



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HJR 94		DATE: 3/25/2025	
COMMITTEE: Government Efficiency			
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: ARNIE C. AC "HONEST-ABE" DIENOFF, STATE PUBLIC ADV		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:		SUBMIT DATE: 3/25/2025 12:00 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: LARRY SATTERTHWAITE		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: longrifle46@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 3/24/2025 5:26 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			
I am in support of this bill			



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: ANNA HANCOCK		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: anna.hancock33@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 3/25/2025 10:20 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I oppose this measure because it diminishes the ability of the Missouri Department of Conservation to continue the exceptional stewardship of the natural features, opportunities, and assets enjoyed by the people of Missouri. This measure cuts the dedicated revenue stream to MDC by half which would negatively impact the services and protections provided by the Department, and it injects political agendas into decisions that would otherwise be based on research and natural conditions.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: CLARK E ALLEN		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: callen@semo.net	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 3/24/2025 3:42 PM
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The Missouri Department of Conservation is widely known as one of the top Conservation Departments in the nation. There are entities that would like to change it into a political plaything to satisfy personal interests. Please vote "No" on this ill informed bill.



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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: DAWN NICKLAS		PHONE NUMBER: 573-619-3573	
REPRESENTING: NICKLAS LOBBY		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: PO BOX 2291			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65102
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 3/25/2025 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: ELIZABETH ALM		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: elizabethalm8@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 3/25/2025 8:53 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I oppose this measure because it diminishes the ability of the Missouri Department of Conservation to continue the exceptional stewardship of the natural features, opportunities, and assets enjoyed by the people of Missouri. This measure cuts the dedicated revenue stream to MDC by half which would negatively impact the services and protections provided by the Department, and it injects political agendas into decisions that would otherwise be based on research and natural conditions.



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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: ELIZABETH SMITH		PHONE NUMBER: 573-694-5787	
REPRESENTING: THE NATURE CONSERVANCY		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 2011 WAYNE AVENUE			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65109
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 3/25/2025 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: GARY GATES		PHONE NUMBER: 573-636-3828	
REPRESENTING: MISSOURI PARK AND RECREATION ASSOCIATION		TITLE: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR	
ADDRESS: 2018 WILLIAM ST.			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65109
EMAIL: gary@mopark.org	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 3/24/2025 1:36 PM

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Missouri's Department of Conservation is the absolute BEST agency in the United States. This is due entirely to the incredible forethought of the overwhelming majority of Missourians when they voted to stand up and fund MDC. Any changes to the funding mechanism, composition of the Commission, or restrictions of how they may acquire land will ultimately destroy the flora and fauna of Missouri. The Missouri Department of Conservation is not broken, this HJR is a solution looking for a problem.



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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: GRETCHEN WADDELL BARWICK		PHONE NUMBER:	
REPRESENTING: SIERRA CLUB		TITLE: CHAPTER DIRECTOR	
ADDRESS:			
CITY: ST. LOUIS		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63143
EMAIL: gretchen.waddellbarwick@sierraclub.org	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 3/25/2025 3:01 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Chair Baker and members of the Missouri House Government Efficiency Committee, I submit this testimony on behalf of the over 11,000 Sierra Club members throughout Missouri. The Sierra Club opposes House Joint Resolution 94. Missourians have been paying the tax at its current rate for more than 40 years, and there are several reasons why we should continue to do so: 1) Protecting our natural resources for future generations. If passed, this bill will limit the Department of Conservation's ability to achieve its goal: maintaining the health and diversity of Missouri's wildlife, forests, and aquatic ecosystems. These resources are essential for the state's ecological balance. Funding cuts could lead to a decline in conservation efforts, resulting in habitat loss, species decline, and degradation of natural areas. These natural resources have a huge impact on Missourians' quality of life. Spending time in nature has been proven to improve mental and physical health. Conservation is a long-term investment. Short-term budget cuts can have long-term detrimental effects on the state's natural resources. 2) Protecting our economy. Missouri's outdoor recreation industry, including hunting, fishing, and wildlife viewing, generates significant economic revenue. The MDC's management of these resources supports this industry. In 2021, 25% of travelers to Missouri identified outdoor recreation as one reason for visiting the state, with 11% of travelers stating it was their trip's primary purpose. 3) Protecting vital public services. The MO Department of Conservation leads vital services to our state including: - Wildlife management and population control. - Forest fire prevention and control. - Educational programs on outdoors skills. 4) Protecting our land from destruction. Conserving natural resources benefits Missourians for generations to come. These conservation sites attract tourists, improve Missourians' access to nature, and are crucial for protecting wildlife. Conservation sites attract tourists, enhance recreational opportunities for Missourians, and provide vital sanctuaries for wildlife. Maintaining the current funding for the MDC is not merely about conserving nature; it's about conserving Missouri's economic health and public well-being. For this reason, I urge the committee to vote no on HJR 94.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: JOE SNOOK		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: jsnook38@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 3/25/2025 8:55 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Protection of our natural space in Missouri is important and should not be compromised. The voters of Missouri approved the original sales tax and the fully approved amount should be respected. Take the issue to the voters prior to its natural expiration date and see how the voters feel about the tax and current rate. If it fails, then a new approach/amount can be considered.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: JON M RISDAL		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: jkrisdal@aol.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 3/25/2025 12:34 PM

