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(Original Signature of Member)

111TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. RES.

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the promotion of recreational fishing and boating should be a national priority, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. BLUNT submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on _____

RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the promotion of recreational fishing and boating should be a national priority, and for other purposes.

Whereas the United States is fortunate to possess a wealth of natural resources and has a long history of stewardship of those resources;

Whereas just as a farmer carefully tends the land on which his survival depends, many of the Nation's best resource stewards are those who use the resource and for whom the resource holds intrinsic value for sustenance, survival, or cultural tradition;

Whereas recreational fishermen (both men and women) are prime examples of responsible resource stewards, as they place an extremely high value on the quality and existence of the Nation's coastal waters and freshwater resources;

Whereas recreational fishermen respect the Nation's marine and freshwater habitats because they know that in order for these ecosystems to sustain the aquatic life and natural wonder for which they are sought, these resources must be protected and carefully managed;

Whereas fishing as a pastime in the United States boasts strong support, with 93 percent of Americans indicating they support legal recreational fishing, and it is an activity that is enjoyed by Americans across all age, gender, socioeconomic, and ethnic distinctions;

Whereas recreational fishermen contribute significantly to the national and regional economies through expenditures related to equipment and gear, fuel, lodging, and food, with current total sportfishing-related expenditures exceeding \$125 billion and supporting over 1 million jobs;

Whereas President Obama created an Interagency Ocean Policy Task Force in June, 2009 and charged the Task Force with recommending a national policy to ensure the protection, maintenance, and restoration of oceans, coasts, and the Great Lakes;

Whereas the Task Force has issued two reports since its creation: the Interim Report of the Interagency Ocean Policy Task Force and the Interim Framework for Effective Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning;

Whereas in each of these reports the Task Force failed to expressly recognize the promotion of responsibly regulated

recreational fishing as a national priority for the oceans, coasts, and the Great Lakes; and

Whereas without recognition of the promotion of recreational fishing as a national priority, recreational fishing opportunities could become more limited, curtailed, or even potentially eliminated: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That it is the sense of the House of Rep-
2 resentatives that—

3 (1) continued access to public waters for rec-
4 reational fishing and boating should be a national
5 priority;

6 (2) the final report of the Interagency Ocean
7 Policy Task Force should include the promotion of
8 recreational fishing and boating as a national pri-
9 ority; and

10 (3) in implementing the recommendations of
11 the Interagency Ocean Policy Task Force, the Presi-
12 dent should take necessary actions to provide for the
13 promotion of recreational fishing and boating.