

House Resolution 119 - Introduced

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 119

BY ISENHART, DRAKE, KRESSIG, MOORE, MUHLBAUER,  
VANDER LINDEN, M. SMITH, HEIN, JACOBY, DOLECHECK,  
STUTSMAN, HUSEMAN, KAJTAZOVIC, PETTENGILL, KELLEY,  
FISHER, GAINES, SHEETS, LYKAM, BAUDLER, RIDING,  
KOESTER, MURPHY, LANDON, WOOD, R. TAYLOR, HALL,  
GRASSLEY, RUFF, SALMON, BEARINGER, FORRISTALL,  
RUNNING-MARQUARDT, JORGENSEN, THOMAS, HANUSA,  
R. OLSON, WATTS, DUNKEL, RAYHONS, DAWSON, J.  
SMITH, T. OLSON, HEATON, OLDSON, ALONS, HANSON,  
BRANDENBURG, LUNDBY, ROGERS, THEDE, COWNIE,  
H. MILLER, S. OLSON, BERRY, BALTIMORE, WOLFE,  
STANERSON, STECKMAN, GUSTAFSON, KEARNS, KAUFMANN,  
OURTH, BYRNES, HEDDENS, LOFGREN, ANDERSON, WORTHAN,  
PRICHARD, HIGHFILL, MASCHER, HAGENOW, ABDUL-SAMAD,  
L. MILLER, GASKILL, BACON, MEYER, GASSMAN,  
COHOON, SANDS, FORBES, SHAW, LENSING, HESS,  
WESSEL-KROESCHELL, HEARTSILL, HUNTER, MAXWELL,  
T. TAYLOR, UPMEYER, WINCKLER, WINDSCHITL, STAED,  
SODERBERG, and PAULSEN

1 A Resolution commemorating the 25th anniversary of the  
2 Resource Enhancement and Protection Program.  
3 WHEREAS, the citizens of Iowa have built and  
4 sustained our economy and culture on the state's rich  
5 soils, plentiful water, clean air, and other diverse  
6 natural resources; and  
7 WHEREAS, the future well-being of the people of Iowa  
8 and our livestock and wildlife depend on these natural  
9 resources; and  
10 WHEREAS, the General Assembly established in 1989

1 a state resources enhancement policy in the Iowa  
2 Code; and

3 WHEREAS, this policy seeks to protect the state's  
4 natural resource heritage for the benefit of present  
5 and future generations with the establishment of a  
6 Resource Enhancement and Protection Program; and

7 WHEREAS, the General Assembly directed that this  
8 program be a long-term, integrated effort to protect  
9 and wisely use Iowa's natural resources through  
10 the acquisition and management of public lands; the  
11 upgrading of public parks and preserves; and the  
12 support of environmental education, monitoring, and  
13 research; and

14 WHEREAS, the Resource Enhancement and Protection  
15 Program was passed unanimously by the Iowa House of  
16 Representatives and signed into law 25 years ago by  
17 Governor Terry E. Branstad on May 27, 1989; and

18 WHEREAS, the Resource Enhancement and Protection  
19 Program has significantly benefited all 99 Iowa  
20 counties by supporting a total of 14,535 projects since  
21 its inception; and

22 WHEREAS, the Resource Enhancement and Protection  
23 Program has financed these projects with \$264 million  
24 in state investments, leveraging two to three times  
25 that amount in private, local, and federal dollars to  
26 achieve its goals; and

27 WHEREAS, hundreds of Iowans gather every other year  
28 in regional and statewide meetings to discuss and show  
29 their support for the program; and

30 WHEREAS, the vision and planning that went into the

1 creation of the Resource Enhancement and Protection  
2 Program are a source of pride to all stakeholders,  
3 as demonstrated by the fact that the program and its  
4 funding allocation formula have never been altered; and

5 WHEREAS, the Resource Enhancement and Protection  
6 Program is documented to have created healthier  
7 communities, improved quality of life, and sustained  
8 economic development; created better soil and water  
9 quality; expanded trails and outdoor recreation  
10 opportunities; and enhanced knowledge about and  
11 understanding of our ecological and environmental  
12 assets; and

13 WHEREAS, Iowans desire to celebrate the success  
14 and positive impacts of the Resource Enhancement and  
15 Protection Program in this anniversary year; and

16 WHEREAS, Iowans strongly believe that the Resource  
17 Enhancement and Protection Program is a successful  
18 venture worthy of the continued support of the General  
19 Assembly; NOW THEREFORE,

20 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, That  
21 the House of Representatives commends all Iowans who  
22 have contributed their time, energy, and commitment  
23 to ensure the success of the Resource Enhancement and  
24 Protection Program; and

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That each public body  
26 and private organization in this state is encouraged  
27 to consider the role it can play to further the  
28 enhancement of and contribute to the preservation of  
29 Iowa's natural resources; and

30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That individual Iowans and

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1 visitors to our state are encouraged to participate  
2 in an outdoor activity or event during the 25th  
3 anniversary year to celebrate our success and enjoy the  
4 blessings of our natural heritage.