**Conservation Federation of Missouri**

**2014 Resolutions**

**Committee**: Sportsmen’s Rights **# 34**

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**Retaining the Right to Harvest Deer by Center-Fire Rifle**

**WHEREAS**, for decades, hunters have taken deer with center-fire rifles; and

**WHEREAS**, the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) decides the method by which game species are taken, and state legislators have positions of authority that could persuade MDC policy; and

**WHEREAS**, many states, such as Illinois and Iowa, have policies against the use of center-fire rifles when hunting deer due to safety concerns; and

**WHEREAS**, firearms make up only 0.5 percent of all unintentional deaths in America, while 28 million people consider themselves hunters; and

**WHEREAS**, due to Missouri’s hunter education course, the risk of accidents while pursuing game is reduced; and

**WHEREAS**, a large percentage of terrain in Missouri is forested hills and valleys, which makes it better suited for center-fire rifle hunting in comparison to other states such as Illinois and Iowa; and

**WHEREAS**, the use of center-fire rifles for hunting activities is imperative to the conservation of Missouri’s living natural resources: now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED** that the Conservation Federation of Missouri assembled at the Capitol Plaza Hotel,

Jefferson City, MO, this 23rd day of March 2014 the Conservation Federation of Missouri encourages state legislators and the Missouri Department of Conservation to protect the hunting heritage of Missourians by retaining their right to pursue deer with center-fire rifles.