

1 State of Arkansas
2 88th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2011

SR 16

4
5 By: Senator J. Key
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7 **SENATE RESOLUTION**

8 REQUESTING THAT THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES
9 AND THE ARKANSAS CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION SUPPORT AND
10 CONTINUE THE IMMEDIATE AND FUTURE FUNDING OF THE
11 NORFORK AND GREERS FERRY NATIONAL FISH HATCHERIES.
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14 **Subtitle**

15 REQUESTING THAT THE PRESIDENT OF THE
16 UNITED STATES AND THE ARKANSAS
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18 CONTINUE THE IMMEDIATE AND FUTURE FUNDING
19 OF THE NORFORK AND GREERS FERRY NATIONAL
20 FISH HATCHERIES.
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23 WHEREAS, the United States Fish & Wildlife Service plans to cut the
24 budgets for the trout hatcheries below Norfolk and Greers Ferry dams; and
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26 WHEREAS, these fish hatcheries provide the foundation for Arkansas's
27 world-renowned trout fishery waters that produce a total economic impact of
28 well over one hundred fifty million dollars (\$150,000,000) annually but only
29 cost taxpayers approximately one million five hundred thousand dollars
30 (\$1,500,000) annually to operate. The hatcheries at Norfolk and Greers Ferry
31 dams alone generate five million five hundred thousand dollars (\$5,500,000)
32 in federal tax revenues, roughly three dollars and sixty-five cents (\$3.65)
33 for every one dollar (\$1.00) invested; and
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35 WHEREAS, seventy-five (75) years ago, north Arkansas's White River was
36 arguably the best smallmouth bass stream in America. Fisherman came from all



1 over the country to experience once-in-a-lifetime float trips down the
2 beautiful bluff-lined river; and

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4 WHEREAS, upon a series of dams being built in the White River basin in
5 the 1940s, the federal government assured the state's citizens that
6 mitigation efforts would be included to offset the loss of the river's
7 incredibly productive native fishery. The key component of this commitment
8 was the construction of Norfolk National Fish Hatchery in 1955 near Norfolk
9 Dam and the establishment of world-class trout waters below both Norfolk and
10 Bull Shoals lakes; and

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12 WHEREAS, a decade later, the trout hatchery at the base of Greers Ferry
13 Dam provided the means for a similarly successful fishery to be established
14 at the Little Red River in Greers Ferry; and

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16 WHEREAS, these modest projects rank among the all-time success stories
17 of our federal government because of the overall economic impact and return
18 on investment they produce; and

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20 WHEREAS, fish production at the Norfolk hatchery employs nine hundred
21 ninety-four (994) individuals, and the Greers Ferry hatchery employs an
22 additional seven hundred fifty-two (752) people; and

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24 WHEREAS, dozens of resorts employing hundreds of individuals have been
25 established in these world-class fishing areas because of the increase in
26 tourism. The town of Cotter, Arkansas, for example, bills itself as "Trout
27 Capital USA"; and

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29 WHEREAS, trout fishing in the White River basin is worth about three
30 times the annual flood losses prevented by Beaver, Table Rock, Bull Shoals,
31 Norfolk, Greers Ferry, and Clearwater reservoirs, and these structures
32 averted fifty-one million four hundred thousand dollars (\$51,400,000) in
33 damages in the last fiscal year; and

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35 WHEREAS, the electricity generated from Bull Shoals Lake and Norfolk
36 Lake averages approximately one hundred million dollars (\$100,000,000) of

1 electricity each year, but the trout fishery is worth an additional fifty
2 percent (50%) more than that on an annual basis; and

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4 WHEREAS, investment in the Norfork and Greers Ferry fish hatcheries has
5 consistently demonstrated positive returns for more than half a century. The
6 federal government's goal to reduce the federal deficit and increase economic
7 growth would be damaged, not enhanced, if funding for trout programs is
8 reduced or eliminated to the detriment of its promise to Arkansas and to
9 these small towns whose livelihood depends on the fish hatcheries,

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11 NOW THEREFORE,

12 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE EIGHTY-EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE
13 STATE OF ARKANSAS:

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15 THAT the President and Congress of the United States work together to
16 continue the immediate and future funding of the national fish hatcheries at
17 Norfork and Greers Ferry dams and allow the investment in these hatcheries to
18 continue to contribute to the economic vitality of these towns, the State of
19 Arkansas, and the entire country.

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21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Secretary of the Senate forward
22 official copies of this resolution to the President of the United States, to
23 the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President of the Senate
24 of the United States Congress, and to all the members of the Arkansas
25 Congressional Delegation with the request that this resolution be officially
26 entered in the Congressional Record.