

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 24

BY JACOBY

A Resolution to recognize the 50th anniversary of the creation of county conservation boards.

WHEREAS, 2005 is a historic year for Iowa's county conservation boards. Fifty years ago the General Assembly passed Iowa's county conservation law, making it possible for county residents to create by local vote their own resource management agencies; and

WHEREAS, today, conservation boards serve all 99 counties in Iowa and collectively the county conservation board system accounts for over 160,000 acres of county park and conservation areas; and

WHEREAS, the county conservation program provides millions of pleasurable outdoor experiences to Iowans and to visitors to this state each year; and

WHEREAS, the county conservation law was made purposefully broad to allow local citizens in individual Iowa counties to decide what kinds of conservation and outdoor recreation areas and facilities they want for their county residents; and

WHEREAS, the success of Iowa's county conservation board system over the past 50 years can in part be attributed to the provision of the county conservation law requiring board members to be selected and appointed on the basis of their demonstrated interest in conservation matters; and

WHEREAS, once appointed, conservation board members are removed one step from the political process and are empowered to make long-range decisions and have

HR 24

1 complete oversight of the county conservation board
2 program; and

3 WHEREAS, Iowa's county conservation boards depend
4 on funding from the state's resource enhancement and
5 protection (REAP) program to help support essential
6 county programs; and

7 WHEREAS, this funding assists counties, through
8 their conservation boards, to fulfill locally
9 determined vital needs including, but not limited to,
10 outdoor recreation, conservation education, and
11 natural resource acquisition and protection; NOW

12 THEREFORE,

13 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
14 That the House of Representatives congratulates Iowa's
15 county conservation boards on the 50th anniversary of
16 the creation of the system and thanks all the board
17 members, past and present, for their service to the
18 people of Iowa in providing for the conservation of
19 our natural heritage and increasing the recreational
20 opportunities that make Iowa a better place to live.

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