

Support for Missouri State Parks

1 **WHEREAS** seventeen million people visit Missouri state parks and historic sites which generate over
2 \$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 1/10th of
4 1%), on which the Department of Natural Resources depends to operate and maintain state parks and
5 historic sites, declined from \$41 million in FY 2008 to \$37 million in FY 2010 resulting in elimination
6 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 1990 and
9 increasing diversions and exemptions from the sales tax, resulting in a growing backlog of vitally
10 needed infrastructure rehabilitation exceeding \$200 million;

11 **AND WHEREAS** the Missouri State Park system must operate with a balanced budget while at the
12 same time remaining true to its mission to protect and provide the best of cultural, natural and
13 recreational resources in Missouri;

14 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Conservation Federation of Missouri assembled
15 at the Lodge of Four Seasons, Lake Ozark, MO, this 25th day of February, 2012 convey its support for
16 Missouri State Parks by: Supporting an amendment to House Joint Resolution No. 57 Fifth State
17 Building Fund or any state bond issue for capital improvements to specify that 10% of the total (\$80-
18 100 million) be designated for back-logged infrastructure rehabilitation and other capital
19 improvements in Missouri State Parks; and Supporting the retention of interest on moneys in the State
20 Park Earnings Fund within the fund to be used for state park purposes, as provided by House Bill

21 1191; and Including within CFM's media mix information about the Missouri State Parks Donation
22 Program including but not limited to articles in CFM's Missouri Wildlife publication and by adding a
23 hyperlink from the Conservation Federation of Missouri website to the State Parks Donations website;
24 and Recommending that Governor Jay Nixon provide all possible support to the management of the
25 Department of Natural Resources and Missouri State Parks in seeking creative solutions to this crisis
26 that will sustain its employees and facilities while maintaining the level of integrity and excellence for
27 which Missouri state parks are known across the nation.