

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. RES. 1281

Celebrating the 100th anniversary of the Upper Mississippi River National
Wildlife and Fish Refuge.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 7, 2024

Mrs. HINSON (for herself, Mr. SORENSEN, Mr. VAN ORDEN, Mr. LAHOOD,
Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS, and Mr. FINSTAD) submitted the following resolution;
which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

RESOLUTION

Celebrating the 100th anniversary of the Upper Mississippi
River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge.

Whereas the Upper Mississippi River Basin is a critical ecosystem supporting diverse flora and fauna, including over 300 species of birds, 50 species of mammals, over 100 species of fish, and numerous species of reptiles and amphibians;

Whereas the Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge was established on June 7, 1924, by an Act of Congress as a sanctuary for migratory birds, fish, and other wildlife;

Whereas the Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge conserves more than 250,000 acres, encompassing vast stretches of the Upper Mississippi River and

its adjacent lands, providing essential habitat for wildlife and offering opportunities for outdoor recreation, public education, and scientific research;

Whereas the Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge serves as a vital corridor for migratory birds, supporting millions of waterfowl and other avian species as they travel along the Mississippi Flyway, one of North America's most significant migratory routes;

Whereas the Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge plays a crucial role in conserving and restoring native habitats, including floodplain forests, wetlands, grasslands, and backwaters, contributing to the overall health and resilience of the Upper Mississippi River ecosystem;

Whereas there are an estimated 4,000,000 visits annually to the Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge for wildlife viewing, hunting, fishing, paddling, hiking, and other outdoor recreation generating \$125,000,000 for the regional economy;

Whereas the Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge serves as a living laboratory for scientific research and monitoring, contributing valuable data and insights into the ecology, hydrology, and management of large river systems and their associated habitats; and

Whereas the stewardship and conservation efforts of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, in collaboration with State agencies, Tribal nations, nonprofit organizations, volunteers, and local communities, have been instrumental in protecting and preserving the natural heritage of the Upper Mississippi River for future generations: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

2 (1) celebrates and honors the 100th anniversary
3 of the establishment of the Upper Mississippi River
4 National Wildlife and Fish Refuge and recognizes its
5 significant contributions to wildlife conservation,
6 habitat restoration, outdoor recreation, and scientific
7 research;

8 (2) recognizes the dedication of local conserva-
9 tionists to protect and preserve the Upper Mis-
10 sissippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge;
11 and

12 (3) encourages continued support for the con-
13 servation and management of the Upper Mississippi
14 River ecosystem and the enhancement of public
15 awareness and engagement in the stewardship of the
16 region's invaluable natural resources.

○