anniversary of the Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program.**

2 **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

3 **WHEREAS**, more than a century ago, hunters and anglers were among the first
4 conservationists to realize that the natural resources of the country were in peril and could not
5 be sustained without regulated harvests and habitat preservation; and

6 **WHEREAS** hunters and anglers have historically supported legislation to stop
7 excessive harvest of fish and wildlife, establish fish and game agencies to protect fish,
8 wildlife, and habitat, and assess special fishing and hunting license fees to help fund agency
9 efforts to conserve natural resources for future generations; and

10 **WHEREAS** the Alaska State Legislature recognizes that the primary authority to
11 protect and manage fish and wildlife in the state lies with the state's fish and wildlife agencies;
12 and

13 **WHEREAS**, when hunters and anglers realized that licensing fees were insufficient to
14 restore and sustain healthy fish and wildlife populations, they supported placing excise taxes
15 on firearms, ammunition, and archery, hunting, and fishing equipment to raise funds to
16 support fish and wildlife restoration and enhancement efforts by state agencies; and

1 **WHEREAS** the Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program in the United States
2 Fish and Wildlife Service, which began 75 years ago with the passage in 1937 of the Federal
3 Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act and later expanded with the passage in 1950 of the Federal
4 Aid in Sport Fish Restoration Act, represents an effective "user pay, public benefit" system;
5 and

6 **WHEREAS**, since 1939, contributions to state fish and wildlife agencies by the
7 Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program have exceeded \$13,000,000,000, representing
8 the greatest single conservation effort in the history of the United States and the nation's
9 primary means of funding conservation; and

10 **WHEREAS** manufacturers of firearms, ammunition, and hunting, fishing, and boating
11 equipment have collected excise taxes in firearms, ammunition, archery equipment,
12 manufactured fishing tackle, electric trolling motors, marine electronics, and motorboat fuel
13 that have been distributed to the states through the United States Fish and Wildlife Service;
14 and

15 **WHEREAS** manufacturers of firearms, ammunition, and hunting, fishing, and boating
16 equipment have supported wildlife and sport fish restoration programs and continue to exhibit
17 a spirit of cooperation with federal and state fish and wildlife agencies; and

18 **WHEREAS** the cooperative partnership between industry, hunters, anglers, boaters,
19 and recreational shooters, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, and state natural
20 resource agencies is the most successful model for fish and wildlife management in the world
21 and has resulted in the restoration of fish and wildlife populations from Alaska to Hawaii;

22 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature, on the 75th anniversary of the
23 nation's greatest conservation story, recognizes the leading roles of hunters, anglers, boaters,
24 recreational shooters, industry, state fish and wildlife agencies, and the United States Fish and
25 Wildlife Service in restoring healthy populations of fish, wildlife, and other natural resources,
26 both game and nongame, to the abundance enjoyed today.

27 **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Lisa Murkowski and the
28 Honorable Mark Begich, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative,
29 members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.