

Protect Church Mountain

1 **WHEREAS** Ameren Missouri’s Taum Sauk Pumped Storage Hydroelectric Plant in the Ozarks between
2 Taum Sauk and Johnson’s Shut-ins State Parks is currently undergoing relicensing by the Federal
Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC);

3 **AND WHEREAS** the plant is located in the midst of the largest and most significant complex of State
4 Parks and other public wild lands in the State of Missouri, the extraordinary ecosystem and biodiversity
5 values of which have been further recognized by the designation of the St. Francois Mountains Natural
6 Area, at 7,028 acres by far the largest natural area in the state, and by the designation of Taum Sauk
7 Creek and the East Fork Black River as State Outstanding Resource Waters;

8 **AND WHEREAS** Ameren owns additional lands on the adjacent Church Mountain and in Taum Sauk
9 Creek Valley on which it has long planned to build reservoirs for a second pumped storage plant, as
10 indicated when it applied to FERC for a preliminary permit for such a plant in 2001, which it
11 subsequently withdrew after strong opposition from CFM and other conservation groups in Missouri
12 public officials;

13 **AND WHEREAS** conservationists have long sought trails on Church Mountain lands leased by Ameren
14 to DNR to enable enjoyment of its extraordinary vistas and natural features and to connect to the nearby
15 Ozark Trail and the historic Boy Scout Trail in Taum Sauk Creek Valley, and Missouri State Parks
16 officials now plan to develop such trails in the near future;

17 **AND WHEREAS** in recent comments to FERC regarding mitigation for the massive cumulative
18 environmental and recreational impacts of a relicensed Taum Sauk Plant, the Governor approved a DNR
19 request for long-term preservation of Church Mountain as “the single most important wild land

20 protection issue for the State of Missouri;”

21 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Conservation Federation of Missouri assembled at

22 the Lodge of Four Seasons, Lake Ozark, MO, this 26th day of February, 2012 convey its support for the

23 long-term protection of Church Mountain by: Commending the governor for his strong support for the

24 long-term protection of Church Mountain and asking him to intercede with FERC and the federal

25 administration to ask that transfer of Ameren property on Church Mountain and in Taum Sauk Creek

26 valley to the State of Missouri be incorporated as a condition of the license for the Taum Sauk Plant in

27 mitigation of the facility’s massive environmental and recreational impacts, and Creating and

28 encouraging appropriate CFM affiliate organizations to create opportunities for members to volunteer

29 their services for trail construction on Church Mountain and nearby lands and thereby become more

30 familiar with the extraordinary values of the area.