

Originating Committee: Rivers, Streams, and Fisheries

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Intended Recipient: Missouri Congressional Delegation

Support for Mississippi River Restoration and Resilience Initiative

WHEREAS, the Mississippi River provides drinking water to about 20 million people; and

WHEREAS, the Mississippi River is a flyway for over 60% of all North American birds and 40% of the nation's migratory waterfowl; and

WHEREAS, the Mississippi River is the largest river system in North America, providing river-based recreation and natural resources jobs for 1.5 million Americans; and

WHEREAS, the Mississippi River is deeply embedded in Missouri culture with over 400 miles along our eastern border that provide outdoor recreation opportunities to all of our citizens; and

WHEREAS, widespread habitat loss and invasive species, such as Asian carp, threaten the river's fisheries and outdoor recreation opportunities, and increases in nitrate concentrations cause recreational problems, harm fish and aquatic life, and contribute to the hypoxic zone in the Gulf of Mexico; and

WHEREAS, the Mississippi River Restoration and Resilience Initiative (MRRRI) was introduced in Congress on June 28, 2021, directing the Environmental Protection Agency to create a framework, focus, and critical coordination needed to reverse the ecological decline of the vitally important Mississippi River; and

WHEREAS, MRRRI is based on the highly successful Great Lakes Restoration Initiative that has helped restore and protect wildlife habitat, clean water, and help prevent and control invasive species through early detection and monitoring activities and implementing new technologies to prevent new introductions and control the spread of invasive species; and

WHEREAS, MRRRI will coordinate efforts on conservation and environmental restoration along the entire river corridor and open up grant opportunities for state and local governments, tribes, and nonprofit organizations; and

WHEREAS, new investments will allow communities to improve their resilience to climate change and reduce flood risk by restoring floodplains; and

WHEREAS, reducing polluted runoff will improve water quality throughout the river system; and

WHEREAS, MRRRI will protect and restore wildlife habitat along the river corridor as well as help prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species in the river system; and

WHEREAS, MRRRI will make dedicated investments in disadvantaged communities, rural communities, and communities of color that have suffered the most environmental degradation; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Conservation Federation of Missouri assembled in Osage Beach, Missouri, this 12th day of March, 2022, supports the Mississippi River Restoration and Resilience Initiative, and encourages our congressional delegates to co-sponsor MRRRI and work to pass this important piece of legislation.

Searchable Keywords: Mississippi River, restoration

Expires: March 12, 2027