**Conservation Federation of Missouri**

**2014 Resolutions**

**Committee:** Natural History and Parks **# 21**

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**CFM Support of Parks, Soils, and Water Sales Tax**

**WHEREAS**, Missouri State Parks and the Soil and Water Conservation program under the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) are funded from the Parks, Soils, and Water Sales Tax (PSWST) first approved in 1984, and has been renewed three times with the most recent vote 70.8 percent in favor; and

**WHEREAS**, funding has proven to be vital to the protection of Missouri's soils, water resources

and state parks; and

**WHEREAS**, this sales tax renewal must be voted upon no later than 2016; and

**WHEREAS**, funding provides substantial resources for operation of DNR state park programs; and

**WHEREAS**, this sales tax provides 75 percent of the operational funding for Missouri State Parks; and

**WHEREAS**, Missouri State Parks has been recognized as one of the top four in the nation through the National Recreation and Park Association gold medal awards; and

**WHEREAS**, these awards recognize excellence in long range planning, resource management; and

**WHEREAS**, the continued renewal of this funding source is vital to Missouri State Parks maintaining this high recognition level; and

**WHEREAS**, the PSWST has contributed to a 46 percent reduction in soil erosion; and

**WHEREAS**, this equates to over 148 million tons of top soil saved; and

**WHEREAS**, this program is available through 114 soil and water districts within the 114 counties that comprise the state of Missouri; and

**WHEREAS**, this funding source provides Missouri's farmers, ranchers, and landowners the voluntary opportunity to apply for funding to assist them with alternative water sources for livestock, a variety of assistance programs pertaining to wells and safe drinking water, assistance in erosion control, management of livestock waste, animal control and grazing systems: now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, that the Conservation Federation of Missouri assembled at the Capitol Plaza Hotel, Jefferson City, MO, this 23rd day of March, 2014, the CFM recommends full support from all Missourians for the renewal and passage of the PSWST, thus providing the appropriate funding for the continuing efforts to maintain, enhance, protect, and leave a legacy for future generations as they continue to protect and care for Missouri's natural resources, parks, and soil and water conservation efforts.