

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.

