

ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

FIRST SESSION

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 81

Introduced by Bostelman, 23; Aguilar, 35; Albrecht, 17; Arch, 14; Armendariz, 18; Ballard, 21; Blood, 3; Bostar, 29; Brandt, 32; Brewer, 43; Briese, 41; Cavanaugh, J., 9; Cavanaugh, M., 6; Clements, 2; Conrad, 46; Day, 49; DeBoer, 10; DeKay, 40; Dorn, 30; Dover, 19; Dungan, 26; Erdman, 47; Fredrickson, 20; Geist, 25; Halloran, 33; Hansen, B., 16; Hardin, 48; Holdcroft, 36; Hughes, 24; Hunt, 8; Ibach, 44; Jacobson, 42; Kauth, 31; Linehan, 39; Lippincott, 34; Lowe, 37; McDonnell, 5; McKinney, 11; Moser, 22; Murman, 38; Raybould, 28; Riepe, 12; Sanders, 45; Slama, 1; Vargas, 7; von Gillern, 4; Walz, 15; Wayne, 13; Wishart, 27.

WHEREAS, the National Wild Turkey Federation was incorporated on March 28, 1973, in Fredericksburg, Virginia; and

WHEREAS, over the course of fifty years, the National Wild Turkey Federation and its chapters and millions of members across the nation have worked with state, federal, and nongovernmental partners to promote the conservation of the wild turkey and the preservation of hunting heritage and to participate in one of the greatest conservation success stories in American history, which is the return of the wild turkey from the brink of extinction; and

WHEREAS, the National Wild Turkey Federation and its chapters and members have been at the vanguard of reversing declining hunting participation through nationwide investment in hunter recruitment, retention, and reactivation efforts and have partnered with states to develop opportunities to engage people from all walks of life in the outdoors tradition. Since 2012, the Federation has recruited and reactivated more than one million five hundred thousand hunters; and

WHEREAS, since 1985, the National Wild Turkey Federation and its chapters and members have invested more than five hundred million dollars to conserve or enhance more than twenty-two million acres of critical wildlife habitat, forest, and grassland across public and private lands; and

WHEREAS, the National Wild Turkey Federation and its chapters and members have invested more than eight million five hundred thousand dollars in research

throughout North America to ensure healthy wild turkey populations in the future; and

WHEREAS, the National Wild Turkey Federation is the largest and longest-serving nongovernmental stewardship partner of the United States Department of Agriculture Forest Service, conserving habitats on National Forest System Lands for more than forty years and heavily engaged in the development and implementation of the United States Department of Agriculture Wildfire Crisis Strategy; and

WHEREAS, along with the aforementioned accomplishments of the National Wild Turkey Federation at the national level, the Federation chapter system in Nebraska, much like the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission which the Federation frequently partners with, has established itself as a leader amongst its peers by working to restore wild turkeys in Nebraska, which were extirpated from the state by 1915, through reintroduction efforts starting in the Pine Ridge National Recreation Area during the decade of 1950 through 1959; and

WHEREAS, the National Wild Turkey Federation has been a strong partner in many public land habitat projects by helping to increase public access on private lands, assisting with acquiring wildlife management areas, funding shooting sports, and providing many volunteer hours as mentor hunters with youth.

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

1. That the Legislature recognizes and celebrates the fiftieth anniversary of the National Wild Turkey Federation and salutes the organization and its chapters and members from across the United States for their tremendous efforts to further scientific state-led wildlife management and the conservation of America's wild turkey and its habitat.

2. That the Legislature expresses support for the National Wild Turkey Federation and its chapters and members in their future work.