

MAR 10 1995

NATURAL RESOURCES

1 HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 31
 2 BY MERTZ, EDDIE, VANDE HOEF, MAY, GREIG, DREES,
 3 and BRANSTAD
 4 (COMPANION TO SCR 20 BY COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE)
 5 A Concurrent Resolution in support of improvement in
 6 the wetland delineation process and a moratorium
 7 on wetlands determination until the 1995 farm bill
 8 has been passed and signed into law by the Congress
 9 and the President.

10 WHEREAS, it has been historically consistent policy
 11 of Iowa to improve the productivity of our soil to the
 12 ultimate economic benefit of all Iowans; and

13 WHEREAS, federal agencies have too much latitude
 14 for interpretation to consistently apply wetland
 15 policies, including a determination of which years
 16 employed in the evaluation process are "wet", "dry",
 17 or "normal" years; and

18 WHEREAS, the definition of wetland is too complex
 19 for people to understand; and

20 WHEREAS, wetland delineation issues will be debated
 21 and modified in the 1995 farm bill requiring current
 22 wetland delineations to be revised; and

23 WHEREAS, the Fish and Wildlife Service, the
 24 Environmental Protection Agency, the United States
 25 Department of Agriculture, and the Army Corps of
 26 Engineers all have federal jurisdiction over wetlands;
 27 NOW THEREFORE,

28 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, THE
 29 SENATE CONCURRING, That there be a moratorium on
 30 wetland delineation until passage of the 1995 farm

1 bill; and

2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That Congress should
3 encourage the voluntary preservation of wetlands,
4 including the offering of incentives, but should not
5 impose mandatory practices on owners of private
6 property; and

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That Congress support the
8 right of farmers to repair, maintain, or improve
9 private drainage systems; and

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That Congress require lands
11 designated as a wetland be an area of not less than
12 ten acres in size; and

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That Congress recognize the
14 need to reduce the financial burdens placed on our
15 children's future due to its unsound budget practices
16 which means fewer federal dollars can be dedicated to
17 wetland issues making it essential to focus efforts on
18 protecting true wetland areas, such as clearly
19 identifiable swamps and marshes; and

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this
21 resolution be sent to the President of the United
22 States; the Chief of Engineers, United States Army
23 Corps of Engineers, North Central Division; the United
24 States Secretary of Agriculture; the administrator of
25 the Environmental Protection Agency; the Secretary of
26 the Interior; the Speaker of the United States House
27 of Representatives; the Majority Leader of the United
28 States Senate; and the members of Iowa's congressional
29 delegation.

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