

1 ENGROSSED SENATE  
2 CONCURRENT  
3 RESOLUTION NO. 16

By: Justice, Allen, Anderson,  
Barrington, Bass, Bice,  
Bingman, Boggs, Brecheen,  
Brinkley, Brooks, Brown,  
Crain, Dahm, David, Fields,  
Floyd, Ford, Fry, Garrison,  
Griffin, Halligan, Holt,  
Jech, Jolley, Loveless,  
Marlatt, Mazzei, Newberry,  
Paddack, Pittman, Quinn,  
Schulz, Sharp, Shaw,  
Shortey, Silk, Simpson,  
Smalley, Sparks,  
Standridge, Stanislawski,  
Sykes, Thompson, Treat,  
Wyrick, and Yen of the  
Senate

11 and

12 Osborn of the House

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15 A Concurrent Resolution designating April 14, 2015,  
16 as "Dust Bowl Remembrance Day"; applauding the heroic  
17 work of the Oklahoma Dust Bowl survivors' farm and  
18 ranch families; encouraging the continued adoption of  
19 improved conservation practices; and directing  
20 distribution.

21 WHEREAS, the Dust Bowl of the 1930s is recognized as the  
22 greatest man-made ecological disaster of modern times; and

23 WHEREAS, farming practices ill-suited for the Southern Plains  
24 and long-term drought resulted in the dust storms beyond what many  
believed possible – many so massive they blew beyond our Great

1 Plains to darken the streets of New York and Washington, D.C. So  
2 great were these storms, ships 300 miles from the Atlantic shore  
3 were dusted by soil from the farms of Oklahoma; and

4 WHEREAS, April 14, 2015, marks the 80th anniversary of "Black  
5 Sunday", the largest dust storm of this period, an event so massive,  
6 it is estimated this single storm moved more soil in one day than  
7 was excavated to build the Panama Canal; and

8 WHEREAS, although many families were forced to leave the land,  
9 the survivors and their families persevered. The families who  
10 endured the relentless drought and dust through the Great Depression  
11 are heroes to Oklahoma and the nation; and

12 WHEREAS, through their efforts in partnership with the Soil  
13 Conservation Service (now the Natural Resources Conservation  
14 Service), Local Conservation Districts and the Oklahoma Conservation  
15 Commission, the tide of dust created during the 1930s was turned  
16 back. Approximately 1.5 million acres of abandoned farmland was  
17 returned to productive agriculture through voluntary, locally led  
18 conservation practices; and

19 WHEREAS, today's drought exceeds that of the 1930s, yet our  
20 soils remain productive, our crops sustaining, our air and water  
21 refreshing. These facts bear witness to the legacy of our Dust Bowl  
22 survivors, who found courage in the horror of Black Sunday and other  
23 dust storms and resolved to heal our land. The continued work which  
24 these survivors began voluntarily and in partnership with state,

1 local, and federal conservation agencies represents a bastion of  
2 progress which the dust shall never surmount.

3 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE 1ST SESSION  
4 OF THE 55TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
5 CONCURRING THEREIN:

6 THAT the Oklahoma Legislature designates April 14, 2015, as  
7 "Dust Bowl Remembrance Day" in Oklahoma.

8 THAT the Oklahoma Legislature applauds the heroic work  
9 undertaken by the Oklahoma Dust Bowl survivors' farm and ranch  
10 families to restore and protect our environment while continuing to  
11 feed and clothe the nation.

12 THAT the Oklahoma Legislature encourages the continued voluntary  
13 adoption of improved conservation practices in an effort to maintain  
14 agricultural production while protecting the health of our soil and  
15 water resources.

16 THAT a copy of this resolution be distributed to the Oklahoma  
17 Association of Conservation Districts.

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1 Adopted by the Senate the 13th day of April, 2015.

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3 \_\_\_\_\_  
4 Presiding Officer of the Senate

5 Adopted by the House of Representatives the \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_,  
6 2015.

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8 \_\_\_\_\_  
9 Presiding Officer of the House  
10 of Representatives