

108TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. CON. RES. 382

Affirming that the intent of Congress in passing the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997 was to allow hunting and fishing on public lands within the National Wildlife Refuge System and declaring that the purpose of reserving certain lands as public lands is to make them available to the public for reasonable uses.

---

## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 11, 2004

Mr. VITTER submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Resources

---

## CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Affirming that the intent of Congress in passing the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997 was to allow hunting and fishing on public lands within the National Wildlife Refuge System and declaring that the purpose of reserving certain lands as public lands is to make them available to the public for reasonable uses.

Whereas hunting and fishing have a long and distinguished history in the United States;

Whereas hunting and fishing remain an important part of the lifestyle and culture of people from many different areas of the country and from all walks of life;

Whereas sportsmen and women have worked for decades to ensure that public lands and other lands which are used

for hunting and fishing have been cared for, protected, and preserved;

Whereas the lands that make up the National Wildlife Refuge System have been widely used for hunting, fishing, and other sporting purposes;

Whereas in 1997 Congress passed the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997, which clearly and directly stated that hunting and fishing, as wildlife-dependent recreational activities, could be considered compatible uses of public lands, including those lands within the National Wildlife Refuge System; and

Whereas the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997 passed by a vote of 419–1, demonstrating the nonpartisan nature of the legislation and the tremendous amount of support it enjoyed: Now, therefore, be it

1       *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*  
2       *concurring), That—*

3               (1) in passing the National Wildlife Refuge Sys-  
4       tem Improvement Act of 1997, Congress dem-  
5       onstrated its clear intent to allow hunting and fish-  
6       ing on the public lands within the National Wildlife  
7       Refuge System;

8               (2) the intent of Congress has not changed in  
9       any way since the National Wildlife Refuge System  
10      Improvement Act of 1997 was enacted, and any as-  
11      sumptions to the contrary are misguided and mis-  
12      interpret the clear intent of Congress; and

1           (3) the general purpose of reserving certain  
2       lands as public lands, including the lands within the  
3       National Wildlife Refuge System, is to make them  
4       available to the public for reasonable uses, which in-  
5       clude hunting, fishing, other wildlife-dependent  
6       sports, and other outdoor purposes.

○