

107TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. CON. RES. 275

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the Congress that hunting seasons for migratory mourning doves should be modified so that individuals have a fair and equitable opportunity to hunt such birds.

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Whereas the vast majority of mourning doves that hatch, fledge, and nest in States north of 37 degrees north latitude migrate south beyond the boundaries of those States before the national hunting season opening date of September 1, thus denying hunters in those States an equitable opportunity to harvest this species;

Whereas mourning doves are the most widely distributed and harvested game birds in North America;

Whereas current regulated hunting for mourning doves has been conclusively found to cause no significant effects on recruitment of fledglings in mourning dove populations;

Whereas sportsmen have a strong commitment to the health, conservation, and enjoyment of wildlife, as demonstrated by the millions of dollars they have voluntarily paid over the past 70 years into the Federal Aid to Wildlife Restoration Fund established by the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act (16 U.S.C. 669 et seq.);

Whereas mourning dove hunting has been a cherished and honored tradition in the United States for generations;

Whereas migratory bird hunters provide millions of dollars to wildlife conservation and local economies; and

Whereas millions of hunters in States north of 37 degrees north latitude are currently unable to experience hunting conditions similar to conditions in other regions of the country with respect to game availability because of the current unfair hunting season restrictions: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*
 2 *concurring)*, That it is the sense of Congress that, to pro-
 3 vide a fair and equitable opportunity for individuals to
 4 hunt for mourning doves—

5 (1) the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918
 6 should be modified to allow for mourning dove hunt-
 7 ing during the last week of August in areas north

1 of 37 degrees north latitude, as approved by the par-
2 ties to the appropriate international agreement;

3 (2) such an extended hunting season will—

4 (A) improve hunting opportunities in the
5 United States without causing negative impacts
6 on mourning dove populations;

7 (B) through the sale of hunting permits,
8 generate additional revenue that may be used
9 for the better management and conservation of
10 mourning doves and other wildlife species; and

11 (C) continue to provide for the conserva-
12 tion and enhancement of mourning dove popu-
13 lations;

14 (3) the United States should take immediate
15 steps to begin discussions with the appropriate par-
16 ties to ensure that all Americans have an oppor-
17 tunity to harvest migratory mourning doves in an
18 equitable manner; and

19 (4) hunters in all States located north of 37 de-
20 grees north latitude and the wildlife management

1 agencies of those States should support an earlier
2 opening date for the mourning dove hunting season.

Passed the House of Representatives March 6,
2002.

Attest:

Clerk.