

# State of Arizona



## HOUSE PROCLAMATION

To the Congress of the United States of America:

**Whereas**, Sport fishing routinely draws more than 350,000 participants in Arizona annually, constituting an important component of Arizona's economy, with angler expenditures exceeding \$1.0 billion in 2013; and

**Whereas**, Arizona Game and Fish Department (Department) received more than \$9 million of revenue from the sale of fishing licenses in fiscal year 2013, a significant portion of the agency's budget; and

**Whereas**, Trout produced in both state and federal hatchery systems and stocked into waters throughout Arizona are important in maintaining sport fishing and its economic benefits; and

**Whereas**, The United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) recently completed a reprioritization of its mission and moved sport fishing to the bottom of their priorities as an agency; and

**Whereas**, The United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) recently completed a study predicting that the closure of many National Fish Hatcheries, coupled with funding cuts to many other National Fish Hatcheries, will curtail the stocking of Arizona's water, entailing a loss of associated economic benefits; and

**Whereas**, The continuation of the Ennis National Fish Hatchery's role as a rainbow trout brood facility and eyed egg producer and the continuation of Willow Beach National Fish Hatchery are extremely important to Arizona's trout stocking program and economy; and

**Whereas**, The USFWS entered into an Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in 1959 for the construction, operation, and maintenance of Willow Beach National Fish Hatchery for the purposes of propagating trout; and

**Whereas**, The MOU was to develop in association with the Boulder Canyon Project Act of 1928, an Act providing for the construction of Hoover Dam and the storage of the Colorado River, and which was to remain in effect until terminated by the Secretary of the Interior; and

**Whereas**, the MOU agreed to have the Willow Beach National Fish Hatchery construction, operation, and maintenance be paid for by congressional appropriation; and

**Whereas**, the Willow Beach National Fish Hatchery has a major repair need, due to deferred maintenance over the past 5 years; and

**Whereas**, following the trout die-off at Willow Beach National Fish Hatchery, due to this deferred maintenance, the Department offered to stock trout on the Colorado River and USFWS did not accept this offer; and

**Whereas**, The USFWS also entered into a Memorandum of Agreement, agreeing to provide the Arizona Game and Fish Department with 2 million triploid rainbow trout eyed eggs annually through 2016; and

**Whereas**, the Arizona Game and Fish Commission has requested Members of the Arizona Congressional Delegation and the Arizona State Legislature to take all appropriate actions to insure the USFWS fulfill the national hatchery System mission as a Support to the State's fisheries conservation mission and honor it's MOU's with the states and their associated conservation agencies.

**Therefore, be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of Arizona:**

1. That the United States Congress take immediate action to support the continued operation of the Willow Beach and Ennis National Fish Hatcheries and urge the USFWS, in partnership with Department, to maintain its commitments in full of providing services and stocking of Arizona waters for recreational fishing.
2. That the United States Congress urge the USFWS to honor its commitment to identify specific funds to operate, maintain, and repair the Willow Beach National Fish Hatchery
3. That the United States Congress urge the USFWS to honor its commitment to propagating trout at Willow Beach National Fish Hatchery.
4. That the United States Congress urge the USFWS to coordinate with the States on a review of its *National Hatchery system strategic hatchery and workforce plan* including conducting an economic analysis to determine the impact from their decisions prior to implementation.
5. That the United States Congress consider removal of fish hatcheries and their associated funding and designate those assets and funding to the States for their continued operation.

Dated this 25<sup>th</sup> Day of March, 2014



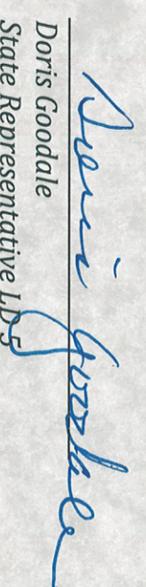
Andy Tobin  
Speaker of the House LD 1



Sony Bottrelli  
State Representative LD 5



David Gowan  
Majority Leader LD 14



Doris Goodale  
State Representative LD 5

