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Resolution 1946-05-18 Federal Aid Program for Anglers

Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies

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the Association special sub-committees to study and report on special problems; and

that the said committee hold not less than two interim meetings, called by the Chairman of the Executive Committee, and that they be authorized to incur such incidental expenses as are necessary in connection therewith.

2. **Constitution and By-laws**

Whereas it is indicated that the constitution and by-laws of the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners should be studied and consideration given to desirable amendments to bring them up to date;

Therefore be it resolved that the President of the Association appoint a special committee to review the constitution and by-laws with a view to any desirable amendments; and that said special committee report their findings to the Executive Committee, the Executive Committee in turn to submit same for study to the membership in advance of the next annual meeting, so that any action that may be deemed desirable may be taken at that time.

3. **Special Committees in Congress**

Whereas the value and need of special committees in the Congress of the United States on wildlife conservation have been clearly demonstrated;

And whereas through those committees it has been made possible for state wildlife administrations and other wildlife interests for the first time to gain anywhere near adequate attention for wildlife interests in the rapidly expanding programs of federal works, coordination of wildlife interests in federal agencies, cooperation between federal agencies and states, and the protection and preservation of these resources;

Therefore be it resolved that the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners, in convention assembled at Saint Paul, Minnesota, this 10th day of September, 1946, urge the continuation in both houses of Congress of the special standing committees on wildlife conservation as separate and distinct committees; and

Be it further resolved that the states hereby pledge themselves to make every effort possible, individually and collectively, to prevent discontinuance of these special committees.

May I say by way of explanation that the committee considered suggestions that came from many sources that there be permanent standing committees on a parity with other regular standing committees in the two Houses of Congress. But we were informed by persons who were in close touch with the situation that there is little hope of any such recommendation receiving consideration, and that the only thing we can hope for at the present time is a continuation of special committees.

4. **Pittman-Robertson Funds**

Whereas there has been accumulated a large surplus of funds under the Pittman-Robertson Act;

And whereas these funds are earmarked for the purposes of the Act and cannot be otherwise utilized, and the majority of the states have expressed themselves as in a position to utilize additional Pittman-Robertson funds;

Therefore be it resolved that the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners, in convention assembled at Saint Paul, Minnesota, this 10th day of September, 1946, go on record as favoring an appropriation of not less than \$5,000,000 a year until such time as the accumulated surplus is utilized; that subsequent thereto the full current receipts in this fund be made available each year, and that the member states pledge their active support in attempting to procure the release of these funds.

5. **Federal Aid Program for Anglers**

Whereas the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners, by resolution adopted, has gone on record as favoring use of the Excise Tax on fishing tackle to finance a Federal-Aid Program, in cooperation with the several states, in fish restoration and management work to benefit the anglers in the same manner as the Pittman-Robertson Federal-Aid Act of 1937 has benefited the hunters;

And whereas due to the intervention of the war the measure previously endorsed (known as the Buck Bill) did not receive favorable consideration by Congress ;

And whereas Congressman Robertson of Virginia, on July 22, 1946, introduced H. R. 7104 in the second session of the 79th Congress to accomplish the objectives originally sought in this Association's endorsement of the Buck Bill and proposes to reintroduce the same measure in the 80th Congress ;

Therefore be it resolved that this Association, in convention assembled at Saint Paul, Minnesota, this 10th day of September, 1946, reendorse this proposal and pledge its support to the enactment of such a bill in the coming session of Congress ; and

Be it further resolved that a committee be appointed to investigate the wishes of the various states regarding the most suitable formula for the allocation of the funds, and that the committee's findings be brought to the attention of Congress.

6. **Pollution Abatement**

Whereas the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners has repeatedly endorsed legislation to eliminate pollution from the public waters of the United States in order to safeguard public health, to assure adequate future water supplies for domestic and industrial purposes, and to meet the imperative and growing need for public recreational use and for improvement of conditions for wildlife ;

And whereas H. R. 6024, known as the Mansfield Bill, was introduced in the 79th Congress, combining the principal features of other bills previously pending before Congress ;

Therefore be it resolved that this Association, in convention assembled at Saint Paul, Minnesota, this 10th day of September, 1946, endorses the Mansfield Bill and urges that it be reintroduced and passed at the next session of Congress, and pledges its support thereto.

7. **Winter Drawdowns of Upper Mississippi River Navigation Pools**

Whereas winter drawdowns of the navigation pools in the upper Mississippi river, though never contemplated as a feature of the original nine-foot channel project, were first carried out during the war as an emergency measure to maintain navigable depths downstream for water transportation essential to the war effort ;

And whereas such drawdowns are highly destructive to fish and other wildlife and are detrimental to public interests in the river ; and since termination of the war the War Department has proposed to continue such drawdowns for the benefit of private navigation interests, to the prejudice of public interests in the river ;

And whereas an amendment to H. R. 6097, known as The Wildlife Coordination Bill, prohibiting such drawdowns, passed the House of Representatives at the last session of Congress, but was stricken out in the Senate in order to facilitate passage of the main bill at the close of the session ;

Therefore be it resolved that the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners, in convention assembled at Saint Paul, Minnesota, this 10th day of September, 1946, opposes all winter drawdowns of the pools in the upper Mississippi river beyond the minimum necessary for protection of the control structures ; and urges the War Department to adopt and adhere to a policy avoiding such drawdowns, and that a new bill embracing the principles of the aforesaid amendment be reintroduced and passed at the next session of Congress.

8. **Water Conservation**

Whereas the public waters of the country are a natural resource of the highest value, and the public interests in the protection and use thereof for wildlife and recreational purposes as well as other purposes are of great and increasing importance ;

Therefore be it resolved that the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners, in convention assembled at Saint Paul, Minnesota, this 10th day of September, 1946, urges that all federal and state agencies concerned adopt and adhere to the following policy : that in all public projects and operations affecting public waters full consideration and weight be given to the needs of wildlife and public recreational uses together with other public uses giving to each class of interests due recognition in proportion to the related public benefits.

9. **Soil Conservation**

Whereas conservation of the soil is universally recognized as of basic importance to the future existence and welfare of the nation as well