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HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 402

Offered February 22, 2023

Commending the National Wild Turkey Federation, Inc.

Patrons—Brewer and Edmunds

WHEREAS, for five decades, the National Wild Turkey Federation, Inc., has supported science-based wildlife management, research, and habitat conservation; and

WHEREAS, the National Wild Turkey Federation was incorporated on March 28, 1973, in Fredericksburg; and

WHEREAS, over the course of 50 years, the National Wild Turkey Federation and its chapters and millions of members across the nation have worked with state, federal, and nongovernmental partners to promote the conservation of the wild turkey and the preservation of the nation's hunting heritage, contributing to one of the greatest conservation success stories in American history, the return of the wild turkey from the brink of extinction; and

WHEREAS, members of the National Wild Turkey Federation have played a critical role in reversing the decline in hunting participation through nationwide investment in hunter recruitment, retention, and reactivation efforts and by partnering with states to develop opportunities to engage people from all walks of life in outdoor activities; since 2012, the organization has recruited and reactivated more than 1.5 million hunters; and

WHEREAS, the National Wild Turkey Federation and its members have invested more than half a billion dollars to conserve or enhance more than 22 million acres of critical wildlife habitat, forests, and grasslands across public and private lands since 1985, while also providing more than \$8.5 million in research throughout North America to ensure healthy wild turkey populations into the future; and

WHEREAS, the National Wild Turkey Federation is the largest and longest-serving nongovernmental stewardship partner of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Forest Service, conserving habitat on National Forest System lands for more than 40 years and heavily engaging in the development and implementation of the USDA's wildfire crisis strategy for protecting communities and improving resilience in forests across America; and

WHEREAS, the National Wild Turkey Federation also works across land-ownership boundaries to increase clean and abundant water and promote healthy forests and wildlife habitat, resilient communities, and robust recreational opportunities across the country; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, That the National Wild Turkey Federation, Inc., hereby be commended on the occasion of its 50th anniversary; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to the National Wild Turkey Federation, Inc., as an expression of the House of Delegates' admiration for the tireless and selfless work of the organization and its members to further science-based, state-led wildlife management and the conservation of America's wild turkey and its habitat.

INTRODUCED

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