



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HJR 125		DATE: 4/17/2024
COMMITTEE: Special Committee on Government Accountability		
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: LARRY SATTERTHWAITE		PHONE NUMBER: 314-839-3184
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS: 2595 VALLEY BROOK DRIVE		
CITY: FLORRISANT		STATE: MO
		ZIP: 63031
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 4/17/2024 12:00 AM
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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: AARON JEFFERIES		PHONE NUMBER: 573-751-4115	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION		TITLE: DEPUTY DIRECTOR	
ADDRESS: PO BOX 180			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65102
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 4/17/2024 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: ARNIE C. "HONEST-ABE" DIENOFF-STATE PUBLIC ADVOCATE		PHONE NUMBER: 314-440-9000
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS: P.O. BOX #1535		
CITY: O' FALLON		STATE: MO
		ZIP: 63366
EMAIL: arniedienoff@mail.com	ATTENDANCE: submissionOnly	SUBMIT DATE: 4/17/2024 11:48 PM
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I am Opposed to this House Joint Resolution on several fronts. The Number of Members of the Commission shall come from all eight (8) Congressional Districts and a ninth (9th) Member Elected at-Large State-Wide.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: CLARISSE TEEPE-FRYREAR		PHONE NUMBER: 417-684-5865	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 1214 N OLIVE ST			
CITY: NEVADA, MO		STATE: MO	ZIP: 64772
EMAIL: twothewoods@hotmail.com	ATTENDANCE: submissionOnly	SUBMIT DATE: 4/17/2024 4:16 PM	
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Missouri is known for its lakes, riverways, hunting grounds and state park systems, why would you jeopardize one of the best things MO has going? Keep funding of the Department of Conservation as it is. Vote no on HJR 125



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: DANIEL ZEKOR		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 10151 S. BARTEL LANE			
CITY: COLUMBIA		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65201
EMAIL: drokez@outlook.com	ATTENDANCE: submissionOnly	SUBMIT DATE: 4/12/2024 11:44 AM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Historically, the Conservation Commission has demonstrated a high level of competence and integrity, and over its 88-year history, has performed extremely well, making many well informed decisions regarding the management and use of Missouri's fish, forests, and wildlife resources statewide, while providing Missouri citizens and businesses countless services and opportunities. In my opinion, there are no compelling reasons for changing the size and composition of the Conservation Commission, the manner Commission appointments are made, its authority, or its funding. Moreover, it was the citizens who created the Commission by initiative petition, and if the people feel the need for change, they should be the body that initiates that change, not a small group of legislators and/or special interest groups. We have the best model for conservation in the nation. With a few rare exceptions, nearly every other state would love to have this model, yet it seems every year someone in the legislature wants to tear it down. Frequently these proposals are brought forth in the name of accountability, but in reality, they are all about the desire to politicize, exert needless pressure and control over an agency that has historically proven itself to be effective, and seek ways to raid its coffers. In the absence of any major failures in this system of governance, I see no need to make any of the changes proposed in this HJR; therefore, I am opposed to this resolution and urge you to once again, please put this issue to rest. One last point, of all the priority issues facing our state, issues of significance to our citizens, issues worthy of legislative time, this is not one of them. Your time would be better served looking for ways to address those issues, rather than looking to burn something down.



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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: DAVID GRABER		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: DUCKS UNLIMITED		TITLE: CONSERVATION COORDINATOR	
ADDRESS: 4605 ROEMER RD.			
CITY: COLUMBIA		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65202
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 4/17/2024 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME		
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:		
WITNESS NAME: GARY GATES		PHONE NUMBER: 573-636-3828
REPRESENTING: MISSOURI PARK & RECREATION ASSOCIATION		TITLE:
ADDRESS: 2018 WILLIAM STREET		
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO
		ZIP: 65109
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 4/17/2024 12:00 AM
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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: GARY L MARQUART		PHONE NUMBER: 636-239-0702
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS: 2150 MEADOW OAKS LANE		
CITY: WASHINGTON		STATE: MO
		ZIP: 63090
EMAIL: marquartg@charter.net	ATTENDANCE: submissionOnly	SUBMIT DATE: 4/12/2024 11:17 AM
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This proposal is in total disagreement with the voters that passed this back in 1976. This is a power and money grab by those jealous of the success of the Missouri Department of Conservation and the national recognition they receive as a premier conservation program in the United States. I am not in favor of devaluing our State and the success of the conservation efforts.



