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Resolution 1956-08-16 Use of Public Funds to Drain Private Lands

Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies

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stamp, P. R. and other funds including congressional appropriation to carry out the selective acquisition of these areas;

And, whereas there will be reintroduction into the next session of the congress beginning in January various types of bills setting aside a certain percentage of the duck stamp receipts for the purchase of waterfowl habitats; to further increase the price of the duck stamp; to appropriate additional funds by the congress for this program; and other measures having to do with its acceleration and

Whereas, the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners should secure all of the essential facts with reference to all phases of this question; now therefore be it resolved that the president of this association immediately appoint a special committee to investigate the waterfowl habitat needs, the money needed and the various proposals of securing the needed funds to adequately stimulate the waterfowl habitat acquisition program.

Further be it resolved that this committee shall make its reports and recommendations to the executive committee of this association not later than March 1, 1957, which reports shall include, but not be limited to, those considerations mentioned in the preceding paragraph; and the executive committee is hereby authorized to act for and in behalf of the association before congress and elsewhere in support of its findings and recommendations.

RESOLUTION NO. 7

ACQUISITION AND RETENTION OF RESERVOIR LANDS

Whereas, splendid opportunity for fish and wildlife conservation and related recreation are created by construction of federal reservoirs, and

Whereas, the public should have the right to free and unimpeded access to and enjoyment of these opportunities created by expenditures of public funds, and

Whereas, enjoyment of these opportunities depends in large measure on public ownership of adequate lands around federal reservoirs, and

Whereas, the current land acquisition policy for federal projects restricts the purchase of reservoir lands unduly and permits private control and monopoly thus denying the public recreational benefits to which they are entitled because of expenditure of public funds.

Now, therefore, be it resolved by the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners that the president of the United States be requested to direct revision of the land acquisition policy for federal reservoirs and permit public purchase of adequate perimeter lands for fish, wildlife and other public recreational purposes and that this association, representing the fish and game departments of all 48 states, urges modification and liberalization of the present reservoir land acquisition policy in the furtherance of the partnership concept believed necessary to the proper management of these resources.

It is further urged that perimeter lands valuable for present and future recreational and other public uses be retained in public ownership for development and administration by local, state and federal agencies.

RESOLUTION NO. 8

USE OF PUBLIC FUNDS TO DRAIN PRIVATE LANDS

Whereas, public money or services are now being used to drain private lands for personal benefit at a time when surpluses of agricultural products exist, and

Whereas, there is no national emergency which warrants the subsidizing of such practices, and

Whereas, it has not been determined what effect said drainage may have on the domestic and ground water supply of a region, and

Whereas, said drainage of waterfowl and upland game habitat is destroying a great natural resource already inadequate in supply, while attempting to increase crop production without proving the need for added crops,

Now, therefore, be it resolved by the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners in annual convention assembled at Toronto, Canada, this 14th day of September, 1956, that, the use of public money or

services for the drainage of surface water from private lands be terminated, and that the secretary of this organization is hereby instructed to send a copy of this resolution to the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture, and the chairman of the appropriations committees in both houses of congress.

RESOLUTION NO. 9

NEED FOR SPORT FISHERIES RESEARCH PROGRAM

Whereas, about 21 million United States citizens depend heavily upon sport fishing and hunting for their chief form of outdoor recreational use of leisure time, and that number is steadily increasing, and

Whereas, as shown by the national economic survey of hunting and fishing expenditures, recently completed, the sport fishery resource is the basis for a \$3 billion annual outdoor recreational industry which has grown up to serve the requirements of the many millions of citizens who look to the waterways, fields and woodlands for needed relaxation, and

Whereas, there is a widespread need for additional fundamental knowledge pertaining to the sport fishery and wildlife resource in order to sustain and properly develop it for the greatest benefit to the greatest number of people, and which cannot generally be met by the individual states, and

Whereas, the recent passage of Public Law 1024, known as the Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956, directs the Secretary of Interior to reorganize the United States Fish and Wildlife Service into a Bureau of Commercial Fisheries and a Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, and otherwise authorizes him to allocate between the two bureaus such functions and personnel as he sees fit,

Now, therefore, be it resolved, that the International Association, Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners, assembled in annual convention, at Toronto, Canada, September 13 and 14, 1956 requests and urges the Secretary of the Interior to provide within the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife adequate provision for increased emphasis on sport fisheries and wildlife research by enlargement through additional funds and personnel with an appropriate administrative unit, and

Be it further resolved, that the association send a copy of this resolution to the Secretary of the Interior by telegraph as early as possible since such matters are under current study.

RESOLUTION NO. 10

OPPOSING HR. 12311, BILL TO INCREASE THE P. R. APPROPRIATION TO ALASKA

Whereas, there has been introduced into congress a bill (HR 12311) by Delegate Bartlett which would have the effect of increasing the present federal aid in wildlife restoration fund allocation to Alaska from the presently stated figure of \$75,000 to an amount equal to one-half of what Alaska would receive if it were a state, thereby increasing the said allocation to approximately \$250,000, and

Whereas, such an increase to Alaska would result in a reduction in sorely needed funds presently allocated to the several states, and

Whereas, Alaska has not yet established a territorial fish and game department nor made provision for matching federal aid funds with territorial funds,

Now, therefore, be it resolved that this association, while recognizing the need for further resource management and research in the territory of Alaska, holds that such monies should come from the general fund, and

Be it further resolved that the association holds that until such time as Alaska becomes a state, or until such time as Alaska contributes matching funds in the same manner as is required of the states, that the present allocation to Alaska from federal aid funds should be held at its present level.

RESOLUTION NO. 11

AMENDMENT TO THE COORDINATION ACT (PUBLIC LAW 732)

Whereas, the Coordination Act of August 14, 1946, sometimes known as Public Law 732, 79th Congress, has resulted in sound conservation gains for the fish and wildlife resources of the nation, and