

MIDWEST ASSOCIATION OF FISH AND WILDLIFE AGENCIES' RESOLUTION

Whereas, the first Wetland Loan Act (WLA), was passed by Congress in 1961 to promote the conservation of migratory waterfowl through the acquisition of wetlands and other essential waterfowl habitat, and for other purposes; and,

Whereas, initial appropriations were for \$105,000,000, appropriated over a 15-year window; and,

Whereas, continental populations of many species of waterfowl continue to decline and the grassland and wetland habitats upon which they depend are being converted for other purposes; and,

Whereas, 90% of the annual variation in continental duck population growth rates can be attributable to breeding ground variables and habitat factors; and,

Whereas, there is currently no evidence suggesting that wintering and/or migration habitat is limiting recovery of duck populations; and,

Whereas, mid-continent waterfowl production habitat of the Prairie Pothole Region (PPR), is of highest priority for wetland and grassland protection and restoration; and,

Whereas, interest by private landowners to voluntarily sell their land to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service exceeds dollars available in PPR states;

Therefore, be it resolved by the Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies at its annual meeting on July 13, 2005, that: legislation needs to be introduced/passed for a 2006 Emergency Wetland Loan Act appropriation of \$400 million over the next 10 years to address wetland/grassland losses and reverse the downward trend in continental waterfowl populations; this resolution be sent to congressional delegations, Migratory Bird Conservation Commission (Congressman Dingell), non-governmental organizations, USFWS Director and Regional Directors and Flyway Councils; and, the IAFWA be urged to adopt this Resolution as well.