

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 55th Legislature (2015)

SENATE CONCURRENT
RESOLUTION 16

By: Justice of the Senate

and

Osborn of the House

AS INTRODUCED

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

WHEREAS, April 14, 2015, marks the 80th anniversary of "Black
Sunday", the largest dust storm of this period, an event so massive,

1 it is estimated this single storm moved more soil in one day than
2 was excavated to build the Panama Canal; and

3 WHEREAS, although many families were forced to leave the land,
4 the survivors and their families persevered. The families who
5 endured the relentless drought and dust through the Great Depression
6 are heroes to Oklahoma and the nation; and

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

14 WHEREAS, today's drought exceeds that of the 1930s, yet our
15 soils remain productive, our crops sustaining, our air and water
16 refreshing. These facts bear witness to the legacy of our Dust Bowl
17 survivors, who found courage in the horror of Black Sunday and other
18 dust storms and resolved to heal our land. The continued work which
19 these survivors began voluntarily and in partnership with state,
20 local, and federal conservation agencies represents a bastion of
21 progress which the dust shall never surmount.

22 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE 1ST SESSION
23 OF THE 55TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
24 CONCURRING THEREIN:

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

3 THAT the Oklahoma Legislature applauds the heroic work
4 undertaken by the Oklahoma Dust Bowl survivors' farm and ranch
5 families to restore and protect our environment while continuing to
6 feed and clothe the nation.

7 THAT the Oklahoma Legislature encourages the continued voluntary
8 adoption of improved conservation practices in an effort to maintain
9 agricultural production while protecting the health of our soil and
10 water resources.

11 THAT a copy of this resolution be distributed to the Oklahoma
12 Association of Conservation Districts.

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14 55-1-1704

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