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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: HOLLY NEILL		PHONE NUMBER: 417-827-4864	
REPRESENTING: THE NATURE CONSERVANCY		TITLE: DEPUTY DIRECTOR	
ADDRESS: 1054 E SEMINOLE			
CITY: SPRINGFIELD		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65807
EMAIL: holly.neill@tnc.org	ATTENDANCE: submissionOnly	SUBMIT DATE: 4/16/2024 3:42 PM	

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The Nature Conservancy of Missouri opposes HJR 125. Specifically, we DO NOT support • Shifting conservation authority from the Conservation Commission to the state legislature• Reallocation of 20% of the conservation sales tax revenue to non-conservation entities• Legislature oversight in conservation decisions, such as property transactions• Changes in the structure of the Conservation Commission, that will shift many elements from Constitutional to Statutory, giving the legislature full power to make additional changes without going through the voters. • In certain cases requires that new Commissioners be selected from a list of 10 names maintained by the legislature.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: JAMES LOW		PHONE NUMBER: 573-415-7626	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 2500 DOGWOOD BLUFF DR			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65109
EMAIL: jimilow@aol.com	ATTENDANCE: physical	SUBMIT DATE: 4/16/2024 2:46 PM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

This proposed constitutional amendment is predictable, and yet it is incredible. Every year, the enemies of wise management and use of Missouri's forest, fish and wildlife resources devise some scheme to take control of the Conservation Commission. But in more than half a century of watching such shenanigans, I cannot recall the legislature ever proposing such a sweeping repudiation of the will of the people of Missouri regarding conservation. This proposed constitutional amendment aims to destroy the non-political nature of the Conservative Commission. The Commission's independence is the heart of the system of conservation governance that has made Missouri the envy of every other state in the nation. Without it, conservation policy would lapse into the chaotic and unscientific conditions that brought our wild resources to the brink of extinction, before voters wrested control from ignorant and self-serving politicians and vested it in a carefully designed, nonpolitical commission. With this proposed amendment, corrupt politicians further aim to steal funds that Missouri voters have specifically set aside exclusively for conservation, so they can use it for their own nefarious purposes. The sponsoring legislators' desire to misappropriate conservation funds is nothing new. Corrupt politicians have mounted such attempts since Missouri's farsighted and provident voters took control of conservation away from the legislature more than 80 years ago. But the breathtaking scope of this raid is unprecedented. Missourians are justifiably proud of their conservation program and have demonstrated on innumerable occasions that they will not stand for political meddling in resource management. Those who ignore the history of such attempts will fail in this plot to destroy conservation in Missouri, and they will pay a dear price for their complicity at the ballot box.

Sincerely, Jim Low Jefferson City



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WITNESS NAME		
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:		
WITNESS NAME: KENDRA VARNS WALLIS		PHONE NUMBER: 816-210-3413
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: MISSOURI PARKS ASSOCIATION		TITLE: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
ADDRESS: PO BOX 8531		
CITY: KANSAS CITY		STATE: MO
		ZIP: 64114
EMAIL: kendra.wallis@missouriparks.org	ATTENDANCE: submissionOnly	SUBMIT DATE: 4/16/2024 7:55 PM

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Missouri Parks Association is in opposition to HJR 125 that proposes a constitutional amendment changing the membership of the conservation commission, the conservation sales and use tax, and the department of conservation's property tax exemption.



