



HR1326

LRB095 21411 GRL 51126 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2           WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of  
3 Representatives are pleased to congratulate Darin Opel of  
4 Worden on the occasion of catching a record-setting 92-pound,  
5 8-ounce bighead carp; and

6           WHEREAS, Darin Opel is an experienced bowfisher, having  
7 participated in the sport for 25 years; he has been a member of  
8 the Illinois Bowfishers Club since its incorporation four years  
9 ago; he has bowfished for sharks, stingrays, and even  
10 alligators in Florida; and

11           WHEREAS, Darin Opel caught his record-breaking fish while  
12 bowfishing for gar from the shore in a backwater above the  
13 Melvin Price Lock and Dam No. 26 on the Illinois side of the  
14 Mississippi River near Alton; during the hunt, he shot the  
15 92-pound, 8-ounce bighead carp with a compound bow and arrow;  
16 after fighting the giant fish for 10 minutes, he jumped into  
17 the muddy water, bearhugged the beast, and inched it to the  
18 shore; and

19           WHEREAS, When the fish was weighed on a certified scale,  
20 the huge Asian carp had a 30-inch girth and measured 62 inches  
21 long, obliterating the previous Illinois bowfishing record for  
22 bighead carp of 35 pounds, 5 ounces; this astounding catch is

1 the largest on record by a recreational fisherman in the  
2 Western Hemisphere; Darin Opel's previous record for bighead  
3 carp weighed 25 pounds; and

4 WHEREAS, Darin Opel plans on having the fish, which is  
5 currently being stored in his father's meat freezer, mounted by  
6 a taxidermist in St. Louis; he plans to display it at the Deer  
7 and Turkey Classic in Bloomington next year; and

8 WHEREAS, Darin Opel's incredible catch serves as an  
9 inspiration to both experienced fishermen and aspiring anglers  
10 everywhere; therefore, be it

11 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
12 NINETY-FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we  
13 congratulate Darin Opel of Worden on his incredible catch and  
14 wish him continued success in the future; and be it further

15 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
16 presented to Darin Opel as an expression of our respect and  
17 esteem.