

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 26

Senators Bumstead, Damoose, Hauck, Hoitenga, Outman, Huizenga, Lauwers, Cherry and McBroom offered the following resolution:

1 A resolution to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the
2 National Wild Turkey Federation (NWTf).

3 Whereas, The National Wild Turkey Federation was incorporated
4 on March 28, 1973 in Fredericksburg, Virginia; and

5 Whereas, Over the course of 50 years, the NWTf and millions of
6 members and chapters across the nation have worked with state,
7 federal, and nongovernmental partners to promote the conservation
8 of the wild turkey and the preservation of our hunting heritage,
9 participating in one of the greatest conservation success stories
10 in American history – the return of the wild turkey from the brink
11 of extinction; and

1 Whereas, The NWTF and its Michigan State Chapter helped the
2 Michigan Department of Natural Resources restore wild turkey
3 populations across the state, resulting in an estimated 200,000
4 birds, which supports robust and healthy wild turkey populations
5 capable of hunting opportunities in all 83 counties in our state;
6 and

7 Whereas, The NWTF, its members, and chapters have been at the
8 vanguard of reversing the decline in hunting participation through
9 nationwide investment in hunter recruitment, retention, and
10 reactivation efforts. They also partner with other states to
11 develop opportunities to engage people from all walks of life in
12 the outdoors tradition. Since 2012, the NWTF has recruited and
13 reactivated more than 1.5 million hunters, including Michigan which
14 was one of the first states to develop a NWTF cooperatively-funded
15 position focused on addressing hunter participation; and

16 Whereas, Since 1985, the NWTF has invested more than half a
17 billion dollars to conserve or enhance more than 22 million acres
18 of critical wildlife habitat, forests, and grasslands across public
19 and private lands. This work includes Michigan's state and national
20 forests, publicly owned and managed wildlife areas, as well as
21 private lands; and

22 Whereas, The NWTF is also the largest and longest-serving
23 nongovernmental stewardship partner of the United States Department
24 of Agriculture Forest Service, conserving habitat on National
25 Forest System lands for more than 40 years. Since 2012, the NWTF
26 has helped support and facilitate work on each of the national
27 forests located in Michigan; and

28 Whereas, The NWTF, its members, and chapters have invested
29 more than \$8.5 million in research throughout North America to

1 ensure healthy wild turkey populations continue into the future;
2 now, therefore, be it

3 Resolved by the Senate, That the members of this legislative
4 body commemorate the 50th anniversary of the National Wild Turkey
5 Federation (NWTF); and be it further

6 Resolved, That we recognize the NWTF's significant
7 contributions to scientific wildlife management, research, and
8 habitat conservation as well as promoting and protecting the long-
9 honored outdoor traditions in Michigan and throughout the United
10 States of America.