

HR37 INTRODUCED



1 HR37
2 S6BX777-1
3 By Representatives Smith, Bedsole, Treadaway
4 RFD:
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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



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

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

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

45 WHEREAS, in 2024, Dustin Connell scored his fifth
46 Bass Pro Tour win at Stage One on Toledo Bend; he claimed
47 victory by catching 36 bass that altogether weighed 112
48 pounds and 4 ounces; this remarkable achievement earned him
49 the first-place prize of \$100,000 at the MLF Bass Pro Tour
50 B&W Trailer Hitches Stage One at Toledo Bend, sponsored by
51 Power-Pole; his Championship Round total nearly doubled the
52 rest of the 10-man field, earning the win by a whopping
53 44-pound, 2-ounce margin over the second place winner;
54 Connell's total marked the biggest day for any angler during
55 the event; and

56 WHEREAS, in addition to this win marking his fifth



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

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

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