

Missouri's Recreational Trails Program Resolution

1 **WHEREAS**, the Recreational Trails Program (RTP) was developed by the U.S. Congress in 1993 to
2 help fund motorized and non-motorized trails statewide;

3 **AND WHEREAS**, in Missouri, the RTP is administered by the Missouri Department of Natural
4 Resources in cooperation with the Federal Highway Administration under provisions included in
5 the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient, Transportation Equity Act: a Legacy for Users (SAFETEA
6 LU);

7 **AND WHEREAS**, the RTP provides funding for private organizations and municipal, state and
8 federal agencies for trail-related land acquisition, development and restoration with a 20 percent
9 match from the applicant;

10 **AND WHEREAS**, the RTP provides funding for trails that meet a variety of needs, with a target of
11 30 percent of the funding for motorized trails, 30 percent for non-motorized trails and 40 percent
12 for diversified trail use based on recommendations from the Missouri Trails Advisory Board, which
13 represents diverse trail interest groups;

14 **AND WHEREAS**, in 1993 and from 1996 through 2010, the program funded 267 grants totaling
15 more than \$15 million;

16 **AND WHEREAS**, the number of applicants consistently surpasses the amount of funding available
17 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 throughout
19 Missouri and the entire country;

20 **AND WHEREAS**, trails support an active lifestyle that improves health and increases physical
21 activity, which promotes overall well being;

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

24 **AND WHEREAS**, trails provide meaningful and satisfying outdoor experiences for many users and

25 provide a great opportunity for Missouri families and friends to experience the outdoors and
26 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 Trails
30 Program, the demand for maintained and new trails in Missouri will not be met and the benefits of
31 these trails will not be realized;

32 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Conservation Federation of Missouri assembled at
33 The Lodge of Four Seasons, Lake Ozark, MO, this 27th day of February, 2011 calls on U.S. Congress to
34 implement legislation fully funding the Recreational Trails Program.