

August 28, 2017

RN 17 53306

MEMBER'S RESOLUTION

By the Honorable Tom Berryhill, 8th Senatorial District; and the Honorable Jim Nielsen, 4th Senatorial District; Relative to commending

DUCKS UNLIMITED

WHEREAS, A world-renowned nonprofit environmental advocacy and conservation organization, Ducks Unlimited is celebrating its eightieth anniversary during the year 2017 with commemorative events held throughout the United States, and in acknowledgement of this milestone in conservation history, Ducks Unlimited, and its generations of members, volunteers, and partners whose tireless efforts and support have sustained the organization's critical mission, are deserving of special public recognition and the highest commendations; and

WHEREAS, Ducks Unlimited traces its genesis to the Dust Bowl years, when complex changes in several economic factors and

agricultural practices, combined with years-long changes in regional weather, led to widespread drought and severe dust storms that wreaked agricultural and ecological havoc across more than 100 million acres of American and Canadian prairies and resulted in waterfowl populations plunging to unprecedented lows, in response to which, a group of determined sportsmen sought to prevent populations from dwindling beyond recovery by founding Ducks Unlimited in 1937 with the mission to conserve, restore, and manage wetlands for North America's waterfowl; and

WHEREAS, Guided by science and dedicated to program efficiency, Ducks Unlimited is the world's largest and most effective private, nonprofit organization engaged in wetlands and waterfowl conservation across North America, where its consequential conservation efforts encompass the entirety of the continent, including the United States, Canada, and Mexico, and with other chapters operating in Latin America, New Zealand, and Australia, the organization has an international membership of over 755,000 and provides hundreds of millions of dollars annually in support of its many conservation-focused programs; and

WHEREAS, Although California boasted an estimated 4 to 5 million acres of wetland prior to the Gold Rush, activities undertaken by the State's ever-growing populace during the ensuing 160 years led to the destruction or gross modification of more

than 95 percent of historic wetlands and more than 90 percent of riparian corridors, a process that Ducks Unlimited began to earnestly address with conservation efforts in 1987, and by means of its on-the-ground, science-based conservation research and work with state government agencies, rice farmers, environmental partners, and its 28,000 California members, the organization has completed over 1,300 projects that conserve or assist in conserving wetland acreage statewide; and

WHEREAS, Covering Alaska, Arizona, California, Hawaii, Idaho, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, and Washington, Ducks Unlimited's Rancho Cordova-headquartered Western Region has worked together with its partners to conserve more than 984,000 acres of waterfowl habitat in the U.S. portion of the Pacific Flyway alone, where it focuses on highest priority wetland areas, including those in the western boreal forest, Pacific Northwest, and Coastal California, as well as in the Central Valley, where hemispherically important wetlands provide the Flyway's most important stopping point for over five million migratory waterfowl that together make up a staggering 60 percent of the Pacific Flyway's waterfowl population and 20 percent of the continental population; and

WHEREAS, While immensely beneficial to waterfowl, Ducks Unlimited's efforts to increase the quantity and quality of key California wetlands also enhance biodiversity by providing

essential habitat for many species of fish and wildlife, including some that are endangered or threatened, while its work with various California governmental agencies on projects utilizing wetlands for greenhouse gas reduction in the Central Valley and for sequestering carbon and reversing subsidence in the Delta can also provide co-benefits for potentially millions of Californians by, among other things, protecting and improving water quality and enhancing water storage; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED BY SENATORS TOM BERRYHILL AND JIM NIELSEN,
That they heartily congratulate Ducks Unlimited during its eightieth anniversary year, commend the organization for its exemplary environmental leadership and advocacy in service to its mission to conserve, restore, and manage wetlands for North America's waterfowl, and extend their best wishes for the success of its vitally important work in the future.

Dated this 1st day of September, 2017.

Honorable Tom Berryhill
8th Senatorial District

Honorable Jim Nielsen
4th Senatorial District