

1 State of Arkansas  
2 86th General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 2007

HCR 1012

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5 By: Representatives Ragland, Norton  
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## 8 **HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

9 RECOGNIZING THE SEVENTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF  
10 CONSERVATION DISTRICTS; URGING RENEWED VIGILANCE  
11 IN THE PROTECTION OF PRIVATE PROPERTY RIGHTS; AND  
12 URGING FEDERAL AND STATE AGENCIES TO RESPECT THE  
13 VALUE AND AUTHORITY OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS.  
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### 15 **Subtitle**

16 RECOGNIZING THE SEVENTIETH ANNIVERSARY  
17 OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS.  
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20 WHEREAS, Arkansas was the first state to create conservation districts;  
21 and  
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23 WHEREAS, in February, 1937, President Franklin D. Roosevelt issued a  
24 call for all states to establish conservation districts; and  
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26 WHEREAS, Governor Carl E. Bailey introduced the President's letter to  
27 the Arkansas General Assembly and the General Assembly responded with the  
28 passage of Act 197 of 1937 creating conservation districts to provide  
29 leadership and representation at the local level for issues affecting  
30 conservation, the protection of the local tax base, and the proper management  
31 of the natural resources of the State of Arkansas; and  
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33 WHEREAS, conservation district authority has dissipated in recent years  
34 because federal and state agencies have preempted that authority; and  
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36 WHEREAS, as a result of the dissipation of authority of the



1 conservation districts, a general lack of public awareness of the election  
2 process for, the existence of, and the authority of the conservation  
3 districts has arisen; and  
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5 WHEREAS, the conservation districts continue to be viable and active  
6 participants in addressing water qualities issues and problems regarding  
7 policies and goals within their respective areas of authority; and  
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9 WHEREAS, federal, state, and local governments and their designees are  
10 initiating planning policies, ecosystem management strategies, and procedures  
11 to address resource management across whole watersheds; and  
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13 WHEREAS, numerous nongovernmental organizations are using federal and  
14 state funds to write watershed management plans and other related plans with  
15 the intention of implementing the plans with no local government approval or  
16 oversight; and  
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18 WHEREAS, watershed boundaries include private property; therefore,  
19 authorization for implementation for a coordinated approach to watershed  
20 management should be by elected, local officials both to minimize the social,  
21 economic, and cultural impact of watershed management plans on local  
22 communities and to optimize resource conservation; and  
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24 WHEREAS, coordination of resource management efforts including efforts  
25 on federal lands, state lands, and private property should be led at the  
26 local level to accomplish common conservation goals and to eliminate  
27 duplication of efforts through a pooling of limited resources; and  
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29 WHEREAS, the conservation districts should work together in authorizing  
30 and coordinating watershed management plans.  
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32 NOW THEREFORE,

33 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE EIGHTY-SIXTH GENERAL  
34 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS, THE SENATE CONCURRING THEREIN:  
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36 THAT the General Assembly recognizes the seventieth anniversary of

1 conservation districts, urges renewed vigilance in the protection of private  
2 property rights, urges federal agencies, state agencies, and nongovernmental  
3 organizations to respect the value and authority of conservation districts,  
4 and recognizes that the conservation districts should take the leadership  
5 role in authorizing and coordinating watershed management plans.

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