

**Conservation Federation of Missouri  
2014 Resolutions**

**Committee:** Waterfowl and Wetlands

**# 5**

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**CFM Support of Wetlands Reserve Program**

**WHEREAS**, additional funding is required to meet existing and future demands of lands offered into the Wetland Reserve Program; and

**WHEREAS**, this increase in funding will assist an increase in the number of acres of wetlands enrolled in WRP; and

**WHEREAS**, WRP has been a successful method of wetland protection and restoration seen through the overall increase in wetland dependent organisms; and

**WHEREAS**, these WRP wetlands provide important wintering, migration, and breeding habitat for waterfowl populations in Missouri, which have contributed to continental in duck populations from 20 to 50 million from 1985 to 2013; and

**WHEREAS**, the continued efforts of WRP can provide breeding habitat and increase the numbers of rails, bitterns, and other secretive marsh birds; and

**WHEREAS**, continued interest in WRP is seen through the ongoing number of agreements with landowners continually added every year in Missouri with a total of nearly 150,000 acres in the state; and

**WHEREAS**, wetlands are a highly important factor environmentally and economically for Missouri by the sale of related products for waterfowl hunting, acting as flood control barriers, water quality management, and other vital functions; and

**WHEREAS**, WRP has effectively protected wetlands and the continuation of wetland establishment from the increase in commodity prices; and

**WHEREAS**, currently there are more lands being offered for WRP enrollment than can be financially supported: now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED** that the Conservation Federation of Missouri assembled at the Capitol Plaza Hotel, Jefferson City, MO, this 23rd day of March, 2014 encourages the United States Congress to increase funding for WRP that would support a national cap of at least 250,000 acres annually.