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By:  Guillen H.C.R. No. 61

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, One-third of all wildlife and plant species in the United States are experiencing population decline, and of these more than 12,000 species in need of conservation, 1,310 are found in Texas; and

WHEREAS, The federal government lacks a dedicated funding system to conserve at-risk wildlife, but the Recovering America's Wildlife Act would provide permanent federal revenue for each state to enact its own plan for stabilizing and recovering its species in decline; an annual block of $1.3 billion, financed by existing royalties from energy and mineral production on federal lands and waters and at no cost to taxpayers, would be dedicated to state-based conservation; and

WHEREAS, With its passage, the Lone Star State would be eligible for $63 million annually to implement its Texas Conservation Action Plan, a preestablished strategy for conserving and improving the status of flora and fauna designated as Species of Greatest Conservation Need; administered by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, the funding would reduce the need for regulatory intervention by empowering wildlife managers and private landowners to address conservation issues at the local level; and

WHEREAS, Texas would not only benefit ecologically, but also economically through job creation, improved regulatory certainty, increased nature tourism, and improved food production; and

WHEREAS, Conservation of at-risk wildlife is vital to our future, and the passage of the Recovering America's Wildlife Act would represent a transformative step in preserving the character and beauty of our natural environment; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the 86th Legislature of the State of Texas hereby respectfully urge the Congress of the United States to pass the Recovering America's Wildlife Act; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the Texas secretary of state forward official copies of this resolution to the president of the United States, to the president of the Senate and the speaker of the House of Representatives of the United States Congress, and to all the members of the Texas delegation to Congress with the request that this resolution be entered in the Congressional Record as a memorial to the Congress of the United States of America.