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The conservation tax has helped make Missouri one of the most pro active states preserving, maintaining and growing our parks and recreation areas for the benefit of all wildlife and human life.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: KYLE CARROLL		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: kyle.l.carroll@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 3/24/2025 9:01 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I am opposed to this bill. Cutting the Conservation Sales tax in half and having it voted on every 6 years would cripple the Department of Conservation ability to manage wildlife in this state. Really bad idea. No long ranfe planning could be done, at all. How would the state of Missouri operate if we cut the state income tax in half and allowed a vote every 6 years to see if we should even continue that? We will face more conservation challenges in the future, not less. I urge the m,embners of this committee to vote no on this bill. .



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: MARK ZURBRICK		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: mzurbrick@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 3/25/2025 1:22 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? Sadly, a recent nonpartisan nationwide analysis ranked Missouri 45 out of 50 states in terms of crime, 45 of 50 in health care, 34 of 50 in infrastructure, and 30 of 50 in education. Please address these issues and let MDC continue to do an outstanding job of managing our natural resources. I have several specific concerns or observations regarding HJR 94: • Why is this hearing, which is specifically aimed at MDC, being held in the House Committee on Government Efficiency, rather than the House Committee of Conservation and Natural Resources? • When citizens/voters passed the 1/8 cent sales tax they intentionally did not include a sunset/reauthorization clause in the constitutional amendment because they trusted that MDC would continue to provide not only that generation of voters, but future generations of voters, with excellent forest, fish and wildlife management. • MDC does not receive a single dollar in Missouri general revenue funding, and MDC's total budget represents less than 1% of the state's total budget. • Approximately 60% of MDC's revenues come from the 1/8 cent sales tax. This 1/8 cent represents less than 3% of the entire 4.225% statewide sales tax. • Please consider the following figures from the most recent (2022) National Survey of Fishing, Hunting and Wildlife Associated Recreation; (a) more than 2.9 million Missourians hunt, fish, and enjoy other wildlife-based activities, (b) another 0.5 million non-residents come to MO to hunt and fish, (c) 8.9 billion dollars was spent in MO in pursuit of these fish and wildlife activities. • In regards to government efficiency, MDC's sales tax revenue for FY2022 was approximately 148 million dollars, which, as already mentioned, generated nearly nine billion dollars in fish/wildlife expenditures. Thus, each dollar that MDC collected in sales taxes generated \$60 in statewide fish/wildlife related sales. I believe most economists, taxpayers, and voters would deem this to be a great return on investment! •

HJR 94 also restricts MDC's ability to acquire lands in order to meet its three primary goals of "taking care of nature", "connecting people with nature", and "maintaining public trust". 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? In the previously mentioned national hunt/fish survey, nearly two-thirds of Missourians polled said that "The Missouri Department of Conservation is a name I can trust" and more than eight out of ten said that "It is important for outdoor places to be protected even if I don't plan to visit." Please reject HJR 125 and support the best conservation department in the country. Thank You for Your Consideration, Mark Zurbrick
Newburg, MO



