

Support for the Research and Propagation of the Ozark Hellbender

1 **WHEREAS**, the Ozark Hellbender (*Cryptobranchus alleganiensis bishopi*) is a federally
2 endangered native salamander only found in south central Missouri and extreme northern
3 Arkansas;

4 **AND WHEREAS**, it is estimated that less than 600 individuals exist in the world and the
5 population of this species is in decline due to degraded water conditions, habitat loss, and illegal
6 capture and sale;

7 **AND WHEREAS**, the Missouri Department of Conservation along with the Saint Louis Zoo's
8 Ron Goellner Center for Hellbender Conservation has successfully propagated Ozark Hellbenders
9 in captivity in 2011 and successfully hatched Ozark Hellbender eggs;

10 **AND WHEREAS**, this is a long-term recovery project which hopes to one day reintroduce
11 individuals hatched into Missouri's rivers and streams;

12 **AND WHEREAS**, expressed support from the Conservation Federation of Missouri can help to
13 further research and development of the zoo's research center and potentially the long-term
14 stabilization of the Ozark Hellbender populations;

15 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Conservation Federation of Missouri
16 assembled at the Lodge of Four Seasons, Lake Ozark, MO, this 26th day of February, 2012
17 expresses its support to the Missouri Department of Conservation and the Saint Louis Zoo's Ron
18 Goellner Center for Hellbender Conservation in their propagation and research of Ozark
19 Hellbenders.