

109TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. CON. RES. 66

Affirming that the intent of Congress in passing the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997 was to allow hunting and fishing on public land within the National Wildlife Refuge System and declaring that the purpose of reserving certain land as public land is to make the land available to the public for reasonable uses.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

NOVEMBER 2005

Mr. VITTER submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Affirming that the intent of Congress in passing the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997 was to allow hunting and fishing on public land within the National Wildlife Refuge System and declaring that the purpose of reserving certain land as public land is to make the land available to the public for reasonable uses.

Whereas hunting and fishing have a long and distinguished history in the United States;

Whereas hunting and fishing remain an important part of the lifestyle and culture of people from many different areas of the country and from all walks of life;

Whereas sportsmen and sportswomen have worked for decades to ensure that public land and other land that is used for hunting and fishing is cared for, protected, and preserved;

Whereas the land that makes up the National Wildlife Refuge System has been widely used for hunting, fishing, and other sporting purposes;

Whereas in 1997, Congress passed the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997 (Public Law 105–57; 111 Stat. 1252), which clearly and directly stated that hunting and fishing, as wildlife-dependent recreational activities, could be considered compatible uses of public land, including land within the National Wildlife Refuge System; and

Whereas the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997 (Public Law 105–57; 111 Stat. 1252) passed by a vote of 419–1, demonstrating the non-partisan nature of the legislation and the tremendous amount of support the legislation enjoyed: Now, therefore, be it

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

3 (1) in passing the National Wildlife Refuge Sys-
4 tem Improvement Act of 1997 (Public Law 105–57;
5 111 Stat. 1252), Congress demonstrated its clear in-
6 tent to allow hunting and fishing on the public land
7 within the National Wildlife Refuge System;

8 (2) the intent of Congress has not changed in
9 any way since the date of enactment of that Act,

1 and any assumption to the contrary is misguided
2 and misinterprets the clear intent of Congress; and

3 (3) the general purpose of reserving certain
4 land as public land, including the land within the
5 National Wildlife Refuge System, is to make the
6 land available to the public for reasonable uses, in-
7 cluding hunting, fishing, other wildlife-dependent
8 sports, and other outdoor purposes.

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