

**SUPPORT FOR MISSOURI STATE PARKS (REINTRODUCED)**

1 **WHEREAS**, seventeen million people visit Missouri state parks and historic sites which

2 generate over \$700 million annually in economic activity (2003 data);

3 **AND WHEREAS**, the park revenue generated from the Parks and Soils Sales Tax (1/2 of

4 1/10<sup>th</sup> of 1%), on which the Department of Natural Resources depends to operate and

5 maintain state parks and historic sites, is in decline from \$41 million in FY 2008 to \$37

6 million in FY 2010 resulting in elimination of 120 staff positions;

7 **AND WHEREAS**, the Missouri State Park System has been unable to keep up with critical

8 infrastructure rehabilitation, owing to the loss of general revenue for salaries and benefits in

9 1990 and increasing diversions and exemptions from the sales tax, resulting in a growing

10 capital improvement backlog exceeding \$200 million;

11 **AND WHEREAS**, the Missouri State Park system must operate with a balanced budget

12 while at the same time remaining true to its mission to protect and provide the best of

13 cultural, natural and recreational resources in Missouri;

14 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Conservation Federation of Missouri,

15 assembled at the Lodge of the Four Seasons, Lake Ozark, MO, this 27th day of February,

2011,

16 convey its support for Missouri State Parks by: Supporting an amendment to House Joint

17 Resolution No. 9 Fifth State Building Fund or any state bond issue for capital improvements

18 to specify that 10% of the total (\$80 100 million) be designated for back-logged capital

19 improvements in Missouri State Parks; and Supporting the retention of interest on moneys in

20 the State Park Earnings Fund within the fund to be used for state park purposes, as provided  
21 by House Bill 89; and including within CFM's media mix information about the Missouri  
22 State Parks Donation Program including but not limited to articles in CFM's Missouri  
23 Wildlife publication and by adding a hyperlink from the Conservation Federation of Missouri  
24 website to the State Parks Donations website; and recommending that Governor Jay Nixon  
25 provide all possible support to the management of the Department of Natural Resources in  
26 seeking creative solutions to this crisis that will sustain its employees and facilities while  
27 maintaining the level of integrity and excellence for which Missouri state parks are known  
28 across the nation.