

SENATE RESOLUTION 699—EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE DESIGNATION OF THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 11 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 17 AS “PATRIOT WEEK”

Mr. PETERS (for himself and Mr. KENNEDY) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 699

Whereas the events that led to the signing of the Constitution of the United States by the delegates to the Constitutional Convention on September 17, 1787, have significance for every citizen of the United States and are honored in public schools across the United States on Constitution Day, which is September 17 of each year;

Whereas the rule of law, the social compact, democracy, liberty, equality, and unalienable human rights are the essential values upon which the United States flourishes;

Whereas diversity is one of the greatest strengths of the United States, and the motto inscribed on the Great Seal of the United States, “E pluribus unum”, Latin for “out of many, one”, symbolizes that individuals in the United States from all walks of life are unified by shared values;

Whereas exceptional, visionary, and indispensable individuals such as Thomas Paine, Patrick Henry, John Adams, John Marshall, George Washington, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Susan B. Anthony, Rosa Parks, Harriet Tubman, Abraham Lincoln, Frederick Douglass, Martin Luther King, Jr., Thomas Jefferson, and James Madison founded or advanced the United States;

Whereas the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution of the United States, the Declaration of Sentiments and Resolutions signed in Seneca Falls, New York, the Gettysburg Address, the Emancipation Proclamation, and the “I Have a Dream” speech delivered by Martin Luther King, Jr., express sentiments that have advanced liberty in the United States; and

Whereas the Bennington flag (commonly known as the “76 flag”), the Betsy Ross flag, the current flag of the United States, the flag of the women’s suffrage movement, the Union flag (commonly known as the “Fort Sumter flag”), the Gadsden flag, and the flags of the States are physical symbols of the history of the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the designation of the week of September 11 through September 17 as “Patriot Week”;

(2) recognizes that understanding the history of the United States and the first principles of the United States is indispensable to the survival of the United States as a free people;

(3) acknowledges, in great reverence to the victims of the September 11, 2001, attacks, that citizens of the United States should take time to honor the first principles, founders, documents, and symbols of their history;

(4) recognizes that each generation should renew the spirit of the United States based on the first principles, historical figures, founding documents, and symbols of the United States; and

(5) encourages citizens, schools and other educational institutions, and Federal, State, and local governments and their agencies to recognize and participate in Patriot Week by honoring, celebrating, and promoting the study of the history of the United States so that all people of the United States may offer the reverence that is due to the free republic.

SENATE RESOLUTION 700—DESIGNATING THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 19 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 26, 2020, AS “NATIONAL ESTUARIES WEEK”

Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. CARPER, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. KING, Mr. WARNER, Mr. COONS, Mr. MARKEY, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. REED, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. RUBIO, and Mr. KAINE) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 700

Whereas estuary regions cover only 13 percent of the land area in the continental United States but contain nearly 43 percent of the population, 40 percent of the jobs, and nearly 50 percent of the economic output of the United States;

Whereas the oceans, estuaries, and Great Lakes of the United States continue to fuel economic growth across the United States, which is evidenced by the fact that, by 2016—

(1) employment levels in economic sectors relating to oceans and estuaries had increased by 14.5 percent from employment levels in those sectors in 2007, before the Great Recession; and

(2) the average employment level of the entire economy of the United States had increased by 4.8 percent from that employment level in 2007, before the Great Recession;

Whereas, between 2015 and 2016, economic sectors relating to estuaries, oceans, and Great Lakes in the United States—

(1) created 85,000 new jobs;

(2) employed 3,300,000 individuals; and

(3) contributed \$124,000,000,000 to the gross domestic product;

Whereas, by 2018, the ocean economy supported 2,300,000 jobs in the United States, and the compensation paid to employees in such sector was \$161,900,000,000;

Whereas the commercial and recreational fishing industries support more than 1,740,000 jobs in the United States;

Whereas, in 2017—

(1) commercial and recreational saltwater fishing in the United States generated more than \$244,000,000,000 in sales and contributed \$110,700,000,000 to the gross domestic product of the United States;

(2) angler trip expenditures totaled nearly \$10,500,000,000; and

(3) saltwater recreational fishing supported 487,000 jobs, generated \$73,800,000,000 in sales across the United States, and contributed \$41,500,000,000 to the gross domestic product of the United States;

Whereas estuaries provide vital habitats for—

(1) countless species of fish and wildlife, including more than 68 percent of the commercial fish catch in the United States by value and 80 percent of the recreational fish catch in the United States by weight; and

(2) many species that are listed as threatened or endangered species;

Whereas estuaries provide critical ecosystem services that protect human health and public safety, including water filtration, flood control, shoreline stabilization, erosion prevention, and the protection of coastal communities during hurricanes, storms, and other extreme weather events;

Whereas, by the 1980s, the United States had already lost more than 50 percent of the wetlands that existed in the original 13 colonies;

Whereas some bays in the United States that were once filled with fish and oysters

have become dead zones filled with excess nutrients, chemical waste, and marine debris;

Whereas harmful algal blooms are hurting fish, wildlife, and human health and are causing serious ecological and economic harm to some estuaries;

