

By: Senator(s) Horhn

To: Rules

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 21

1 A RESOLUTION EXTENDING THE RECOGNITION OF THE MISSISSIPPI  
2 SENATE TO ACCOMPLISHED WRITER, POET AND EDUCATOR DR. ANN  
3 FISHER-WIRTH AS THE RECIPIENT OF THE 2023 GOVERNOR'S ARTS AWARD  
4 FOR EXCELLENCE IN LITERATURE AND POETRY.

5 WHEREAS, the Governor's Arts Awards Program has announced its  
6 2023 recipients, which include accomplished writer, poet and  
7 educator Dr. Ann Fisher-Wirth as the 2023 Governor's Arts Award  
8 for Excellence in Literature and Poetry; and

9 WHEREAS, established in 1988, Governor's Arts Awards are  
10 given to individuals and organizations to recognize outstanding  
11 work in the artistic disciplines, as well as arts-based community  
12 development and arts patronage in Mississippi. The awards are  
13 presented in partnership with the Governor's Office and signify  
14 the important relationship between government and the arts; and

15 WHEREAS, Dr. Ann Fisher-Wirth is an accomplished writer and  
16 educator recognized internationally for her poetry, scholarly  
17 works, and commitment to ecological causes. In 1988, she and her  
18 husband, Peter Wirth, moved to Oxford, Mississippi, where both  
19 would begin long tenures at the University of Mississippi.



20 Fisher-Wirth's sixth book of poems, *The Bones of Winter Birds*, was  
21 published by Terrapin Press in February 2019. Her fifth book,  
22 *Mississippi*, is a poetry/photography collaboration with Delta  
23 photographer Maude Schuyler Clay, a 2015 Governor's Arts Award  
24 recipient. Her other books of poems are *Dream Cabinet*, *Carta*  
25 *Marina*, *Blue Window*, and *Five Terraces*, and the chapbooks *The*  
26 *Trinket Poems*, *Walking Wu-Wei's Scroll*, and *Slide Shows*. With  
27 Laura-Gray Street she coedited *The Ecopoetry Anthology*, published  
28 by Trinity University Press in 2013. Her poems appear widely and  
29 have received numerous awards, including a *Malahat Review* Long  
30 Poem Prize, the Rita Dove Poetry Award, the Mississippi Institute  
31 of Arts and Letters Poetry Award, three Mississippi Arts  
32 Commission fellowships, and thirteen Pushcart nominations  
33 including a Special Mention. A senior fellow and board member of  
34 Black Earth Institute, Fisher-Wirth was the 2017 Anne Spencer Poet  
35 in Residence at Randolph College; and

36 WHEREAS, Fisher-Wirth has had a senior Fulbright lectureship  
37 to the University of Fribourg in Switzerland and has held the  
38 Fulbright Distinguished Chair at Uppsala University in Sweden. In  
39 2006, she was President of the Association for the Study of  
40 Literature and Environment; and

41 WHEREAS, before her recent retirement, Fisher-Wirth taught  
42 poetry and other subjects for 33 years at the University of  
43 Mississippi. In addition to her work as a poet, educator, and  
44 scholarly writer, she has dedicated both time and energy to



45 community causes and the environment. She taught poetry writing  
46 to incarcerated men at Parchman Penitentiary and led the  
47 university's minor in Environmental Studies; and

48 WHEREAS, she is married to Peter Wirth; between them they  
49 have five children and six grandchildren; and

50 WHEREAS, it is with great pride that we pay tribute and  
51 express appreciation for the talent of a Mississippi author, poet,  
52 educator and mentor who has made Mississippi a better place and  
53 exemplifies the artistic and literary traditions of our great  
54 state:

55 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF  
56 MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby extend the recognition of the  
57 Mississippi Senate to accomplished writer, poet and educator Dr.  
58 Ann Fisher-Wirth as the recipient of the 2023 Governor's Arts  
59 Award for excellence in literature and poetry and extend our  
60 congratulations to an artistic-literary leader on this auspicious  
61 occasion.

62 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to  
63 Dr. Ann Fisher-Wirth as part of the Governor's Arts Awards  
64 presentation and made available to the Capitol Press Corps.

