

## **MEMORANDUM**

**To:** All House Members

**From:** Representative Marc J. Gergely  
Representative Jeffrey P. Pyle

**Date:** October 14, 2011

**Re:** Resolution Commemorating the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Programs and America's Greatest Conservation Story

In the near future, I plan to introduce a resolution commemorating the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Programs and America's Greatest Conservation Story.

Over a century ago, hunters, anglers, and trappers were among the first conservationists to realize that America's natural resources were in peril and unable to sustain continued unregulated harvests and habitat destruction. Through the assistance of hunters, anglers, and trappers, game and fish agencies were established and maintained through revenue generated from the creation of sportsmen's licenses. Upon realizing that license fees were an insufficient means to restore and sustain healthy fish and wildlife populations, hunters, anglers, and trappers supported excise taxes on firearms, ammunition, and equipment, which raised additional revenue to further support restoration and enhancement efforts. These efforts became known as the Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program with the passage of federal aid in the Wildlife Restoration Act of 1937 and again in the Sport Fish Restoration Act of 1950. The program expanded further with the Wallop-Breaux amendment to the Sport Fish Restoration Act of 1984. Since funding was first distributed in 1939, the combined contribution of the Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Programs to state fish and wildlife agencies exceeds \$13 billion. This remains the largest single conservation effort in American history.

Please join me in recognizing America's hunters, anglers, and trappers for their leading role in restoring healthy populations of fish, wildlife, and other natural resources to the abundance we see today.

If you would like to co-sponsor this resolution, please contact Anne-Marie at 783-1018.