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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: MELISSA VATTEROTT		PHONE NUMBER: 314-727-0600	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: MISSOURI COALITION FOR THE ENVIRONMENT		TITLE: DIRECTOR OF POLICY & STRATEGY	
ADDRESS: 725 KINGSLAND AVENUE, SUITE 100			
CITY: ST. LOUIS		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63130
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 3/25/2025 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: MICHELE RISDAL-BARNES		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: risdalm@hotmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 3/25/2025 10:27 AM
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I oppose HJR 94 because it diminishes the ability of the Missouri Department of Conservation to continue the exceptional stewardship of the natural features, opportunities, and assets enjoyed by the people of Missouri. Conservation in Missouri is a model for other states and our natural resources provide future economic tourism revenues as well a joy to all Missourians. This measure cuts the dedicated revenue stream to MDC by half which would negatively impact the services and protections provided by the Department, and it injects political agendas into decisions that would otherwise be based on research and natural conditions.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: STEPHEN W. MCMILLAN		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: steve@swmcmillan.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 3/25/2025 9:26 AM
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I am submitting my testimony in firm opposition to HJR94. The current Sales Tax for Conservation has been extremely successful in it's intended impacts on the statewide conservation, stewardship of public lands, parks and monuments and it is important to note that it has been broadly supported by a significant majority of Missouri voters since its inception. This remains true to this day. Repeated attempts to alter, amend or diminish this legislation have failed and this fact illustrates the resilience of the popularity of the current law. The precedent established by this trusted apolitical model supporting statewide conservation has set an example that reaches beyond Missouri's borders, I encourage you to please vote in opposition to this proposed resolution.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: TOM WESTHOFF		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: westhoff@windstream.net	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 3/24/2025 5:07 PM

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As a Mo resident, one of the reasons I like Mo is because of the great natural resources of the state. As an outdoorsman who enjoys hunting, fishing, and trapping I really appreciate all the wildlife we enjoy which is a result of the Mo. Department of Conservations efforts. I do NOT want to see any reduction in the funding for MDC.



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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: TYLER SCHWARTZE		PHONE NUMBER:	
REPRESENTING: CONS. FED. OF MO		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 728 W. MAIN ST.			
CITY: JC		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65101
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 3/25/2025 12:00 AM	

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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: VIRGINIA K WALLACE		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: Ginny.k.wallace@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 3/24/2025 7:16 PM
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I am opposed to HJR 94. In the 1920s and 30s, Missouri's Wildlife populations were at an all time low, and most forests in the Ozarks were cut over. Legislative efforts to protect Missouri's fish, forests and wildlife were inconsistent and poorly funded. The reason voters passed the amendment creating the Conservation Commission was because legislative control DID NOT WORK. The success of Missouri's conservation program is due to that independence. Politics has no place in decisions regarding fish and wildlife conservation. As a voter and one who enjoys Missouri's many public lands, I strongly oppose this piece of legislation. The system is not broken.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: WALTER IMAN		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:		SUBMIT DATE: 3/25/2025 12:00 AM
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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: WILLIAM CHARLES KIRGAN		PHONE NUMBER: 573-263-3500	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: CONSERVATION FEDERATION OF MISSOURI		TITLE: PRESIDENT	
ADDRESS: PO BOX 298			
CITY: ST. JAMES		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65559
EMAIL: billkorgan@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/24/2025 1:57 PM	

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I am opposed to HJR 94 on three levels. There is no justification to reduce the sales tax the citizens have overwhelmingly approved over the years or to have votes every 6 years to continue it. In addition, the purchase of property to extend outdoor activities for all Missourians can only be considered a good thing. Finally, the MDC is one of the bright spots is Missouri government; there is no reason to adjust or mess with it.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: ZAC MORRIS		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:		SUBMIT DATE: 3/25/2025 12:00 AM
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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: AARON JEFFRIES		PHONE NUMBER: 573-680-4539	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION		TITLE: DEPUTY DIRECTOR	
ADDRESS: PO BOX 180			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65102
EMAIL: Aaron.Jeffries@mdc.mo.gov	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 3/25/2025 9:39 AM
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