

State of Ohio Wildlife Council Resolution

Hereby declares on this day:

WHEREAS, the Ohio Department of Natural Resources Division of Wildlife is a duly constituted governmental agency created to serve the people and conserve fish and wildlife resources in Ohio; and

WHEREAS, the Division's mission is to conserve and improve fish and wildlife resources and their habitats for sustainable use and appreciation by all; and

WHEREAS, healthy fish and wildlife populations contribute to Ohio's outdoor recreation economy that results in \$24.3 billion in annual consumer spending, and generates 215,000 direct jobs amounting to \$7 billion in salaries and wages; and

WHEREAS, Congress passed the Pittman-Robertson Act in 1937 and the Dingell-Johnson Act in 1950 that established dedicated funds to support conservation and science-based management of bird, mammal and sportfish species financed by hunters, recreational shooters, anglers, and boaters; and

WHEREAS, a similar dedicated and sustainable funding mechanisms is lacking for the many species of birds, mammals, fish, amphibians, reptiles and other taxa that are not hunted or fished; and

WHEREAS, Ohio created a State Wildlife Action Plan that identifies more than 400 Species of Greatest Conservation Need that require actions to ensure persistence for future generations; and

WHEREAS, there is a recognized need to expand the funding base for wildlife conservation to include those species not hunted or fished in Ohio and throughout the nation; and

WHEREAS, the recent bill in Congress "Recovering America's Wildlife Act" proposes a new funding mechanism to support state wildlife conservation to ensure the sustainability of all fish and wildlife for current and future generations; and

WHEREAS, securing dedicated federal funding is likely to require a non-federal state match.

NOW THEREFORE be it resolved by this Council:

- that the Council support the Recovering America's Wildlife Act which requests that Congress dedicate 1.3 billion dollars annually to diversify funding and management of all wildlife; and
- that the Council respectfully requests that Ohio's Congressional delegation support federal legislation that would implement adequate funding for this challenge; and
- that the council encourages Ohio's conservation community to support efforts to promote passage of this important legislation.

Approved the 15th day of January 2020,
in an official meeting by the Ohio Wildlife Council.

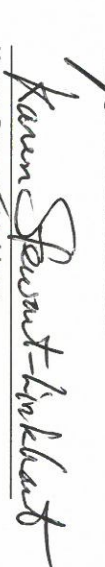

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