

# Resolution in Support of the Kankakee National Wildlife Refuge and Conservation Area

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Whereas, the US Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS or Service) has approved the Kankakee National Wildlife Refuge and Conservation Area (KNWR&CA) for northeast Illinois and northwest Indiana in 2016; and

Whereas, the “refuge” would consist of up to 20,000 acres of protected and restored acres of prairie and savanna habitat in the Kankakee Sands sections of Illinois; and

Whereas, the “conservation area” would have the Service working with numerous public and private partners to further the conservation goals of the USFWS for the Kankakee River basin in Indiana; and

Whereas, the KNWR&CA would protect hundreds of species of plants and animals in Indiana and Illinois, many of which are state and federal species of concern; and

Whereas, wetland restoration on the KNWR&CA holds obvious benefits to store flood waters and reduce flooding and sedimentation; and

Whereas, federal law prohibits the USFWS from negatively impacting drainage on neighboring properties; and

Whereas, the funding for the Refuge and Conservation Area will come from the Land and Water Conservation Fund and other federal sources and require no local funding; and

Whereas, the FWS uses revenue sharing (Payment in Lieu of Taxes) to compensate local governments for lost tax revenues of land acquired for Refuges; and

Whereas, a USFWS study, “Banking on Nature,” found that national wildlife refuges create substantial economic activity and generate \$5 for every federal dollar invested in Refuges; and

***Whereas, land and conservation easements will only be acquired from willing sellers and at the appraised fair market value,***

Therefore, be it resolved, that the **(entity, date, and location)** supports the continued planning and implementation of the Kankakee National Wildlife Refuge and Conservation Area as approved by the US Fish and Wildlife Service.

*Send resolutions to Jim Sweeney at 1773 Selo Dr., Schererville, IN 456375  
219-322-7239*