

Education Concerning Zebra Mussels

1 WHEREAS, zebra mussels (*Dreissena polymorpha*) have been an increasing invasive species in
2 Missouri since 1988;

3 AND WHEREAS, zebra mussels are costing water treatment and sewage companies billions of dollars,
4 as a result, the costs are being passed on to the consumers;

5 AND WHEREAS, the Lake of the Ozarks on June 14, 2006 was infected and is expected to have
6 exponential invasive population growth;

7 AND WHEREAS, there is ecological concern for the other natural bodies of water in Missouri;

8 AND WHEREAS, zebra mussels affect the health of aquatic ecosystems by causing oxygen depletion
9 and excessive plant growth;

10 AND WHEREAS, the Conservation Federation of Missouri's magazine (*Missouri Wildlife*) and the
11 Missouri Department of Conservation's magazine (*Missouri Conservationist*) are media channels to
12 reach target audiences, such as recreational boaters, to inform them of preventive measures regarding the
13 spread of zebra mussels;

14 AND WHEREAS, the boater's operational licensing exam and boating registration is an appropriate
15 media channel to reach future generations of boaters about preventative measures and issues regarding
16 zebra mussels;

17 AND WHEREAS, CFM has a working relationship with outdoor retailers to help inform the public
18 about preventative measures for zebra mussels;

19 AND WHEREAS, water-related utility companies have the ability to inform the public about the
20 hazards and potential costs of zebra mussel infestation.

21 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Conservation Federation of Missouri assembled at
22 the Lodge of the Four Seasons this 27th day of February, 2010 recommends that the *Missouri*
23 *Conservationist* and *Missouri Wildlife* magazines are utilized for a public information campaign about

24 zebra mussels and that the Missouri State Water Patrol include information about zebra mussels and that
25 outdoor retailers and water-related utility companies help educate the public about aquatic invasive
26 species.