

Missouri's Recreational Trails Program Resolution

- 1 **WHEREAS**, the Recreational Trails Program (RTP) was developed by the U.S. Congress
- 2 in 1993 to help fund motorized and non-motorized trails statewide;
- 3 **AND WHEREAS**, in Missouri, the RTP is administered by the Missouri Department of
- 4 Natural Resources in cooperation with the Federal Highway Administration under
- 5 provisions included in the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient, Transportation Equity
- 6 Act: a Legacy for Users (SAFETEALU);
- 7 **AND WHEREAS**, the RTP provides funding for private organizations and municipal,
- 8 state and federal agencies for trail-related land acquisition, development and restoration
- 9 with a 20 percent match from the applicant;
- 10 **AND WHEREAS**, the RTP provides funding for trails that meet a variety of needs, with
- 11 a target of 30 percent of the funding for motorized trails, 30 percent for non-motorized
- 12 trails and 40 percent for diversified trail use based on recommendations from the
- 13 Missouri Trails Advisory Board, which represents diverse trail interest groups;
- 14 **AND WHEREAS**, in 1993 and from 1996 through 2010, the program funded 267 grants
- 15 totaling more than \$15 million;
- 16 **AND WHEREAS**, the number of applicants consistently surpasses the amount of funding
- 17 available and the demand for RTP funding has increased more than \$1 million in seven years;
- 18 **AND WHEREAS**, these trails have a dramatic and positive impact on the quality of life
- 19 throughout Missouri and the entire country;
- 20 **AND WHEREAS**, trails support an active lifestyle that improves health and increases
- 21 physical activity, which promotes overall well being;

22 **AND WHEREAS**, trails attract tourists to Missouri communities, creating jobs and
23 putting money into local economies;

24 **AND WHEREAS**, trails provide meaningful and satisfying outdoor experiences for many
25 users and provide a great opportunity for Missouri families and friends to experience the
26 outdoors and nature, and do so in an affordable way for all ages and socioeconomic levels;

27 **AND WHEREAS**, trails enhance the livability of communities and the state by providing
28 connections to parks, schools, shopping and other recreational facilities;

29 **AND WHEREAS**, without Congress reauthorizing the full funding for the Recreational
30 Trails Program, the demand for maintained and new trails in Missouri will not be met and
31 the benefits of these trails will not be realized;

32 **NOW, THEREORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Conservation Federation of Missouri
33 assembled at The Lodge of Four Seasons, Lake Ozark, MO, this 26th day of February, 2012 calls
34 on U.S. Congress to implement legislation fully funding the Recreational Trails Program.