Whereas changes in sea levels can affect estuarine water quality and estuarine habitats;

Whereas section 320 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1330) (commonly known as the “Clean Water Act”) authorizes the development of comprehensive conservation and management plans to ensure that the designated uses of estuaries are protected and to restore and maintain—

(1) the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of estuaries;

(2) water quality;

(3) a balanced indigenous population of shellfish, fish, and wildlife; and

(4) recreational activities in estuaries;

Whereas the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 (16 U.S.C. 1451 et seq.) provides that the policy of the United States is to preserve, protect, develop, and, if possible, restore or enhance the resources of the coastal zone of the United States, including estuaries, for current and future generations;

Whereas 29 coastal and Great Lakes States and territories of the United States operate or contain a National Estuary Program or a National Estuarine Research Reserve;

Whereas scientific study leads to a better understanding of the benefits of estuaries to human and ecological communities;

Whereas the Federal Government, State, local, and Tribal governments, national and community organizations, and individuals work together to effectively manage the estuaries of the United States;

Whereas estuary restoration efforts restore natural infrastructure in local communities in a cost-effective manner, helping to create jobs and reestablish the natural functions of estuaries that yield countless benefits; and

Whereas the week of September 19 through September 26, 2020, is recognized as “National Estuaries Week” to increase awareness among all people of the United States, including Federal Government and State, local, and Tribal government officials, about the importance of healthy estuaries and the need to protect and restore estuaries: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates the week of September 19 through September 26, 2020, as “National Estuaries Week”;

(2) supports the goals and ideals of National Estuaries Week;

(3) acknowledges the importance of estuaries to sustaining employment in the United States and the economic well-being and prosperity of the United States;

(4) recognizes that persistent threats undermine the health of estuaries;

(5) applauds the work of national and community organizations and public partners that promote public awareness, understanding, protection, and restoration of estuaries;

(6) supports the scientific study, preservation, protection, and restoration of estuaries; and

(7) expresses the intent of the Senate to continue working to understand, protect, and restore the estuaries of the United States.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 2656. Mr. PORTMAN (for Mr. BARRASSO (for himself and Mr. CARPER)) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 3051, to improve

protections for wildlife, and for other purposes.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 2656. Mr. PORTMAN (for Mr. BARASSO (for himself and Mr. CARPER)) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 3051, to improve protections for wildlife, and for other purposes; as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) **SHORT TITLE.**—This Act may be cited as the “America’s Conservation Enhancement Act”.

(b) **TABLE OF CONTENTS.**—The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

TITLE I—WILDLIFE ENHANCEMENT, DISEASE, AND PREDATION

Sec. 101. Theodore Roosevelt Genius Prize for reducing human-predator conflict.

Sec. 102. Losses of livestock due to depredation by federally protected species.

Sec. 103. Depredation permits for black vultures and common ravens.

Sec. 104. Chronic Wasting Disease Task Force.

Sec. 105. Invasive species.

Sec. 106. North American Wetlands Conservation Act.

Sec. 107. National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Establishment Act.

Sec. 108. Modification of definition of sport fishing equipment under Toxic Substances Control Act.

Sec. 109. Reauthorization of Chesapeake Bay Program.

Sec. 110. Reauthorization of Chesapeake Bay Initiative Act of 1998.

Sec. 111. Chesapeake watershed investments for landscape defense.

TITLE II—NATIONAL FISH HABITAT CONSERVATION THROUGH PARTNERSHIPS

Sec. 201. Purpose.

Sec. 202. Definitions.

Sec. 203. National Fish Habitat Board.

Sec. 204. Fish Habitat Partnerships.

Sec. 205. Fish Habitat Conservation Projects.

Sec. 206. Technical and scientific assistance.

Sec. 207. Coordination with States and Indian Tribes.

Sec. 208. Interagency Operational Plan.

Sec. 209. Accountability and reporting.

Sec. 210. Effect of this title.

Sec. 211. Nonapplicability of Federal Advisory Committee Act.

Sec. 212. Funding.

Sec. 213. Prohibition against implementation of regulatory authority by Federal agencies through Partnerships.

TITLE III—MISCELLANEOUS

Sec. 301. Study to review conservation factors.

Sec. 302. Study and report on expenditures.

Sec. 303. Use of value of land for cost sharing.

TITLE I—WILDLIFE ENHANCEMENT, DISEASE, AND PREDATION

SEC. 101. THEODORE ROOSEVELT GENIUS PRIZE FOR REDUCING HUMAN-PREDATOR CONFLICT.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 7001(d) of the John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act (16 U.S.C. 742b note; Public Law 116-9) is amended—

(1) by striking “paragraph (7)(A)” each place such term appears and inserting “paragraph (8)(A)”;

(2) by striking “paragraph (7)(B)” each place such term appears and inserting “paragraph (8)(B)”;

(3) in paragraph (6)(C)(iv), by striking “subparagraph (C)” and inserting “clause (iii)”;

(4) by redesignating paragraph (7) as paragraph (8);

(5) by inserting after paragraph (6) the following:

“(7) **THEODORE ROOSEVELT GENIUS PRIZE FOR REDUCING HUMAN-PREDATOR CONFLICT.**—

“(A) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this paragraph:

“(i) **BOARD.**—The term ‘Board’ means the Reducing Human-Predator Conflict Technology Advisory Board established by subparagraph (C)(i).

