

House Resolution 1928

By: Representatives Cannon of the 172nd, Corbett of the 174th, Rhodes of the 124th, Chastain of the 7th, and Dubnik of the 29th

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Recognizing the importance of regulated trapping; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, regulated trapping has long served as a vital and scientifically grounded tool for
3 wildlife conservation and management, enabling state, federal, and tribal agencies to
4 maintain balanced ecosystems, control predator populations, and protect critical habitats
5 essential for biodiversity and species recovery; and
- 6 WHEREAS, trapping plays a pivotal role in furbearer management by protecting endangered
7 and vulnerable species during key life-cycle stages, such as ground-nesting birds and sea
8 turtles, while facilitating the successful reintroduction of populations like river otter and
9 beaver, thereby promoting healthy wildlife communities across diverse landscapes; and
- 10 WHEREAS, through targeted predator management, trapping significantly enhances
11 waterfowl production in high-density breeding areas, where it reduces predation on duck
12 eggs by species such as raccoons and skunks, boosting nest success rates from as low as 5-10
13 percent to the 15-20 percent threshold needed for stable populations, ultimately increasing
14 duck numbers by tens of thousands and restoring natural breeding potential; and

15 WHEREAS, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service recognizes trapping as an integral
16 component of integrated pest management on national wildlife refuges, regulated under
17 federal laws to sustainably manage wildlife populations, eradicate invasive species, control
18 pests, and safeguard refuge infrastructure while ensuring compliance with state licensing and
19 humane standards to include trapping of feral wild pig populations across 35 states that inflict
20 \$2.5 billion in damages; and

21 WHEREAS, according to the 2024 Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies' trapping
22 survey, regulated private trapping subsidizes nuisance control—preventing escalated damage
23 and avoiding higher expenses for taxpayers, saving \$16.5 million dollars on average; and

24 WHEREAS, trapping provides essential benefits including disease control, economic value
25 through fur harvesting, prevention of costly damage like beaver-induced flooding, and
26 effective population regulation of overabundant species to prevent habitat degradation
27 supporting native wildlife recovery; and

28 WHEREAS, only abundant wildlife species are subject to regulated trapping seasons under
29 scientifically based laws that monitor populations while also providing education and
30 licensing programs (if applicable to the state) to foster ethical practices among participants,
31 reflecting widespread public support for trapping as a responsible stewardship of natural
32 resources; and

33 WHEREAS, according to the most recent data from the United States Fish and Wildlife
34 Service, trappers contribute \$884 million in GDP from related spending on the national level.

35 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
36 the members of this body recognize regulated trapping as an essential, humane, and effective
37 component of modern wildlife management and conservation.

38 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
39 and directed to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to the
40 public and the press.