

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 46th Legislature (1997)

HOUSE CONCURRENT
RESOLUTION NO. 1054

By: Pope (Clay)

AS INTRODUCED

A Concurrent Resolution memorializing the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to not harm family farms and the citizens of the state as it relates to the execution of a conservation strategy for the Arkansas River Shiner; and directing distribution.

WHEREAS, agriculture is the number one industry in Oklahoma with an annual economic value of agricultural production totaling more than \$6 billion; and

WHEREAS, the performance of the agricultural economy is important to maintaining the strength of the Oklahoma and the national economy; and

WHEREAS, agriculture production is dependent on the beneficial use of an abundant water supply, both surface and underground; and

WHEREAS, the citizens of Oklahoma, both rural and urban, rely on the beneficial use of an abundant water supply; and

WHEREAS, the Arkansas River Shiner, a minnow attaining a maximum length of no more than fifty-one millimeters (two inches) and native to the Arkansas River Basin, once existed in abundance in many of the rivers of the State of Oklahoma; and

WHEREAS, the species numbers have declined due to many different reasons, at least in part by the progressive actions of the state and federal governments doing such things to aid the citizens of Oklahoma as building dams and reservoirs; and

WHEREAS, the Arkansas River Shiner is expected to be listed as "Threatened" by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; and

WHEREAS, the "Threatened" designation gives the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service the authority to undertake certain recovery actions as authorized in the Endangered Species Act; and

WHEREAS, the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to construct and execute a conservation strategy for the Arkansas River Shiner.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE 1ST SESSION OF THE 46TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE, THE SENATE CONCURRING THEREIN:

THAT the Oklahoma Legislature hereby memorializes the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to do no harm to family farms by restricting water usage and/or conventional farming practices and to do no harm to the citizens of Oklahoma by restricting water usage, as they execute a conservation strategy for the Arkansas River Shiner.

THAT copies of this resolution shall be sent to the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and to each member of the Oklahoma Congressional Delegation.

46-1-7853 ARE