

Land and Water Conservation Fund

1 **WHEREAS**, the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) was established by Congress in 1965 to
2 preserve, develop and assure accessibility to quality outdoor recreation resources “to strengthen the health
3 and vitality of the citizens of the United States;” and
4 **WHEREAS**, the LWCF is principally funded by revenue received from off-shore energy extraction, and is
5 authorized to receive \$900 million annually through the annual appropriations process; and
6 **WHEREAS**, in the original authorizing legislation, Congress recognized the important role of state and local
7 parks in achieving its intended purpose by requiring the allocation of 60% of LWCF annual funding to the
8 State Assistance program and 40% to the federal program; and
9 **WHEREAS**, the language protecting the State Assistance program was removed in the mid-1970s resulting
10 in a disproportional amount (84%) of LWCF funding going to the federal side of the program over the past
11 25 years; and
12 **WHEREAS**, no language exists to protect the State Assistance funding allocations, and Congress
13 appropriated a total of approximately \$304 million to LWCF in FY 2009 but allocated only \$19 million (6%)
14 to the State Assistance program, and in FY 2010 appropriated a total of approximately \$479 million to
15 LWCF with a mere \$40 million (8%) going to the State Assistance program; and
16 **WHEREAS**, Missouri received only \$509,599.00 in FY2009 and \$699,429.00 in FY2010 based on
17 Missouri’s portion (.017%) of the 16% that is currently allocated to the States; and
18 **WHEREAS**, the disproportional allocation of LWCF funding between the two programs has severely
19 limited state and local governments in their capacity to develop parks and open spaces and protect green
20 space and local water supplies in light of rapidly increasing populations; and
21 **WHEREAS**, LWCF provides one-time funding for state and local capital projects and state and local
22 governments equally match the federal dollars, then assume all costs of management and maintenance; and
23 **WHEREAS**, the LWCF State Assistance program has invested more than \$84,125,968.00 in Missouri since
24 1965 and has funded 1275 projects; and
25 **WHEREAS** requiring 50% of LWCF funds to be annually allocated to the State Assistance program would

26 not increase the national debt, but would ensure a more balanced allocation of resources between federal
27 land acquisition and state and local community conservation efforts, as intended by the authorizing
28 legislation. This would provide six million dollars for Missouri's 2012 LWCF budget; and
29 **WHEREAS** House Concurrent Resolution No. 31 introduced in Missouri General Assembly calls on
30 Congress to implement legislation specifying an annual allocation of at least 50% of LWCF moneys to the
31 State Assistance Program;
32 **NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Conservation Federation of Missouri in Annual
33 Convention assembled at the Lodge of Four Seasons, Lake Ozark, MO, this 27th day of February, 2011 calls
34 on congress to implement full and dedicated funding to the LWCF, and supports HCR 31 in the Missouri
35 General Assembly, and calls on Congress to implement legislation specifying an annual allocation of at least
36 50% of LWCF funds to the State Assistance program.