



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HCR 15		DATE: 4/4/2023	
COMMITTEE: Special Committee on Tourism			
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: CHARLES MILLER		PHONE NUMBER: 205-538-8876	
REPRESENTING: MISSOURI CONFLUENCE WATERKEEPER; RIVER CITY OUTDOORS		TITLE: POLICY MANAGER	
ADDRESS: 3120 LOCUST STREET			
CITY: ST. LOUIS		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63103
EMAIL: charles@mowaterkeeper.org	ATTENDANCE: In-Person	SUBMIT DATE: 4/3/2023 11:03 AM	

THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.

Chairman Seitz and Members of the Committee, Missouri Confluence Waterkeeper is a grassroots conservation organization dedicated to protecting fishable, swimmable water for all Missourians. Waterkeeper is a member of Waterkeeper Alliance, a global network of more than 340 independent clean water organizations across six continents, dedicated to protecting local waterways and defending right to fishable, swimmable, drinkable water. River City Outdoors is a non-profit focused on expanding safe, equitable access to the outdoors throughout the St. Louis Metropolitan area. Both Waterkeeper and River City Outdoors appreciate the opportunity to testify in support of this resolution, and are grateful to Representative Merideth for introducing it. We also appreciate the steps the legislature has taken in the past to recognize our state's rich river heritage, including adding "the Great Rivers State" as a state slogan in 2012. Waterkeeper sees the creation of a day to recognize all of Missouri's rivers as the logical next step in celebrating our incredible rivers and streams. Depending on which numbers you look at, Missouri has anywhere between 115,000 and 251,000 miles of rivers and streams. These vary in size from the largest in North America, the Mississippi, to small streams running through backyards or farmland. In the Eleven Point, Current, and Jack's Fork Rivers we have the first rivers specifically protected by our National Parks system and some of the first streams protected by the National Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. In the Missouri and Mississippi Rivers, we have rivers that fundamentally changed the history of the United States and opened the Upper Midwest and Plains states to settlement. In addition to these rivers of national and international importance, we also have countless rivers, creeks, and sloughs that provide clean water, recreational opportunities, and other social and economic benefits throughout the state. Even small tributaries play an important role, with headwater, rain-fed, and seasonal streams contributing to the drinking water supplies of more than 2.5 million Missourians. We have more than 1 million anglers in the state, and more than one quarter of tourism spending in Missouri is connected to outdoor recreation, including fishing, kayaking and canoeing. Many of these activities take place on smaller or mid-sized streams and rivers, like the Osage, the Blue River, and Dardenne Creek. This resolution underscores the diversity of landscapes, streams and rivers we have in our Great River State. That diversity is reflected in how Missourians relate to our rivers and streams. We see Rivers of Missouri Day as an opportunity for folks to celebrate whatever rivers they have a personal connection to in Missouri, or to make plans to forge that kind of connection with a new stream. Rivers of Missouri Day will give Missourians an opportunity to celebrate whichever river is their favorite, and to share that with their neighbors and people from outside the state, contributing to an ethic of care for our outstanding water resources and encouraging more folks to get outside and enjoy everything the Great Rivers State has to offer.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: SUSAN GIBSON		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: Onesuegibson@protonmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 4/1/2023 3:03 PM
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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: ARNIE C. "HONEST-ABE" DIENOFF-STATE PUBLIC ADVOCATE		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: arniedienoff@yahoo.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 4/4/2023 11:59 PM	
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