

Committee: Legislative and Policy Committee

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National Conservation Funding

WHEREAS, thousands of species of wildlife are in immediate need of conservation, but only a small fraction is being addressed because of limited financial resources; and

WHEREAS, as species decline and habitats deteriorate, indispensable benefits provided by nature such as water purification, pollination, recreation and food and fiber production that are essential to human health and economic prosperity are being compromised; and

WHEREAS, without a change in the way we finance fish and wildlife conservation nationally, we can expect the list of federally threatened and endangered species to grow from nearly 1,600 species today to perhaps thousands more in the future; and

WHEREAS, such increases will impact businesses by raising costs for regulatory compliance, delaying deployment of capital and creating less regulatory certainty; and

WHEREAS, healthy fish and wildlife populations are critical to supporting the \$646 billion outdoor recreation economy and its 6.1 million jobs; and

WHEREAS, the 90 million people who participate in wildlife-related recreation alone spend \$145 billion per year; and

WHEREAS, a national Blue Ribbon Panel on Sustaining America's Diverse Fish and Wildlife Resources, comprised of business and conservation leaders, was convened to evaluate and recommend a more sustainable funding approach to avert a fish and wildlife conservation crisis, completed its work in December of 2015; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED that the Conservation Federation of Missouri assembled at the Capitol Plaza Hotel, Jefferson City, MO, this 20th day of March, 2016, supports the Blue Ribbon Panel's recommendation that Congress dedicate up to \$1.3 billion annually in existing revenue from the development of energy and mineral resources on federal lands and waters to the Wildlife Conservation Restoration Program (16 U.S.C. 669b(a)).