



Resolution #2018-04-04

Support for the Recovering America's Wildlife Act

WHEREAS, the states are principally responsible for the management of fish and wildlife within their borders, including on federal lands and waters; and

WHEREAS, the conservation and management of fish, wildlife and their habitats contribute significantly to our quality of life and economic well-being; and

WHEREAS, the Pittman-Robertson, Dingell-Johnson and Wallop-Breaux Acts and the contributions of hunters, recreational shooters, anglers, boaters and their industries led to the unprecedented recovery and sustainable management of our nation's game and sportfish; and

WHEREAS, a similar dedicated and sustainable funding mechanism is lacking for the many species of birds, mammals, fish, amphibians, reptiles and invertebrates that are not game species; and

WHEREAS, the states, territories and District of Columbia developed and recently updated historic, comprehensive and scientifically-based State Wildlife Action Plans that identified over 12,000 species of greatest conservation need; and

WHEREAS, there is a recognized need to expand the funding base for wildlife conservation throughout the Nation, as effective implementation of State Wildlife Action Plans would require an annual investment of over \$1 billion; and

WHEREAS, recommendations by the Blue Ribbon Panel on Sustaining America's Diverse Fish and Wildlife Resources recommendations were incorporated into H.R. 4647, the "Recovering America's Wildlife Act", which proposes 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, funding apportioned to the states through the Wildlife Conservation and Restoration Subaccount would equate to 75% matched with 25% nonfederal funds provided by the states, with all funds used to implement state-led proactive and voluntary actions to conserve state species of greatest conservation need, including species trending toward listing under the

federal Endangered Species Act (ESA); and

WHEREAS, states can also use these funds on conservation education, which enhances their ability to work with communities and landowners, and up to 10% on wildlife-associated recreation projects; and

WHEREAS, the Blue Ribbon Panel also recommended that the impact of societal changes on the relevancy of fish and wildlife conservation be examined and recommendations made on how programs and agencies can advance to engage and serve broader constituencies.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies supports the “Recovering America’s Wildlife Act” (H.R. 4647) which would 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 and Restoration Subaccount to diversify funding and management of all wildlife; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Association stands ready to support continuing efforts by the Blue Ribbon Panel and its associated Alliance for America’s Fish and Wildlife to develop recommendations that will ensure state fish and wildlife agencies remain relevant and supported by all citizens well into the future.

Approved this the ____ day of _____, 2018, in an official meeting by the Board of the Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies.

Charles F. Sykes, President