



A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING ANNUAL FUNDING FOR THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION RESTORATION PROGRAM

WHEREAS, North Carolina is the ninth largest state in the United States, has the sixth largest state population gain over the last ten years, and has experienced significant land use changes as a result of this growth; and

WHEREAS, North Carolina is home to more than 1,500 nongame fish and wildlife species and over 6,000 native plant species; and

WHEREAS, conservation and management of North Carolina's wildlife resources and their habitats contribute greatly to the quality of life, economic well-being, and cultural identity of its citizens; and

WHEREAS, more than 1,600 United States species are now receiving protection under the federal Endangered Species Act, including North Carolina's red-cockaded woodpecker, Appalachian elktoe, loggerhead sea turtle, and Carolina northern flying squirrel, while many other species are currently being considered for federal protection; and

WHEREAS, the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission has developed a State Wildlife Action Plan, which was first approved in 2005 and revised in 2015 with assistance from over 150 partner organizations highlighting priority conservation actions for 483 species of greatest conservation need, 17 river basins and 40 priority habitat types; and

WHEREAS, the goal of the State Wildlife Action Plan is to conserve North Carolina's animals, plants, and natural habitats through proactive measures to keep common species common; and

WHEREAS, State Wildlife Action Plans emphasize voluntary and incentive-based programs on private lands, habitat restoration and management by public agencies and private conservation organizations, vulnerable species survey and recovery efforts, and environmental education and wildlife associated recreation activities; and

WHEREAS, the Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act (Pittman-Robertson Act) and the Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration Act (Dingell-Johnson Act) have been enormously successful in the recovery of game animals and sport fish through the provision of federal aid to the various state wildlife agencies; and

WHEREAS, the federal government lacks a dedicated funding system to conserve vulnerable species of animals and plants, but the Recovering America's Wildlife Act would provide revenue for each state to enact its own plan for stabilizing and recovering its species in decline through an annual allocation of \$1.3 billion dedicated to state based conservation; and

WHEREAS, with passage of the Recovering America's Wildlife Act, North Carolina would be eligible for more than \$20 million annually to implement its State Wildlife Action Plan and support proactive conservation measures for species of greatest conservation need; and

WHEREAS, North Carolina would not only benefit ecologically but also economically through job creation, community partnerships through landscape planning, increased nature tourism, and sustainable wild-life-based recreation; and

WHEREAS, passage of the Recovering America's Wildlife Act would represent a transformative step to ensure the diversity of North Carolina's wildlife resources and their habitats.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Commission respectfully requests that the North Carolina Congressional Delegation support the Recovering America's Wildlife Act.

Approved the 29th day of July 2021, in an official meeting by the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission, in Raleigh, North Carolina.




David W. Hoyle, Jr., Chairman



Cameron Ingram, Executive Director



Monty Crump, Vice-Chairman



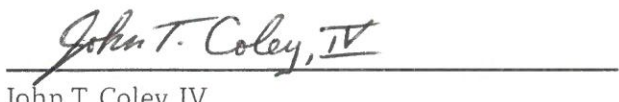
Richard Edwards



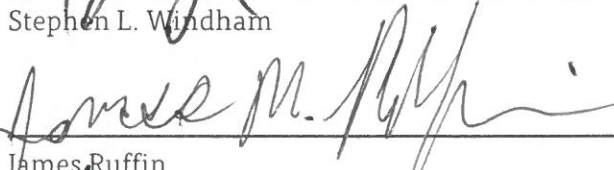
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Hayden Rogers



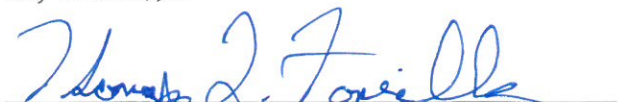
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Ray Clifton, Jr.



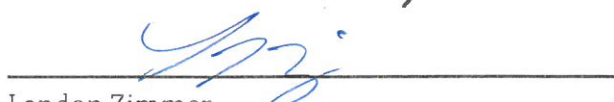
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