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WITNESS NAME		
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:		
WITNESS NAME: KYNA IMAN		PHONE NUMBER: 314-651-1185
REPRESENTING: CONSERVATION FEDERATION OF MISSOURI;MISSOURI PARK & RECREATION ASSOCIATION;THE NATURE CONSERVANCY		TITLE: LOBBYIST
ADDRESS: P.O. BOX 1483		
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO
		ZIP: 65101
EMAIL: kynaiman@earthlink.net	ATTENDANCE: submissionOnly	SUBMIT DATE: 4/17/2024 9:22 PM
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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: LEANNE TIPPETT MOSBY		PHONE NUMBER: 573-999-2737
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS: 2605 E NICHOLS RD		
CITY: HARTSBURG		STATE: MO
		ZIP: 65039
EMAIL: ljtmosby@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: submissionOnly	SUBMIT DATE: 4/17/2024 2:34 PM
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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: MARK ZURBRICK		PHONE NUMBER: 573-647-0081	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 20665 TROPHY LANE			
CITY: NEWBURG		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65550
EMAIL: mzurbrick@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: submissionOnly	SUBMIT DATE: 4/13/2024 8:37 PM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

In 1937, the citizens of Missouri voted overwhelmingly to amend the state’s constitution, taking the obvious mismanagement of the state’s vanishing forests, fish and wildlife away from politicians by creating the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC), whose sole responsibility was to recover our diminished fish and wildlife resources using sound science, rather than partisan politics. In less than four decades, the MDC’s science-based management had brought back many species from the brink of extinction, including popular game species such as deer and turkey. Citizen demonstrated their satisfaction of MDC in 1976 when taxpayers/voters again amended the state constitution, allowing revenues from a 1/8 cent sales tax to continue and expand the department’s acclaimed and successful programs. Today, MDC is recognized as one of the best, if not the best, fish and game agencies in the country. This leads hunters, anglers, and citizen conservationist, such as myself, to say “if it ain’t broke... don’t fix it”. Would not our elected legislators time and effort be better spent on addressing important issues and other agencies in much more need of change and improvement? Please address the needs of our schools, roads, law enforcement, economy, health care, etc. and let MDC continue to do an outstanding job of managing our natural resources. I have several specific concerns or observations about the wording found in HJR 125. 1. Our state parks already receive revenue from a citizen approved 1/10 cent sales tax. How will transferring some of MDC’s 1/8 cent tax to parks benefit hunters and anglers? 2. Doesn’t MDC already pay counties for lands within a county via Payment in Lieu of Taxes program? Also these conservation areas attract outdoor folks from urban areas, who then spend dollars in the rural counties for lodging, food, guides, etc. 3. Who would a majority of citizens wish to determine what lands are needed to meet the habitat needs of fish and wildlife... local politicians or biologists/scientists with statewide responsibilities? Please reject HJR 125 and support the best conservation department in the country. Thank You for Your Time and Consideration,



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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: MICHAEL BERG		PHONE NUMBER: 314-644-1011	
REPRESENTING: SIERRA CLUB MISSOURI CHAPTER		TITLE: SIERRA CLUB MISSOURI CHAPTER POLITICAL DIRECTOR	
ADDRESS: PO BOX 432010			
CITY: ST. LOUIS		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63143
EMAIL: Michael.Berg@sierraclub.org	ATTENDANCE: submissionOnly	SUBMIT DATE: 4/17/2024 10:01 AM	
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The Sierra Club does not see these changes as helpful to the mission of the conservation in the State of Missouri.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: NANCY DIANE LOW		PHONE NUMBER: 573-353-5446
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS: 2500 DOGWOOD BLUFF DR		
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO ZIP: 65109
EMAIL: dianlow@aol.com	ATTENDANCE: submissionOnly	SUBMIT DATE: 4/16/2024 9:47 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

