

# House Concurrent Resolution No. 81

## 100TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE DINKINS.

5266H.011

DANA RADEMAN MILLER, Chief Clerk

2           **WHEREAS**, feral swine are not Missouri wildlife but are an invasive and destructive  
3 species that threatens natural areas of the state and inflicts immense destruction on agriculture;  
4 and

5           **WHEREAS**, the Missouri department of conservation estimates that a group of ten feral  
6 swine can destroy ten to twenty acres overnight, obliterating entire fields of crops, and the United  
7 States Department of Agriculture (USDA) estimates that feral swine cause approximately \$1.5  
8 billion in damages each year; and

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10           **WHEREAS**, since feral swine are extremely prolific with generally two litters per year  
11 of up to ten piglets per litter, and the piglet survival rate is nearly one hundred percent because  
12 feral swine have hardly any natural predators, the feral swine population has increased  
13 dramatically and established habitats in approximately 37 southern and central Missouri  
14 counties; and

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16           **WHEREAS**, many of the counties plagued by copious feral swine populations also  
17 contain considerable portions of the Mark Twain National Forest, an area encompassing  
18 approximately 1.5 million acres of this state and adjacent to several million acres of private  
19 property on which feral swine reside and forage; and

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21           **WHEREAS**, in spite of the majority of over 1,000 public comments opposing a ban on  
22 feral swine hunting on all national forest lands on the Mark Twain National Forest, on December  
23 7, 2019, the USDA Forest Service executed an order prohibiting nearly all hunting of feral swine  
24 in the forest, almost completely excluding one method of eradicating feral swine; and

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26           **WHEREAS**, since eliminating feral swine is of paramount importance to the state and  
27 the hunters and farmers of the state, all methods of eradicating feral swine should be pursued to  
28 completely eliminate the feral swine population in Missouri; and

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30           **WHEREAS**, the prohibition on hunting feral swine in the Mark Twain National Forest  
31 also creates unnecessary federal criminal charges against Missourians who have participated in  
32 feral swine management efforts on national forest property for generations for the lawful  
33 purposes of conservation and recreation; and

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35           **WHEREAS**, the Missouri General Assembly believes that feral swine hunting is an  
36 integral part of the efforts to manage the feral swine population in the state and that the closure  
37 of public land to feral swine hunting will result in exponential growth of the state's feral swine  
38 population:

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40           **NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the members of the House of  
41 Representatives of the One Hundredth General Assembly, Second Regular Session, the Senate  
42 concurring therein, hereby urge the USDA Forest Service to rescind the December 7, 2019, order  
43 and allow hunters to continue the grand tradition of protecting agriculture and the natural areas  
44 of the state by hunting feral swine on national forest lands on the Mark Twain National Forest;  
45 and

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47           **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Chief Clerk of the Missouri House of  
48 Representatives be instructed to prepare a properly inscribed copy of this resolution for the  
49 Secretary of the USDA, the Chief of the USDA Forest Service, and each member of the Missouri  
50 Congressional delegation.

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