HR37

S6BX777-1

By Representatives Smith, Bedsole, Treadaway

RFD:

First Read: 14-Feb-24

HR____ COMMENDING ALABAMA PRO ANGLER DUSTIN CONNELL ON WINNING HIS FIFTH PRO TOUR.

WHEREAS, highest commendations and congratulations are herein proudly conveyed to Alabama's own Dustin Connell for scoring his fifth Bass Pro Tour Win at Stage One on Toledo Bend, which was held in Many, Louisiana, from January 30, 2024 - February 4, 2024; and

WHEREAS, a native of Clanton, Alabama, Dustin Connell developed a love and drive for fishing at a very young age; he learned from his older brother, James, and followed him to ponds and lakes to fish every chance he could; for hours at a time, he would fish for bass at Lay Lake; and

WHEREAS, after fishing for fun for many years, he competed in his first bass tournament with his brother when he was only 12 years old; they ended up in second place and he won $100; he later said, "The thrill of the hunt, the competition, the paycheck - every part of that first event got me hooked on tournament fishing"; and

WHEREAS, a Chilton County High School Class of 2008 graduate, Dustin Connell matriculated to The University of Alabama and earned a Bachelor of Science in Marketing, a degree program he chose to help him work with sponsors as a pro angler, which was always his motivating goal; he continued to fish every tournament he could as a high school

and college angler; but he had to work long, hard hours in construction after college in order to be in a position to pursue tournament fishing full-time; and

WHEREAS, his determination and efforts paid off, and in 2017 he claimed an Elite Series win and was named B.A.S.S. Rookie of the Year; in 2018, he earned an invitation to join Major League Fishing (MLF) on the Bass Pro Tour; and

WHEREAS, winning Stage Three of the 2022 Bass Pro Tour pushed him to nearly $1 million in career earnings, and he followed it up with a win at Stage Six of the 2022 Bass Pro Tour; this win made Dustin Connell one of the winningest anglers in Bass Pro Tour history as only Jacob Wheeler and Ott DeFoe had won three or more events on the Bass Pro Tour; he capped off the 2022 season with his fourth Bass Pro Tour win at Stage Seven at Mille Lacs Lake; and

WHEREAS, in 2024, Dustin Connell scored his fifth Bass Pro Tour win at Stage One on Toledo Bend; he claimed victory by catching 36 bass that altogether weighed 112 pounds and 4 ounces; this remarkable achievement earned him the first-place prize of $100,000 at the MLF Bass Pro Tour B&W Trailer Hitches Stage One at Toledo Bend, sponsored by Power-Pole; his Championship Round total nearly doubled the rest of the 10-man field, earning the win by a whopping 44-pound, 2-ounce margin over the second place winner; Connell's total marked the biggest day for any angler during the event; and

WHEREAS, in addition to this win marking his fifth

Bass Pro Tour victory, the second most of all-time, it was his third straight in regular season events contested with every-fish-counts scoring; and

WHEREAS, the occasion of Dustin Connell winning his fifth Bass Pro Tour is an accomplishment to be celebrated; his dedication, strong desire for success, constant training, and tireless and diligent efforts to achieve excellence serve as a valuable example to aspiring athletes across the country and in his home State of Alabama; now therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, That we highly commend and congratulate Dustin Connell for his outstanding victory at the MLF Bass Pro Tour at Stage One on Toledo Bend, clinching his fifth win on the Bass Pro Tour, and we hereby dedicate this resolution to him with utmost admiration, along with sincere best wishes for continued success.