

105TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. CON. RES. 261

Recognizing the importance of rivers to the United States and supporting efforts to inform and educate the people of the United States regarding rivers and the importance of their preservation.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 28, 1998

Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island submitted the following concurrent resolution;
which was referred to the Committee on Resources

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Recognizing the importance of rivers to the United States and supporting efforts to inform and educate the people of the United States regarding rivers and the importance of their preservation.

Whereas there are more than 3,000,000 miles of rivers in the United States;

Whereas rivers are major geographical features that are among the highlights of the National Park System;

Whereas rivers are used throughout the Nation as efficient transportation routes for commerce and industry, and are used in urban areas as public transportation corridors;

Whereas rivers have facilitated economic and social growth by providing transportation, generating hydroelectric power, and supplying water for farms and rural towns;

Whereas rivers are important tourist destinations for the United States, which each year attracts more than 46,000,000 international travelers and generates more than \$430,000,000,000 in tourism revenue;

Whereas rivers are featured attractions for ecotourism and recreational travel, which are among the fastest growing sectors of the tourism industry;

Whereas rivers support fish, waterfowl, and other wildlife that need greenways and clean water to survive in their habitats;

Whereas people throughout the Nation live in close proximity to rivers and streams and use them for swimming, fishing, boating, and other forms of recreation and leisure;

Whereas rivers, throughout history, have been integral to the culture, heritage, and landscape of the United States and continue to be vital to its quality of life;

Whereas States and communities are rediscovering the benefits of rivers and streams as they revitalize urban centers, neighborhoods, rural villages, and towns, and are using rivers as catalysts for economic development, community improvement, and environmental preservation;

Whereas the manner in which the people of the United States live along its rivers and streams affects water resources, environment, and geography on regional, national, and global scales;

Whereas the President and the Congress have declared their support for rivers through the national heritage rivers program, under which 10 rivers will be designated as heritage rivers;

Whereas it is appropriate for the people of the United States from time to time to reflect upon the manner in which

their activities and lifestyles affect the rivers of the Nation; and

Whereas many efforts are being made throughout the Nation to celebrate the third Saturday in June as an annual National Rivers Day, and to use such day as an opportunity to inform and educate the people of the United States regarding the Nation's rivers and the importance of their preservation: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*
2 *concurring)*, That the Congress—

3 (1) recognizes the importance of rivers and
4 streams to the Nation;

5 (2) supports the efforts being made throughout
6 the Nation to inform and educate the people of the
7 United States regarding the Nation's rivers and the
8 importance of their preservation;

9 (3) encourages the people of the United States
10 to reflect upon the manner in which their activities
11 and lifestyles affect the Nation's rivers and streams;
12 and

13 (4) encourages the people of the United States
14 to participate in groups, organizations, activities,
15 and events that promote awareness and contribute
16 to the preservation of the Nation's rivers and
17 streams.

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