

By: Senator(s) Seymour, Moran

To: Rules

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 533

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION RECOMMENDING THAT THE FEDERAL
 2 GOVERNMENT CAREFULLY CONSIDER THE RIGHTS AND PRIVILEGES OF THE
 3 GENERAL PUBLIC IN ADOPTING ANY ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIONS BY THE
 4 UNITED STATES FOREST SERVICE THAT RESTRICT, REDUCE OR ELIMINATE
 5 RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES OR THAT OTHERWISE CONTRADICT THE
 6 RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES PROVIDED BY THE MISSISSIPPI
 7 LEGISLATURE, ESPECIALLY HUNTING AND FISHING BY ANY AND ALL
 8 TRADITIONAL MEANS, ON NATIONAL FOREST LANDS LOCATED IN MISSISSIPPI
 9 THAT ARE CONSIDERED OPEN PUBLIC LAND.

10 WHEREAS, President Theodore Roosevelt said in regards to
 11 National Forests, Parks and Antiquities, "The rights of the public
 12 to the natural resources outweigh private rights, and must be
 13 given first consideration"; and

14 WHEREAS, there are six National Forests in the State of
 15 Mississippi owned by the people, with the oldest being established
 16 in 1936, that offer 1.2 million acres of public land for
 17 recreational opportunities; and

18 WHEREAS, National Forest Lands in Mississippi have
 19 historically been observed as open public land and not designated
 20 for the benefit of private individuals; and



21 WHEREAS, state-designated hunting and fishing seasons and
22 regulations have historically been established on these National
23 Forest Lands; and

24 WHEREAS, at the November 4, 2014, election, Mississippi
25 voters approved House Concurrent Resolution No. 30 which added
26 Section 12A to the Mississippi Constitution: "The people have the
27 right to hunt, fish and harvest wildlife, including by the use of
28 traditional methods, subject only to laws and regulations that
29 promote wildlife conservation and management and that preserve the
30 future of hunting and fishing, as the Legislature may prescribe by
31 general law. Public hunting and fishing shall be a preferred
32 means of managing and controlling wildlife"; and

33 WHEREAS, reduction in recreational opportunities on National
34 Forest Lands in Mississippi by the federal government would
35 severely reduce activities enjoyed by the public that are part of
36 local traditions and heritage, and curtail alternate activities
37 for young and old adults alike which encourage them to be
38 productive members of society and pass these traditions to future
39 generations:

40 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
41 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That
42 we do hereby recommend that the federal government carefully
43 consider the rights and privileges of the general public in
44 adopting any administrative actions by the United States Forest
45 Service that restrict, reduce or eliminate recreational



46 opportunities or that otherwise contradict the recreational
47 opportunities provided by the Mississippi Legislature, especially
48 hunting and fishing by any and all traditional means, on National
49 Forest Lands located in Mississippi that are considered open
50 public land.

51 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be transmitted
52 to the members of Mississippi's Congressional Delegation and State
53 Forest Supervisor Carl Petrick of the United States Forest
54 Service, and made available to the Capitol Press Corps.