I strongly disagree with this bill. The Conservation Department was established with a commitment to wise non partisan management of our wildlife & plants. This bill, by allowing the legislature to determine the number & select the recommended commission members introduces partisan politics into the management of our game & plant management. It is horrifying to do this. We only have to look at other state programs to see how little public land is available for the common citizen to hunt & fish & the exorbinant fees charged for licenses to said citizens. Why in the world would you want to ruin such a renowned professional department? We don't have much to boast about in Missouri with our low salaries, poor health access in rural areas & pothole filled roads with no shoulders. The MO Conservation Dept is truly one of the best in the nation. Many families feed their families w venison & fish & fowl. They have quality family time in conservation areas. It is a source of non partisan pride for all. This HJR takes away 20% of the dedicated sales tax \$ and increases the amount of taxes to be paid to counties. That leads to less \$ for maintenance & repair of facilities, boat ramps & put toilets. The diversion of monies to the DNR for state parks is not what the people voted for in the Design for Conservation tax. We voted in favor of a dedicated tax for State Parks already. Does it need increased funds? If so, you are sitting on a 6 billion dollar surplus! Maybe it is time to appropriate some of that to state parks instead of grifting another tax break to corporations & the wealthy. Taking 1/5 of the Dept of Conservations budget - which is less than 1% of the overall state budget, will only lessen the services & wise management they offer ALL citizens. A strong NO to this HJR.



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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: PAUL KEEVEN		PHONE NUMBER: 314-540-5300	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: MISSOURI BHA		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 107 LOCKE LN			
CITY: ELSBERRY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63343
EMAIL: pkeeven@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: submissionOnly	SUBMIT DATE: 4/15/2024 8:13 AM	

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I represent over 2500 outdoor public land users in my role as Chairman of the conservation organization BHA. We are public land advocates and often do stewardship/habitat projects with our volunteers on public land. MDC is a great organization and are great stewards of the public resources. Our organization has chapters in all 50 states, and it is often told to me how "Missouri's conservation model" is the "envy of the nation". Making changes to it would not be good, especially the proposed changes in HJR 125.1. Changes the structure of the Conservation Commission, shifting many elements from Constitutional to Statutory, giving the legislature full power to make changes without going through the voters.2. Shifts crucial conservation authority from the Conservation Commission to the legislature3. Gives the legislature oversight in conservation decisions, such as property transactions4. Ends Commission exemption from property tax on MDC-owned lands, even though the Commission already makes such payments to counties via PILT (Payment In Lieu of Taxes).5. Reallocates 20% of the conservation sales tax revenue to non-conservation entitiesHJR 125 would seriously damage our conservation heritage, which has been the best in the nation since Missouri voters approved it back in 1936.We Missourians are all about respecting and backing our conservation roots. If HJR 125 gets past the General Assembly, it's just going to kick off a pointless fight that will waste time and money.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: RUSSELL KENNETH DRENON, JR.		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS: 319 KENT STREET		
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO
		ZIP: 65109
EMAIL: kjdrenon@mchsi.com	ATTENDANCE: submissionOnly	SUBMIT DATE: 4/14/2024 5:29 PM
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Thank you for the opportunity to share my views on this proposal. I strongly oppose any attempt to change anything dealing with the Missouri Department of Conservation, or the Conservation Commission. The citizens of our state have clearly indicated the legislature has no place in administrating Missouri's fish, forest and wildlife resources. Voters did this in 1936 and again almost 50 - years ago at the ballot box. The funding and professional conservation management resulting from citizen efforts have provided Missourians with the best conservation department in the nation. Thank you for your service in governing. I sincerely encourage you to seek opportunities to work in a bipartisan manner. I respectfully oppose this proposal. R. Kenneth Drenon



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: SHIRLEY WOLVERSON		PHONE NUMBER: 314-961-2026
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY: WEBSTER GROVES		STATE: MO
		ZIP: 63119
EMAIL: wolverson9@aol.com	ATTENDANCE: submissionOnly	SUBMIT DATE: 4/15/2024 12:41 PM
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Please vote NO on HJR125. Do not change the makeup of the Conservation Commission, the conservation sales and use tax, or the department of conservation's property tax exemption. Approved by the wise people of Missouri as an amendment to the Missouri Constitution many years ago, it does NOT need to be resubmitted to voters at this time because the highly regarded Missouri Conservation Commission and Missouri Department of Conservation are functioning just fine as they are, and no changes are necessary.



