

ENGROSSED SENATE
CONCURRENT
RESOLUTION NO. 16

By: Justice, Allen, Anderson,
Barrington, Bass, Bice,
Bingman, Boggs, Brecheen,
Brinkley, Brooks, Brown,
Crain, Dahm, David, Fields,
Floyd, Ford, Fry, Garrison,
Griffin, Halligan, Holt,
Jech, Jolley, Loveless,
Marlatt, Mazzei, Newberry,
Paddack, Pittman, Quinn,
Schulz, Sharp, Shaw,
Shortey, Silk, Simpson,
Smalley, Sparks,
Standridge, Stanislawski,
Sykes, Thompson, Treat,
Wyrick, and Yen of the
Senate

and

Osborn of the House

A Concurrent Resolution designating April 14, 2015,
as "Dust Bowl Remembrance Day"; applauding the heroic
work of the Oklahoma Dust Bowl survivors' farm and
ranch families; encouraging the continued adoption of
improved conservation practices; and directing
distribution.

WHEREAS, the Dust Bowl of the 1930s is recognized as the
greatest man-made ecological disaster of modern times; and

WHEREAS, farming practices ill-suited for the Southern Plains
and long-term drought resulted in the dust storms beyond what many
believed possible — many so massive they blew beyond our Great

1 Plains to darken the streets of New York and Washington, D.C. So
2 great were these storms, ships 300 miles from the Atlantic shore
3 were dusted by soil from the farms of Oklahoma; and

4 WHEREAS, April 14, 2015, marks the 80th anniversary of "Black
5 Sunday", the largest dust storm of this period, an event so massive,
6 it is estimated this single storm moved more soil in one day than
7 was excavated to build the Panama Canal; and

8 WHEREAS, although many families were forced to leave the land,
9 the survivors and their families persevered. The families who
10 endured the relentless drought and dust through the Great Depression
11 are heroes to Oklahoma and the nation; and

12 WHEREAS, through their efforts in partnership with the Soil
13 Conservation Service (now the Natural Resources Conservation
14 Service), Local Conservation Districts and the Oklahoma Conservation
15 Commission, the tide of dust created during the 1930s was turned
16 back. Approximately 1.5 million acres of abandoned farmland was
17 returned to productive agriculture through voluntary, locally led
18 conservation practices; and

19 WHEREAS, today's drought exceeds that of the 1930s, yet our
20 soils remain productive, our crops sustaining, our air and water
21 refreshing. These facts bear witness to the legacy of our Dust Bowl
22 survivors, who found courage in the horror of Black Sunday and other
23 dust storms and resolved to heal our land. The continued work which
24 these survivors began voluntarily and in partnership with state,

1 local, and federal conservation agencies represents a bastion of
2 progress which the dust shall never surmount.

3 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE 1ST SESSION
4 OF THE 55TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
5 CONCURRING THEREIN:

6 THAT the Oklahoma Legislature designates April 14, 2015, as
7 "Dust Bowl Remembrance Day" in Oklahoma.

8 THAT the Oklahoma Legislature applauds the heroic work
9 undertaken by the Oklahoma Dust Bowl survivors' farm and ranch
10 families to restore and protect our environment while continuing to
11 feed and clothe the nation.

12 THAT the Oklahoma Legislature encourages the continued voluntary
13 adoption of improved conservation practices in an effort to maintain
14 agricultural production while protecting the health of our soil and
15 water resources.

16 THAT a copy of this resolution be distributed to the Oklahoma
17 Association of Conservation Districts.

1 Adopted by the Senate the 13th day of April, 2015.

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3 _____
4 Presiding Officer of the Senate

5 Adopted by the House of Representatives the ____ day of _____,
6 2015.

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8 _____
9 Presiding Officer of the House
of Representatives