

ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

SECOND SESSION

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 286

Introduced by Bostelman, 23; Aguilar, 35; Arch, 14; Blood, 3; Bostar, 29; Brandt, 32; Briese, 41; Cavanaugh, J., 9; Cavanaugh, M., 6; DeBoer, 10; Dorn, 30; Friesen, 34; Geist, 25; Gragert, 40; Hansen, B., 16; Hansen, M., 26; Hilgers, 21; Hilkemann, 4; Hughes, 44; Hunt, 8; Kolterman, 24; Lathrop, 12; Lindstrom, 18; Linehan, 39; McCollister, 20; McDonnell, 5; McKinney, 11; Morfeld, 46; Murman, 38; Pahls, 31; Pansing Brooks, 28; Sanders, 45; Slama, 1; Stinner, 48; Vargas, 7; Walz, 15; Wayne, 13; Williams, 36; Wishart, 27.

WHEREAS, the fiftieth anniversary of Nebraska's natural resources districts is on July 1, 2022; and

WHEREAS, the Legislature passed LB1357 in 1969 to merge one hundred fifty-four political subdivisions into natural resources districts to provide local management of natural resources based on river basin boundaries; and

WHEREAS, the reorganization into natural resources districts was completed on July 1, 1972; and

WHEREAS, Nebraska's natural resources districts play a critical role in the conservation of natural resources locally, statewide, and nationally; and

WHEREAS, Nebraska's natural resources districts protect water, our most precious resource, by finding a balance between competing uses, an essential element to sustaining our state's resources for future generations; and

WHEREAS, Nebraska's groundwater resources are at predevelopment levels thanks to local management and controls implemented by natural resources districts; and

WHEREAS, Nebraska's natural resources districts work with landowners and partner organizations to minimize flood damage by protecting people and property with watershed structures such as dams, levees, dikes and drainage ditches; and

WHEREAS, Nebraska's natural resources districts have built more than seven hundred flood control structures and levees across Nebraska; and

WHEREAS, Nebraska's natural resources districts have developed multi-use

projects providing public access to lakes, trails, and wetland areas across more than eighty recreation areas throughout the state; and

WHEREAS, Nebraska's natural resources districts have planted nearly one hundred million trees and shrubs in windbreak structures and urban forestry programs; and

WHEREAS, Nebraska's natural resources districts have been instrumental in assisting landowners with improving grazing lands and pastures; and

WHEREAS, Nebraska's natural resources districts organize projects and programs to educate both youth and adults about conservation and natural resources; and

WHEREAS, Nebraska's natural resources districts have been invaluable in managing, conserving, and sustaining the state's natural resources for future generations; and

WHEREAS, Nebraska's natural resources districts are a model for the other states and countries to successfully manage natural resources.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA, SECOND SESSION:

1. That the Legislature congratulates Nebraska's twenty-three natural resources districts for fifty years of protecting lives, property, and the future of Nebraska.

2. That the Legislature recognizes all past and current natural resources district board members and staff for their dedicated service to the state in protecting our natural resources.

3. That copies of this resolution be sent to each of the twenty-three natural resources district offices.