

HOUSE RESOLUTION No. 6017

A RESOLUTION commemorating the 50th anniversary of the National Wild Turkey Federation and recognizing its significant contributions to wildlife management, research and habitat conservation.

WHEREAS, The National Wild Turkey Federation, Inc., (NWTF) was incorporated on March 28, 1973, in Fredericksburg, Virginia; and

WHEREAS, Over the course of 50 years, the NWTF, its members and chapters have worked with state, federal and nongovernmental partners to promote the conservation of the wild turkey; and

WHEREAS, The NWTF works on preserving the United States' hunting heritage, participating in one of the greatest conservation success stories in American history — the return of the wild turkey from the brink of extinction; and

WHEREAS, The NWTF has been at the vanguard of reversing declining hunting participation through nationwide investment in hunter recruitment, retention and reactivation efforts; and

WHEREAS, The NWTF partners with states to develop opportunities to engage people from all walks of life in the outdoors tradition; and

WHEREAS, Since 1985, the NWTF has invested more than half a billion dollars to conserve and enhance more than 22 million acres of critical wildlife habitat, forests and grasslands across public and private lands; and

WHEREAS, Since 2012, the NWTF has recruited and reactivated more than 1.5 million hunters; and

WHEREAS, The NWTF has invested more than \$8.5 million in research throughout North America to ensure healthy wild turkey populations into the future; and

WHEREAS, The NWTF is the largest and longest-serving nongovernmental stewardship partner of the USDA Forest Service; and

WHEREAS, The NWTF has conserved habitat on National Forest System Lands for more than 40 years and has heavily engaged in the development and implementation of the USDA's Wildfire Crisis Strategy; and

WHEREAS, Wild turkeys in Kansas were virtually gone from the state by the early 1900s; and

WHEREAS, The NWTF, with the NWTF chapter system in Kansas, has established itself as a national leader by working to restore wild turkeys in Kansas through trapping efforts in the 1960s and the 1970s; and

WHEREAS, Kansas Department of Wildlife & Parks personnel, NWTF staff and NWTF volunteers have released turkeys obtained from other states with more stable populations, which has created robust wild turkey populations across Kansas; and

WHEREAS, Kansas now sustains one of the highest hunter success rates in the country: Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of Kansas: That we commemorate the 50th anniversary of the National Wild Turkey Federation; and

Be it further resolved: That we salute the organization, its chapters and members from across Kansas and the United States for their tremendous efforts to further state-led wildlife management and the conservation of America's wild turkey; and

Be it further resolved: That we wish the NWTF the best for the future as they continue to deliver their mission by working across land ownership boundaries to increase clean and abundant water, healthy forests, wildlife habitat, resilient communities and robust recreational opportunities.

I hereby certify that the above RESOLUTION originated in the HOUSE, and was adopted by that body

Speaker of the House.

Chief Clerk of the House.