

1999 ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION 12

1 **Relating to:** urging the members of the Wisconsin delegation to the U. S. Congress
2 to support proposed federal legislation that would provide revenues to
3 Wisconsin from the development of oil and natural gas resources on the outer
4 continental shelf.

5 Whereas, each year the federal government receives billions of dollars in
6 revenues from the development of oil and natural gas resources on the outer
7 continental shelf (OCS), a capital asset of this nation; and

8 Whereas, during the 105th Congress, companion bills were introduced in the
9 U.S. house of representatives (H.R. 4717, the Conservation and Reinvestment Act
10 of 1998) and the U.S. senate (S. 2566, the Reinvestment and Environmental Act of
11 1998) that would provide additional revenue to Wisconsin for conservation purposes;
12 and

13 Whereas, Wisconsin is a coastal state within the meaning of that term, as
14 defined in the bills, because it borders Lake Superior and Lake Michigan; and

1 Whereas, these bills have the potential to provide coastal state impact
2 assistance, benefit land-based recreation, support the state and federal sides of the
3 Land and Water Conservation Fund and fund wildlife conservation and related
4 recreation and education in Wisconsin at levels of at least \$19 million; and

5 Whereas, since the early 1970's the department of natural resources has,
6 working through the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies
7 (IAFWA), and more recently through the IAFWA-led Teaming With Wildlife
8 Coalition, supported a permanent budget authority mechanism for nongame wildlife
9 modeled after the proven Federal Aid in Wildlife (Pittman-Roberts) and Sport Fish
10 Restoration Program (Dingell-Johnson); and

11 Whereas, with year 2000 oil and gas revenue estimates of \$4.59 billion, the
12 department of natural resources could get additional federal revenues equal to or
13 greater than the current combined Pittman-Roberts and Dingell-Johnson income
14 for a comprehensive wildlife program, and especially for nongame fish and wildlife,
15 allowing for the development of proactive, fully responsive conservation education
16 programs such as Watchable Wildlife; and

17 Whereas, both bills were introduced with bipartisan sponsorship and with the
18 support of more than 3,000 conservation organizations and related businesses; now,
19 therefore, be it

20 ***Resolved by the assembly, the senate concurring, That*** the members of the
21 Wisconsin legislature respectfully urge the members of the Wisconsin congressional
22 delegation to support and work to ensure passage of successor legislation that
23 secures similar resources for Wisconsin in the next Congress; and, be it further

