

**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 24<sup>th</sup> 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.