

119TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

S. RES. _____

Raising awareness of lake sturgeon.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. WELCH submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the
Committee on _____

RESOLUTION

Raising awareness of lake sturgeon.

Whereas lake sturgeon (*Acipenser fulvescens*) are some of the largest North American freshwater fishes and can live for 150 years or longer;

Whereas lake sturgeon are considered living fossils, as their lineage dates back to the time of dinosaurs, making them among the oldest fish species still in existence;

Whereas lake sturgeon are slow to reproduce as they may not spawn until they are at least 10 to 30 years old, and they only spawn every 4 years on average;

Whereas lake sturgeon are found across the Great Lakes, the Northeastern United States, and Southeastern Canada;

Whereas lake sturgeon are bottom-dwelling fish that require extensive areas of shallow water to feed on a wide variety of organisms;

Whereas historical overfishing, invasive species, and habitat degradation have caused declines in the population of local lake sturgeon;

Whereas many States list lake sturgeon as an endangered, threatened, or otherwise protected species;

Whereas lake sturgeon serve an important role as an indicator of an ecosystem's health;

Whereas lake sturgeon attract the attention of the public because of their large size and prehistoric body;

Whereas many Federal agencies, States, Tribes, and local communities are collaborating on lake sturgeon management programs that are reestablishing healthy lake sturgeon populations; and

Whereas lake sturgeon have cultural importance for many Indigenous communities, representing a traditional food source: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the Senate encourages—

2 (1) continued collaboration among Federal,
3 State, Tribal, and other partners to manage and in-
4 crease lake sturgeon populations across their exten-
5 sive range;

6 (2) continued collaboration with Canada to
7 jointly manage and increase lake sturgeon popu-
8 lations in our shared waters;

9 (3) continued efforts to identify, protect, and
10 restore the habitat of lake sturgeon;

1 (4) continued efforts to prevent and control the
2 spread of invasive species and restore the reproduc-
3 tive habitat of lake sturgeon;

4 (5) increased public awareness of lake sturgeon;
5 and

6 (6) the education of anglers and local commu-
7 nities on the proper ways to handle lake sturgeon if
8 caught.