

they help draw sportsmen and outdoor enthusiasts from all over the world.

State of Arkansas
88th General Assembly
Regular Session, 2011

By: Representatives Linck, Hopper, Benedict
House resolution—Requesting that the President of the United States and the Arkansas congressional delegation support and continue the immediate and future funding of the Norfolk and Greers Ferry National Fish Hatcheries.

Subtitle—Requesting that the President of the United States and the Arkansas congressional delegation support and continue the immediate and future funding of the Norfolk and Greers Ferry National Fish Hatcheries.

Whereas, the United States Fish & Wildlife Service plans to cut the budgets for the trout hatcheries below Norfolk and Greers Ferry dams; and

Whereas, these fish hatcheries provide the foundation for Arkansas's world-renowned trout fishery waters that produce a total economic impact of well over one hundred fifty million dollars (\$150,000,000) annually but only cost taxpayers approximately one million five hundred thousand dollars (\$1,500,000) annually to operate. The hatcheries at Norfolk and Greers Ferry dams alone generate five million five hundred thousand dollars (\$5,500,000) in federal tax revenues, roughly three dollars and sixty-five cents (\$3.65) for every one dollar (\$1.00) invested; and

Whereas, seventy-five (75) years ago, north Arkansas's White River was arguably the best smallmouth bass stream in America. Fisherman came from all over the country to experience once-in-a-lifetime float trips down the beautiful bluff-lined river; and

Whereas, upon a series of dams being built in the White River basin in the 1940s, the federal government assured the state's citizens that mitigation efforts would be included to offset the loss of the river's incredibly productive native fishery. The key component of this commitment was the construction of Norfolk National Fish Hatchery in 1955 near Norfolk Dam and the establishment of world-class trout waters below both Norfolk and Bull Shoals lakes; and

Whereas, a decade later, the trout hatchery at the base of Greers Ferry Dam provided the means for a similarly successful fishery to be established at the Little Red River in Greers Ferry; and

Whereas, these modest projects rank among the all-time success stories of our federal government because of the overall economic impact and return on investment they produce; and

Whereas, fish production at the Norfolk hatchery employs nine hundred ninety-four (994) individuals, and the Greers Ferry hatchery employs an additional seven hundred fifty-two (752) people; and

Whereas, dozens of resorts employing hundreds of individuals have been established in these world-class fishing areas because of the increase in tourism. The town of Cotter, Arkansas, for example, bills itself as "Trout Capital USA"; and

Whereas, trout fishing in the White River basin is worth about three times the annual flood losses prevented by Beaver, Table Rock, Bull Shoals, Norfolk, Greers Ferry, and Clearwater reservoirs, and these structures averted fifty-one million four hundred thousand dollars (\$51,400,000) in damages in the last fiscal year; and

Whereas, the electricity generated from Bull Shoals Lake and Norfolk Lake averages approximately one hundred million dollars (\$100,000,000) of electricity each year, but the trout fishery is worth an additional fifty percent (50%) more than that on an annual basis; and

Whereas, investment in the Norfolk and Greers Ferry fish hatcheries has consistently demonstrated positive returns for more than half a century. The federal government's goal to reduce the federal deficit and increase economic growth would be damaged, not enhanced, if funding for trout programs is reduced or eliminated to the detriment of its promise to Arkansas and to these small towns whose livelihood depends on the fish hatcheries; Now therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives of the Eighty-Eighth General Assembly of the State of Arkansas, That the President and Congress of the United States work together to continue the immediate and future funding of the national fish hatcheries at Norfolk and Greers Ferry dams and allow the investment in these hatcheries to continue to contribute to the economic vitality of these towns, the State of Arkansas, and the entire country. Be it further

Resolved, That the Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives forward official copies of this resolution to the President of the United States, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President of the Senate of the United States Congress, and to all the members of the Arkansas Congressional Delegation with the request that this resolution be officially entered in the Congressional Record.

THE EPA

(Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker and ladies and gentlemen, I rise today to speak about H.R. 872.

I was pleased to see this resolution pass the Agriculture Committee with a bipartisan vote. Not one single objection. I want you to think about that. Not one objection from a Democrat or a Republican in the Agriculture Committee.

It somewhat baffles me that we have to waste floor time in the U.S. House of Representatives to help the EPA understand that they're creating regulations that they themselves do not understand.

Mr. Speaker, the EPA already requires pesticide permits from every farmer, rancher, forest manager, State agency, city, county municipality, mosquito control districts, water districts, and golf courses, just to name a few of those that they require permits from. If we do not enact H.R. 872, the EPA would then require an additional Clean Water Act permit for pesticides. I will add again, Mr. Speaker, that many of these permits are already redundant as pesticide applications are already highly regulated under the FIFRA Act.

We all care about the environment, but these EPA regulations fail the common sense test, Mr. Speaker. That agency is on a regulatory path of the destruction of our economy. They are destroying our jobs, and they must be reined in.

Mr. Speaker, perhaps we need a permit for the EPA that says the EPA must understand a rule before they pass one.

FEDERAL REGULATIONS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. FLEISCHMANN). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 5, 2011, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CARTER) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. CARTER. Mr. Speaker, once again we are going to talk about the fact that the regulators are kind of like the fox watching the henhouse. They just overreach everywhere. And we just heard an example of that actually. Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT was just up here talking about what is going on with this pesticide. We will talk a little bit about that today.

I have been trying for the last 6 or 8, I guess, months now to talk about some of the regulations that are being imposed upon people. You see these regulations and you see how onerous they are on both large and small businesses, and then we sit around and wonder why we're teetering around 9 percent unemployment in this country. It's because not only do folks have to wonder about are we going to raise taxes. Folks have to wonder about are we going to spend ourselves into the poor house. Folks have to wonder about a \$1.65 trillion deficit this year. They worry about all those things. They worry about how their children and grandchildren are going to pay off this massive accumulation of debt in this country that is coming down as a result of the policies of the last Congress, the Democrat-led Congress, and the Obama administration, and then you take that and you take on top of that the executive branch's regulations that they are putting on people, many of which are so onerous and make so little sense that, quite honestly, you wonder what's going on.

We've got a lot of things that have been going on, and we've got some tools that we're using to get rid of those things. And a tool that I have been talking about is using the Congressional Review Act to challenge some of these things, and we will talk a little bit about that. But first let's just go back and talk a little bit about what others are doing right now.

First off, tomorrow morning I am going to drop a bill, and this is kind of a nuclear weapon, if you will, of fighting regulations. Because of the continuous onslaught of regulations that seem to be designed to cause unemployment rather than to help with unemployment, I think it's time we just put a big old hold on the regulatory agencies and tell them that unless this is of major national importance, we don't think there ought to be any regulations for the balance of this Congress. So I am proposing a bill for the outright ban of all new Federal regulations through the remainder of the Obama administration until January 31, 2013.

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This would remove, in this period of time when we're trying to bring our job