“(ii) **PRIZE COMPETITION.**—The term ‘prize competition’ means the Theodore Roosevelt Genius Prize for reducing human-predator conflict established under subparagraph (B).

“(B) **AUTHORITY.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of the America’s Conservation Enhancement Act, the Secretary shall establish under section 24 of the Stevenson-Wylder Technology Innovation Act of 1980 (15 U.S.C. 3719) a prize competition, to be known as the ‘Theodore Roosevelt Genius Prize for reducing human-predator conflict’—

“(i) to encourage technological innovation with the potential to advance the mission of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service with respect to reducing the frequency of human-predator conflict using nonlethal means; and

“(ii) to award 1 or more prizes annually for a technological advancement that promotes reducing human-predator conflict using nonlethal means, which may include the application and monitoring of tagging technologies.

“(C) **ADVISORY BOARD.**—

“(i) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—There is established an advisory board, to be known as the ‘Reducing Human-Predator Conflict Technology Advisory Board’.

“(ii) **COMPOSITION.**—The Board shall be composed of not fewer than 9 members appointed by the Secretary, who shall provide expertise in—

“(I) predator-human interactions;

“(II) the habitats of large predators;

“(III) biology;

“(IV) technology development;

“(V) engineering;

“(VI) economics;

“(VII) business development and management; and

“(VIII) any other discipline, as the Secretary determines to be necessary to achieve the purposes of this paragraph.

“(iii) **DUTIES.**—Subject to clause (iv), with respect to the prize competition, the Board shall—

“(I) select a topic;

“(II) issue a problem statement;

“(III) advise the Secretary regarding any opportunity for technological innovation to reduce human-predator conflict using nonlethal means; and

“(IV) advise winners of the prize competition regarding opportunities to pilot and implement winning technologies in relevant fields, including in partnership with conservation organizations, Federal or State agencies, federally recognized Indian Tribes, private entities, and research institutions with expertise or interest relating to reducing human-predator conflict using nonlethal means.

“(iv) **CONSULTATION.**—In selecting a topic and issuing a problem statement for the prize competition under subclauses (I) and (II) of clause (iii), respectively, the Board shall consult widely with Federal and non-Federal stakeholders, including—

“(I) 1 or more Federal agencies with jurisdiction over the management of native wildlife species at risk due to conflict with human activities;

“(II) 1 or more State agencies with jurisdiction over the management of native wildlife species at risk due to conflict with human activities;

“(III) 1 or more State, regional, or local wildlife organizations, the mission of which relates to the management of native wildlife species at risk due to conflict with human activities; and

“(IV) 1 or more wildlife conservation groups, technology companies, research institutions, institutions of higher education, industry associations, or individual stakeholders with an interest in the management of native wildlife species at risk due to conflict with human activities.

“(v) **REQUIREMENTS.**—The Board shall comply with all requirements under paragraph (8)(A).

“(D) **AGREEMENT WITH NATIONAL FISH AND WILDLIFE FOUNDATION.**—

“(i) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary shall offer to enter into an agreement under which the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation shall administer the prize competition.

“(ii) **REQUIREMENTS.**—An agreement entered into under clause (i) shall comply with all requirements under paragraph (8)(B).

“(E) **JUDGES.**—

“(i) **APPOINTMENT.**—The Secretary shall appoint not fewer than 3 judges who shall, except as provided in clause (ii), select the 1 or more annual winners of the prize competition.

“(ii) **DETERMINATION BY SECRETARY.**—The judges appointed under clause (i) shall not select any annual winner of the prize competition if the Secretary makes a determination that, in any fiscal year, none of the technological advancements entered into the prize competition merits an award.

“(F) **CONSULTATION WITH NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION.**—The Secretary shall consult with the Secretary of Commerce, acting through the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, in the case of a cash prize awarded under the prize competition for a technology that addresses conflict between humans and marine predators under the jurisdiction of the Secretary of Commerce, acting through the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

“(G) **REPORT TO CONGRESS.**—Not later than 60 days after the date on which a cash prize is awarded under this paragraph, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate and the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives a report on the prize competition that includes—

“(i) a statement by the Board that describes the activities carried out by the Board relating to the duties described in subparagraph (C)(iii);

“(ii) if the Secretary has entered into an agreement under subparagraph (D)(i), a statement by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation that describes the activities carried out by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation relating to the duties described in paragraph (8)(B); and

“(iii) a statement by 1 or more of the judges appointed under subparagraph (E) that explains the basis on which the winner of the cash prize was selected.

“(H) **TERMINATION OF AUTHORITY.**—The Board and all authority provided under this paragraph shall terminate on December 31, 2023.”; and

(6) in paragraph (8) (as redesignated)—