

RESOLUTION 11-02

A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE NORFORK AND GREERS FERRY NATIONAL FISH HATCHERIES REQUESTING THAT THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES AND THE ARKANSAS CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION CONTINUE THE IMMEDIATE AND FUTURE FUNDING OF THE SAID HATCHERIES.

WHEREAS, the United State Fish & Wildlife Service plans to cut budgets for the trout hatcheries below Norfolk and Greers Ferry dams; and

WHEREAS, the hatcheries provide the foundation for Arkansas's world-renowned trout fishery waters which produce a total economic impact of over one hundred and fifty million dollars (\$150,000,000.00) annually and cost the taxpayers only one million five hundred thousand dollars (\$1,500,000.00) annually to operate; and

WHEREAS, the hatcheries generate five million five hundred thousand dollars (\$5,500,000.00) in federal tax revenues, roughly three dollars and sixty-five cents (\$3.65) for every dollar invested; and

WHEREAS, seventy-five years ago, the White River was arguably the best smallmouth bass stream in America but with the construction of the dams built within the White River basin in the 1940's , the area lost its incredibly productive native fishery; and

WHEREAS, to help offset the loss of the river's native fishery, the federal government constructed the Norfolk National Fish Hatchery in 1955 which aided with the establishment of world-class trout waters below Norfolk and Bull Shoals Dams; and

WHEREAS, fish production at the Norfolk hatchery supports tourism to an established world-class fishing area further supporting dozens of resorts employing hundreds of individuals thus aiding in the solvency of the cities of Lakeview, Bull Shoals and Cotter, Arkansas, also billed as "Trout Capital USA"; and

WHEREAS, investment in the Norfolk and Greers Ferry fish hatcheries has consistently demonstrated positive returns for more than half a century and economic growth would be damaged, not enhanced, if funding for trout programs is reduced or eliminated; and

WHEREAS, these modest projects rank among the all-time success stories of our federal government because of the overall economic impact and return on investment they produce.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Lakeview, Baxter County, Arkansas that the Council hereby requests that the President and Congress of the United States of America and in particular the Arkansas Congressional Delegation support and continue the immediate and future funding of the Norfolk and Greers Ferry National Fish Hatcheries thus allowing the investment in these hatcheries to continue to contribute to the economic vitality of these cities, the State of Arkansas, and the entire country.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this Resolution be forwarded to the President and the entire Arkansas Congressional Delegation as an expression of our deep concern for the continuation of funding of the aforementioned fish hatcheries so vital to the economic well being of the area.

PASSED, ADOPTED AND APPROVED this 19th day of April , 2011 by the Lakeview City Council.

Dennis A. Behling, Mayor

ATTEST

Rebecca Barton, Recorder/Treasurer