



State of Wisconsin
2023 - 2024 LEGISLATURE

LRB-5772/1
CMH:amn

2023 ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION 121

February 14, 2024 - Introduced by Representatives BILLINGS, OLDENBURG, DOYLE, PRONSCHINSKE and TRANEL, cosponsored by Senators MARKLEIN, SMITH and PFAFF. Referred to Committee on Rules.

1 **Relating to:** proclaiming June 7, 2024, as Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife
2 and Fish Refuge Day.

3 Whereas, the Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge was
4 formed 100 years ago by legislative action to develop systematic evaluation and
5 management of this protected area for the future generations; and

6 Whereas, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Friends of Refuge organizations,
7 federal and state partners, and others work to conserve, protect, and enhance habitat
8 as a breeding ground for migratory birds, fish, other wildlife, and plants for the
9 continuing benefit of the American people; and

10 Whereas, the refuge has been designated as a Wetland of International
11 Importance by the Ramsar Convention and a Globally Important Bird Area; and

12 Whereas, the 240,000-acre refuge extends 261 miles along the Upper
13 Mississippi River from the confluence of the Chippewa River near Wabasha, MN, to
14 Princeton, IA, and crosses four states: Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, Wisconsin, and the

1 Americans who live in the communities along the river depend on the river for
2 commerce, recreation, water supply, and environmental benefits; and

3 Whereas, the refuge hosts 3.7 million visitors annually and provides a variety
4 of wildlife-dependent recreational opportunities to the public, including
5 opportunities for hunting, fishing, wildlife observation, wildlife photography, and
6 environmental education and interpretation; and

7 Whereas, the refuge addresses significant issues, including threatened and
8 endangered species, waterfowl migration, neotropical migratory birds, bottomland
9 hardwood restoration, cultural resources, public use, and forest fragmentation; now,
10 therefore, be it

11 ***Resolved by the assembly, the senate concurring, That*** the members of the
12 Wisconsin Legislature proclaim June 7, 2024, as Upper Mississippi River National
13 Wildlife and Fish Refuge Day in the State of Wisconsin.

14 (END)