

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 28

1 BY DVORSKY, BLACK, McCOY, KIBBIE, GRONSTAL,
 2 COURTNEY, WOOD, SCHOENJAHN, BOLKCOM, DEARDEN,
 3 HANCOCK, SENG, QUIRMBACH, HORN, WARNSTADT,
 4 DOTZLER, RIELLY, FRAISE, RAGAN, STEWART, CONNOLLY,
 5 BEALL, DANIELSON, KREIMAN, HATCH, HOUSER, HAHN,
 6 BOETTGER, JOHNSON, TINSMAN, WIECK, MILLER, ANGELO,
 7 KETTERING, BEHN, PUTNEY, IVERSON, MCKINLEY, SEYMOUR,
 8 GASKILL, ZIEMAN, and MULDER
 9

10 A Resolution to recognize the 50th anniversary of the
 11 creation of county conservation boards.

12 WHEREAS, 2005 is a historic year for Iowa's county
 13 conservation boards. Fifty years ago the General
 14 Assembly passed Iowa's county conservation law, making
 15 it possible for county residents to create by local
 16 vote their own resource management agencies; and

17 WHEREAS, today, conservation boards serve all 99
 18 counties in Iowa and collectively the county
 19 conservation board system accounts for over 160,000
 20 acres of county park and conservation areas; and

21 WHEREAS, the county conservation program provides
 22 millions of pleasurable outdoor experiences to Iowans
 23 and to visitors to this state each year; and

24 WHEREAS, the county conservation law was made
 25 purposefully broad to allow local citizens in
 26 individual Iowa counties to decide what kinds of
 27 conservation and outdoor recreation areas and
 28 facilities they want for their county residents; and

29 WHEREAS, the success of Iowa's county conservation
 30 board system over the past 50 years can in part be

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 RULES & ADMINISTRATION

1 attributed to the provision of the county conservation
2 law requiring board members to be selected and
3 appointed on the basis of their demonstrated interest
4 in conservation matters; and

5 WHEREAS, once appointed, conservation board members
6 are removed one step from the political process and
7 are empowered to make long-range decisions and have
8 complete oversight of the county conservation board
9 program; and

10 WHEREAS, Iowa's county conservation boards depend
11 on funding from the state's resource enhancement and
12 protection (REAP) program to help support essential
13 county programs; and

14 WHEREAS, this funding assists counties, through
15 their conservation boards, to fulfill locally
16 determined vital needs including, but not limited to,
17 outdoor recreation, conservation education, and
18 natural resource acquisition and protection; NOW
19 THEREFORE,

20 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE, That the Senate
21 congratulates Iowa's county conservation boards on the
22 50th anniversary of the creation of the system and
23 thanks all the board members, past and present, for
24 their service to the people of Iowa in providing for
25 the conservation of our natural heritage and
26 increasing the recreational opportunities that make
27 Iowa a better place to live.

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