

Land and Water Conservation Fund Resolution

1 **WHEREAS**, the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) was established by Congress in
2 1965 to preserve, develop and assure accessibility to quality outdoor recreation resources “to
3 strengthen the health and vitality of the citizens of the United States;”

4 **AND WHEREAS**, the LWCF is principally funded by revenue received from off-shore energy
5 extraction, and is authorized to receive \$900 million annually through the annual appropriations
6 process;

7 **AND WHEREAS**, in the original authorizing legislation, Congress recognized the important role
8 of state and local parks in achieving its intended purpose by requiring the allocation of 60% of
9 LWCF annual funding to the State Assistance program and 40% to the federal program;

10 **AND WHEREAS**, the language protecting the State Assistance program was removed in the mid-
11 1970s resulting in a disproportional amount (84%) of LWCF funding going to the federal side of
12 the program over the past 25 years;

13 **AND WHEREAS**, no language exists to protect the State Assistance funding allocations, and
14 Congress appropriated a total of approximately \$304 million to LWCF in FY 2009 but allocated
15 only \$19 million (6%) to the State Assistance program, and in FY 2010 appropriated a total of
16 approximately \$479 million to LWCF with a mere \$40 million (8%) going to the State
17 Assistance program FY 2011 appropriated a total of approximately \$204.9 million, over \$200
18 million budget cut to LWCF with \$39,905,000 (app.20%) going to the State Assistance program;

19 **AND WHEREAS**, Missouri received only \$509,599.00 in FY2009 and \$699,429.00 in FY2010
20 and \$662,173 in FY2011 based on Missouri’s portion (.017%) of the 16% that is currently

21 allocated to the States;

22 **AND WHEREAS**, the disproportional allocation of LWCF funding between the two programs
23 has severely limited state and local governments in their capacity to develop parks and open
24 spaces and protect green space and local water supplies in light of rapidly increasing populations;

25 **AND WHEREAS**, LWCF provides on-time funding for state and local capital projects and state
26 and local governments equally match the federal dollars, then assume all costs of management and
27 maintenance;

28 **AND WHEREAS**, the LWCF State Assistance program has invested more than \$84,788,141.00
29 in Missouri since 1965 and has funded 1287 projects;

30 **AND WHEREAS**, requiring 40% of LWCF funds to be annually allocated to the State
31 Assistance program would not increase the national debt, but would ensure a more balanced
32 allocation of resources between federal land acquisition and state and local community
33 conservation efforts, as intended by the authorizing legislation. This would provide six million
34 dollars for Missouri's 2012 LWCF budget;

35 **AND WHEREAS**, House Concurrent Resolution No. 32 in the Missouri General Assembly calls
36 on Congress to implement legislation specifying an annual allocation of at least 40% of LWCF
37 moneys to the State Assistance Program;

38 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Conservation Federation of Missouri at its
39 annual convention on February 26, 2012 supports HCR 32 in the Missouri General Assembly and
40 calls on Congress to implement legislation specifying an annual allocation of at least 40% of
41 LWCF funds to the State Assistance program.