

**Conservation Federation of Missouri
2015 Resolutions**

Committee: Ecology, Environment, Climate Change & Energy

19

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Promoting Milkweed and Monarch Populations in Missouri

WHEREAS, in the last two decades the monarch butterfly (*Danaus plexippus*) population declined nearly 90% across its geographic range; and

WHEREAS, milkweed is the sole larval host plant of the monarch butterfly, without which it cannot complete its full metamorphosis; and

WHEREAS, the loss of native milkweed habitat can be attributed to changes and expansion in domestic and agricultural land use; and

WHEREAS, Missouri supports 17 native species of milkweed; and

WHEREAS, several Missouri cities classify species of milkweed as a noxious weed, preventing citizens from cultivating these species on public land; and

WHEREAS, milkweed species are not often included in native grass and forb plantings done by resource agencies in Missouri; and

WHEREAS, the management and restoration of butterfly habitats will benefit other pollinators; and

WHEREAS, the disappearance of this charismatic butterfly species will have cultural impacts through the loss of a well-known native icon; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED that the Conservation Federation of Missouri assembled at the Capitol Plaza Hotel, Jefferson City, MO, this 22nd day of March, 2015, encourages the Department of Natural Resources, the Missouri Department of Agriculture, Missouri Department of Transportation, the Missouri Department of Conservation and other appropriate agencies in the planting of various native species of milkweed, as well as other native Missouri species that support monarch butterfly populations and pollinators on public and private land in Missouri. In addition, we ask cities with ordinances in place restricting the planting of native milkweed species to remove these restrictions.