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Resolution 2005-05-08 Supporting a New Wetland Loan Act

Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies

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Resolution 2005-05-08

SUPPORTING A NEW WETLAND LOAN ACT

WHEREAS, the first Wetland Loan Act (WLA) was passed by Congress in 1961 to promote the conservation of migratory waterfowl through the acquisition of wetland and other essential waterfowl habitat, and for other purposes; and

WHEREAS, initial appropriations were for \$105 million appropriated over a 15-year window; and

WHEREAS, continental populations of many species of waterfowl continue to decline and the grassland and wetland habitats upon which they depend are being converted for other purposes; and

WHEREAS, 90% of the annual variation in continental duck population growth rates can be attributed to breeding ground variables and habitat factors; and

WHEREAS, mid-continent waterfowl production habitat of the Prairie Pothole Region is of highest priority for wetland and grassland protection and restoration; and

WHEREAS, interest by private landowners to voluntarily sell their land to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service exceeds dollars available in Prairie Pothole Region states;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies urges the President of the United States to request and Congress to pass legislation for a 2006 Emergency Wetland Loan Act appropriation of \$400 million over the next 10 years to address wetland and grassland losses and to reverse the downward trend in continental waterfowl populations.