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WITNESS NAME		
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:		
WITNESS NAME: STEVE JONES		PHONE NUMBER: 314-420-8087
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: CONSERVATION FEDERATION OF MISSOURI		TITLE: VICE PRESIDENT
ADDRESS: 31273 N. HICKORY LICK RD.		
CITY: WARRENTON		STATE: MO
		ZIP: 63383
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 4/17/2024 12:00 AM
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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: SUSAN GIBSON		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE: MO	ZIP:
EMAIL: Onesuegibson@protonmail.com	ATTENDANCE: submissionOnly	SUBMIT DATE: 4/17/2024 7:45 PM	
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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: SUSAN LAMMERT		PHONE NUMBER: 314-330-4530
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS: 8 OVERBROOK DRIVE		
CITY: ST. LOUIS		STATE: MO
		ZIP: 63124
EMAIL: susanlammert@att.net	ATTENDANCE: submissionOnly	SUBMIT DATE: 4/16/2024 5:09 PM
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We have the finest Conservation Commission in the country. It is adequately funded and apolitical which is why it functions so effectively.



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WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

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COMMITTEE: Special Committee on Government Accountability			
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: TYLER SCHWARTZE		PHONE NUMBER: 573-619-0966	
REPRESENTING: CONS. FED. OF MO		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 728 W. MAIN STREET			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65101
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 4/17/2024 12:00 AM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: VIRGINIA WALLACE		PHONE NUMBER: 573-418-0604	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 9814 PLEASANT HILL ROAD			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65109
EMAIL: ginny.k.wallace@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: submissionOnly	SUBMIT DATE: 4/14/2024 9:04 AM	
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I am submitting this testimony in opposition to HJR 125 for the following reasons. First, regarding the composition and selection of Conservation Commission members. Missouri's Conservation Commission is unique in the country, specifically designed to eliminate to the extent possible political considerations, to select four individuals with a strong interest in conserving the fish, forests, and wildlife in Missouri, with understanding of natural resource conservation principles, and to represent all Missourians, not simply those in a specific region or district. A politically tainted commission could easily taint the directorate of the Conservation Department, subordinates, and subsequent decisions by all involved. This result would be a return to the way business was conducted prior to 1937 and would fly in the face of everything accomplished in Missouri conservation for the past 87 years. I also oppose the redistribution of funds to the Division of State Parks as well as local political sub-divisions, as well as General Assembly oversight of sale or purchase of land by the Department. One of the factors leading to the formation of the Conservation Commission was citizen frustration with the General Assembly diverting funds from license revenues to the state parks system - 5% in 1917 and 25% in 1925. The State Park system receives its own sales tax revenues, and this diversion is completely unnecessary. In addition the Commission already makes payments to counties in lieu to taxes. The Missouri Model of Conservation - an independent Commission, adequate funding, professional staff, science-based management of land and wildlife populations, and public engagement - has resulted in abundant fish and wildlife resources and places for all Missourians to connect with those resources. I see no defensible reason to make changes to this system that has proven its effectiveness for over 85 years.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: ZACH MORRIS		PHONE NUMBER: 417-213-1705
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ADDRESS: 7411 N. WISHING WELL DR.		
CITY: COLUMBIA		STATE: MO
		ZIP: 65201
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 4/17/2024 12:00 AM
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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: ZACK MILLER		PHONE NUMBER: 314-308-5755	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: THE NATURE CONSERVANCY		TITLE: PRESERVE ENGAGEMENT MGR.	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE: MO	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 4/17/2024 12:00 AM	
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