

By: McBride

To: Rules

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 74

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION MEMORIALIZING MISSISSIPPI'S
2 CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION TO SUPPORT PERMANENT FUNDING FOR THE LAND
3 AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND.

4 WHEREAS, in 1964, Congress created the Land and Water
5 Conservation Fund (LWCF) to assure that all Americans have access
6 to high quality recreation resources, to enhance the health and
7 vitality of the Nation, and to preserve valuable habitat; and

8 WHEREAS, investments from the fund support the creation of
9 public parks, acquisitions and management of forests, preservation
10 of clean water and open spaces and guarantee outdoor recreation
11 opportunities, and other social and environmental objectives for
12 the Nation; and

13 WHEREAS, since its creation, the LWCF has been responsible
14 for the acquisition of nearly 7,000,000 acres of parks, public
15 forests and open spaces and the development of more than 37,000
16 state and local resource conservation and recreation projects,
17 including playgrounds, ball fields, national historic sites,
18 scenic trails and nature preserves; and

19 WHEREAS, since its inception, the State of Mississippi has
20 received \$128,503,202 towards the establishment of over 500 sites
21 including the University of Mississippi, Oxford Recreation and
22 Soccer Complex, Oxford Little League Park, Batesville Community
23 Park, Roosevelt State Park, Rolling Fork Recreational Parks,
24 Washington County Park, Yazoo City Recreation Park, Okatibbee
25 Creek Water Park, Meridian City Parks, Pascagoula Community Park,
26 Natchez National Historical Park, Vicksburg National Military

27 Park, Bogue Chitto National Wildlife Refuge, Mississippi Sandhill
28 Crane National Wildlife Refuge, and numerous other sites; and

29 WHEREAS, Congress envisioned and encouraged, and the Act
30 authorizes, federal, state and local partnerships to create a
31 national network of public parks accessible to all people; and

32 WHEREAS, the fund emphasizes the need to conserve public
33 spaces and to develop and maintain national, state and local
34 resources in anticipation of increasing population and response to
35 rapid changes in land use and availability; and

36 WHEREAS, for years, the federal program has been under-funded
37 and no allocations have been made to fund the stateside grant
38 program; and

39 WHEREAS, without congressional allocations for federal land
40 acquisition for national parks, forests, wildlife refuges, and
41 other lands, opportunities for outdoor recreation is hindered, and
42 for stateside programs, states are severely limited in their
43 capacity to develop parks and open spaces or provide funds to
44 local jurisdictions for the creation of neighborhood recreational
45 opportunities; and

46 WHEREAS, the need to preserve open spaces and develop and
47 maintain national, state and local parks and recreational
48 facilities becomes more critical each year due to the demands
49 placed on such facilities by ever-increasing populations:

50 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
51 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, THE SENATE CONCURRING
52 THEREIN, That we do hereby recognize as a critical need, the full
53 and permanent funding of the Land and Water Conservation Fund and
54 urge the Mississippi Congressional Delegation to support
55 legislation to provide such full and permanent funding.

56 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
57 furnished to the Mississippi Congressional Delegation and to
58 members of the Capitol Press Corps.