

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. RES. 602

Designating March 16, 2024, as “National Osceola Turkey Day”.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 20, 2024

Mr. SCOTT of Florida (for himself and Mr. RUBIO) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to

RESOLUTION

Designating March 16, 2024, as “National Osceola Turkey Day”.

Whereas wild turkey has been an important part of the history and family traditions of the United States;

Whereas wild turkey was on the table at the very first Thanksgiving, and turkey continues to be a mainstay during many holiday traditions;

Whereas wild turkey is a healthy, organic, and delicious source of lean protein;

Whereas, in the United States, turkey hunters have spent approximately \$76,900,000 per year since 1985 with an economic impact of \$128,700,000 annually;

Whereas Florida has a rich history of wild turkey hunting, management, and research;

Whereas Florida is home to the Wild Turkey Cost Share Program, which is the largest public-private partnership program in the United States for the maintenance of wild turkey habitat on wildlife management areas and other public lands open to hunting;

Whereas, since the Wild Turkey Cost Share Program began in 1994, upwards of 1,000,000 acres of upland habitat have received funding for turkey habitat management efforts;

Whereas, in the 2023 Florida spring wild turkey season, 25,056 hunters participated in turkey hunting, including 4,761 non residents of the Sunshine State;

Whereas, in Florida, revenue generated from the sale of wild turkey permits is used for conservation, research, and management of wild turkeys or promoting the cultural heritage of hunting;

Whereas turkey hunters are an important part of the Wild Turkey Cost Share Program, and the money generated from the sale of turkey permits, which are a requirement for hunting wild turkeys in Florida unless exempt, allows the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission to make significant contributions to the Wild Turkey Cost Share Program each year;

Whereas Florida is home to 2 subspecies of wild turkey, the eastern wild turkey and the Osceola or Florida wild turkey;

Whereas the Osceola is 1 of 5 subspecies of wild turkey in North America;

Whereas the Osceola turkey exists only in peninsular Florida;

Whereas the Osceola subspecies of wild turkey is often perceived as mysterious and the most difficult to harvest be-

cause of its small geographic range and the often swampy habitat where it is found;

Whereas hunters in pursuit of all 4 subspecies of turkey in the United States, known as a “Grand Slam”, are required to hunt in Florida; and

Whereas March 2, 2024, is the opening day of turkey harvesting season in part of Florida, and March 16, 2024, is the opening day for the entire State of Florida: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the Senate—

2 (1) designates March 16, 2024, as “National
3 Osceola Turkey Day”; and

4 (2) encourages the people of the United States
5 to observe National Osceola Turkey Day with appropriate
6 ceremonies and activities.

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