

HOUSE RESOLUTION

TO EXPRESS SUPPORT FOR THE GOALS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE NORTH AMERICAN WATERFOWL MANAGEMENT PLAN AND THE CACHE/LOWER WHITE RIVERS JOINT VENTURE PROJECT IN THE EASTERN ARKANSAS DELTA.

WHEREAS, there has been growing concern over the diminishing continental populations of waterfowl in North America, which are now at record low levels; and

WHEREAS, this concern has resulted in the 1986 cooperative agreement referred to as the North American Waterfowl Management Plan (NAWMP) between the United States and Canada; and

WHEREAS, the NAWMP sets forth waterfowl conservation guidelines, goals and objectives in order to restore waterfowl populations to levels observed in the 1970s by the year 2000; and

WHEREAS, these goals include the protection of 373,000 acres of additional waterfowl habitat in the Lower Mississippi Valley; and

WHEREAS, 125,000 acres of this 373,000 acres have been identified to be located within the Cache/Lower White Rivers Joint Venture Project area; and

WHEREAS, this Project area is the single-most important mallard wintering area in the entire Lower Mississippi Valley; and

WHEREAS, only 875,000 acres (11%) of Arkansas' original 8 million acres of Mississippi River Delta habitat remains; and

WHEREAS, the Project area represents a unique and the last opportunity to conserve a significant portion of bottomland hardwood habitat of this type along a river system within the Lower Mississippi Valley,

NOW THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE FOURTH EXTRAORDINARY SESSION OF THE SEVENTY-SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

That this body does hereby express its support for the goals and objectives of the North American Waterfowl Management Plan and the Cache/Lower White Rivers Joint Venture Project as they contribute significantly to the conservation of wetland habitat and wetland-dependent wildlife, particularly waterfowl, in the State of Arkansas.