

Support Missouri State Park Funding

1 **WHEREAS**, Missouri State Parks fulfills the fundamental mission of preserving and interpreting the
2 state’s finest examples of natural landscapes and cultural landmarks and providing healthy and
3 enjoyable outdoor recreation opportunities; and,
4 **WHEREAS**, Missouri State Parks annually serve more than 18 million visitors and generate more than
5 \$1 billion in economic activity and more than 14,500 jobs for Missourians; and,
6 **WHEREAS**, The infrastructure of the Missouri state park system is extensive, including 145,846
7 acres, 2,043 structures, 260 miles of paved roadway, 1,000 miles of trails, 3,700 campsites, 56 public
8 drinking water systems, and 96 wastewater systems; and,
9 **WHEREAS**, There is nearly \$400 million in vitally needed infrastructure rehabilitation and other
10 improvements at Missouri State Parks to keep up with the pressing needs of the sewer and water
11 systems, buildings, and structures and to best serve visitors; and,
12 **WHEREAS**, Projects in state parks would provide a variety of jobs, including opportunities for
13 local construction companies in every region of the state; and,
14 **WHEREAS**, Senate Joint Resolution 3 and House Joint Resolution 14, which are currently
15 working through the legislative process, would provide for a Fifth State Building Fund bond initiative
16 including funding dedicated to projects at Missouri State Parks; and,
17 **WHEREAS**, Missouri has regularly used bonds to fund capital improvements for state parks and
18 other state facilities, state parks having received approximately 10 percent of the last major state
19 building fund in the 1980’s; and,
20 **WHEREAS**, A legislative joint resolution would then go to a vote of Missouri citizens who
21 strongly support state parks, as indicated by their 71 percent “yes” vote for renewal of the parks and soil
22 sales tax in 2006: now, therefore, be it

23 **RESOLVED**, That the Conservation Federation of Missouri assembled at the Capitol Plaza Hotel,
24 Jefferson City, MO, this 24th day of February, 2013, supports passage of SJR 3 and HJR 14 and
25 encourages the legislature to include funding that will allow Missouri State Parks to address immediate
26 needs and make necessary improvements so that the system can be fully utilized for the benefit of
27 Missourians for many years to come.