

1 State of Arkansas
2 89th General Assembly
3 Fiscal Session, 2014

SR 16

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5 By: Senators Irvin, Maloch
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8 **SENATE RESOLUTION**

9 TO ENCOURAGE THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS AND THE
10 UNITED STATES FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE TO DEVELOP A
11 LONG-TERM FUNDING SOLUTION FOR THE CONTINUED
12 OPERATION OF THE NORFORK AND GREERS FERRY NATIONAL
13 FISH HATCHERIES IN ORDER TO ENSURE THE ECONOMIC
14 VIABILITY OF COMMUNITIES DEPENDENT UPON THE COLD
15 WATER FISHERIES THEY PROVIDE AND THE PERPETUATION OF
16 ARKANSAS' WORLD-CLASS FISHERIES FOR FUTURE
17 GENERATIONS OF ARKANSANS.
18

19 **Subtitle**

20 ENCOURAGING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS
21 AND THE UNITED STATES FISH AND WILDLIFE
22 SERVICE TO FIND A LONG-TERM FUNDING
23 SOLUTION TO SUSTAIN THE ECONOMIC
24 SIGNIFICANCE AND THE CULTURAL HERITAGE OF
25 ARKANSAS'S FISH HATCHERIES.
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29 WHEREAS, the United States Army Corps of Engineers created large
30 impoundments on many of Arkansas' major rivers and streams decades ago,
31 irreparably harming or displacing native fish stocks downstream of the dams;
32 and

33 WHEREAS, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service constructed the
34 Greers Ferry National Fish Hatchery and the Norfolk National Fish Hatchery to
35 mitigate the loss of pristine rivers and their fish populations for the
36 people of Arkansas by replacing native sport fish with trout, a species more



1 suitable for the conditions of many of the new reservoir tailwaters; and

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3 WHEREAS, the trout fishery created by, and annually produced from,
4 these mitigation hatcheries has grown into a world-renown sport fishery,
5 annually providing upwards of \$175,000,000 in economic impact to the State of
6 Arkansas from anglers; and

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8 WHEREAS, the Norfolk and Greers Ferry national fish hatcheries return
9 \$89 and \$95 respectively, to the State of Arkansas for every dollar spent to
10 operate the facilities, providing a unique example of government efficiency
11 and return on investment to the taxpayers of Arkansas and the United States;
12 and

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14 WHEREAS, the significance and importance of the Norfolk and Greers
15 Ferry national fish hatcheries continue to be overlooked by the United States
16 Fish and Wildlife Service in their efforts to close the hatcheries to sport
17 fish production and divert the operating funds to other programs; and

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19 WHEREAS, the state cannot afford nor should it be expected to take on
20 the statutory responsibilities of the federal government, especially
21 responsibilities related to mitigation for water development projects, and is
22 concerned with the closed process used by the United States Fish and Wildlife
23 Service Directorate to conduct their comprehensive hatchery and workforce
24 analysis; and

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26 WHEREAS, the State of Arkansas and its 160,000 trout anglers, who spend
27 1,900,000 hours annually pursuing trout in the state's rivers and streams,
28 are in perpetual danger of losing this incredible fishing asset,

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30 NOW THEREFORE,

31 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE EIGHTY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE
32 STATE OF ARKANSAS:

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34 THAT the Senate urges the United States Congress to direct the United
35 States Fish and Wildlife Service, working cooperatively with state agencies,
36 federal water management agencies, federal land management agencies, anglers,

1 the angling industry, and local chambers of commerce, to determine the
2 viability of each fish hatchery owned and operated by the United States Fish
3 and Wildlife Service.

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5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that for the hatcheries determined to be economically,
6 recreationally, and culturally significant, including Greers Ferry and
7 Norfork national fish hatcheries, the United States Congress and the United
8 States Fish and Wildlife Service develop a sustainable federal funding source
9 to keep the hatcheries operating and providing in sport fish production for
10 future generations.

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12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Senate urges the United States Fish and
13 Wildlife Service to keep the mitigation hatcheries open and funded at levels
14 equal to or greater than Fiscal Year 2014 until such time as a study of the
15 solvency of the mitigation hatcheries is completed and future funding needs
16 are resolved.

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18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that upon adoption of this resolution, the Secretary
19 of the Senate send a certified copy to each member of the Arkansas
20 congressional delegation and Daniel M. Ashe, Director of the United States
21 Fish and Wildlife Service.