

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 55

WHEREAS, our nation is fortunate to possess a wealth of natural resources and we have a long history of stewardship of these resources; and

WHEREAS, just as a farmer carefully tends the land on which his survival depends, many of our country's best resource stewards are those who use the resource and for whom the resource holds intrinsic value for sustenance, survival, or cultural tradition; and

WHEREAS, recreational fishermen and women are prime examples of responsible resource stewards, as they place an extremely high value on the quality and existence of our nation's coastal waters and freshwater resources. Recreational fishermen and women respect our country's marine and freshwater habitats because they know that in order for these ecosystems to sustain the aquatic life and natural wonder for which they are sought, these resources must be protected and carefully managed; and

WHEREAS, fishing as a pastime in our country boasts strong support, with 93 percent of Americans indicating they support legal recreational fishing, and it is an activity that is enjoyed by Americans across all age, gender, socio-economic, and ethnic distinctions; and

WHEREAS, recreational fishermen and women contribute significantly to the national and regional economies through equipment and gear purchases, fuel, lodging, and food, with total related sportfishing expenditures exceeding \$125 billion and supporting over 1 million jobs; and

WHEREAS, President Obama created an Interagency Ocean Policy Task Force in June of 2009 charged with recommending a national policy to ensure the protection, maintenance, and restoration of oceans, our coasts, and the Great Lakes; and

WHEREAS, the Task Force has issued two reports since its creation, the Interim Report of the Interagency Ocean Policy Task Force and the Interim Framework for Effective Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning, however the Task Force has failed to expressly recognize responsibly-regulated recreational fishing as a national priority for the oceans and Great Lakes in either of these reports; and

WHEREAS, without its recognition as a national priority, recreational fishing opportunities could become more limited, curtailed, or even potentially eliminated:

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the members of the Missouri Senate, Ninety-fifth General Assembly, Second Regular Session, the House of Representatives concurring therein, hereby strenuously urge President Obama to include recreational fishing and boating as national priorities and ensure and promote recreational fishing and access to public waters in the Interagency Ocean Policy Task Force's concluding report and any forthcoming Executive Order based upon the report; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members strongly urge the members of Congress to take any measure within their power to mitigate or overturn any Executive Order issued to implement recommendations by the Interagency Ocean Policy Task Force if such recommendations do not include responsibly-regulated recreational fishing and boating as national priorities for oceans, our coasts, and the Great Lakes and if such recommendations do not ensure and promote recreational fishing and access to public waters; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Missouri Senate be instructed to prepare properly inscribed copies of this resolution for President Obama, the Chairperson of the Interagency Ocean Policy Task Force, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the President of the United States Senate, and members of the Missouri congressional delegation.