

# Action Alert!

## MDC Commission in Jeopardy



### 75 YEARS OF SUCCESSFUL CONSERVATION IN JEOPARDY CONTACT YOUR SENATORS AND REPRESENTATIVES

Happy New Year, 2012!

As we look forward to another great year in the Missouri outdoors, I wanted to personally thank you for your lifelong commitment, considerable hard work and leadership role in support of conservation in Missouri. We are proud to have the 4<sup>th</sup> largest Teaming With Wildlife Coalition in the nation comprised of 304 partner organizations and businesses. Wise use of our precious natural resources by us and by our ancestors has produced a legacy for forests, fish and wildlife and all Missourians. This has not happened by accident. The future will not be bright without our continued efforts.

Already this year, proposed legislation has been filed which would put politics back into conservation in Missouri. Since 1937, we citizens have protected conservation from special interest favoritism, this year we face a very, very serious threat. The proposal, SJR 27, would expand the MDC Commission, assigning each commissioner to a district of Missouri. To some, this may sound like a good idea, but immediately forests, fish and wildlife lose. Under such a system, regional interests would be pitted against each other for funding and personnel. The results of such conflict would be decisions based on political influence instead of the interests of forests, fish and wildlife. This WAS the way things worked in Missouri before we citizens created MDC, this WOULD be the way things work in the future, if this proposal were to become law. The most effective way imaginable, the direct path to inject regional interests and favoritism into conservation. This is a power struggle, a politically motivated effort to control conservation. We citizens have spoken up consistently AGAINST such nonsense since 1935, when the Conservation Federation of Missouri was organized. We always will. We need you to be an active part of our efforts. There is also similar legislation proposed in the House, HB1178.

Soon we will also be tested with proposals to sunset the Design for Conservation Sales Tax.

Another bad idea, an attempt to exert political control over something which works very, very well. If and when that day comes, we must be prepared to speak up! Rest assured, as Theodore Roosevelt said "the wildlife and its habitat cannot speak, so we must and we will." *The Voice for Missouri Outdoors*, the Conservation Federation of Missouri will be there, well prepared and waiting for any and all attacks on Missouri conservation.

With term limits, one of the many challenges to political activity is that there are many new people, ignorant of precedent, history, tradition and even law coming to serve us at the Capitol. Let's make 2012 a very special year, as the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Missouri Department of Conservation.

**Contact your Senator and your Representative today AND copy your comments to leaders in both chambers at the Capitol. As a courtesy, I ask you to also copy me on your messages, if possible.**

#### Senate Committee Members

- Senator Brian Munzlinger (573) 751-7985 [brian.munzlinger@senate.mo.gov](mailto:brian.munzlinger@senate.mo.gov)
- Senator Mike Parson (573) 751-8793 [mparson@senate.mo.gov](mailto:mparson@senate.mo.gov)
- Senator Dan Brown (573) 751-5713 [Dan.Brown@senate.mo.gov](mailto:Dan.Brown@senate.mo.gov)
- Senator Chuck Purgason (573) 751-1882 [Chuck.Purgason@senate.mo.gov](mailto:Chuck.Purgason@senate.mo.gov)
- Senator Bill Stouffer (573) 751-1507 [bstouffer@senate.mo.gov](mailto:bstouffer@senate.mo.gov)
- Senator Victor Callahan (573) 751-3074 [victor\\_callahan@senate.mo.gov](mailto:victor_callahan@senate.mo.gov)
- Senator Ryan McKenna (573) 751-1492 [rmckenna@senate.mo.gov](mailto:rmckenna@senate.mo.gov)

#### Senate Leadership

- President Pro Tem - Sen. Rob Mayer [Rob.Mayer@senate.mo.gov](mailto:Rob.Mayer@senate.mo.gov) 751-3859
- Majority Floor Leader - Sen. Tom Dempsey [Tom.Dempsey@senate.mo.gov](mailto:Tom.Dempsey@senate.mo.gov) 751-1141
- Asst. Maj. Floor Leader - Sen. Jack Goodman [Jack.Goodman@senate.mo.gov](mailto:Jack.Goodman@senate.mo.gov) 751-2234
- Majority Caucus Whip - Sen. Mike Parson [MP\\_arson@senate.mo.gov](mailto:MP_arson@senate.mo.gov) 751-8793
- Majority Caucus Chairman - Sen. Bill Stouffer [BStouffer@senate.mo.gov](mailto:BStouffer@senate.mo.gov) 751-1507
- Majority Caucus Secretary - Sen. Eric Schmitt [ESchmitt@senate.mo.gov](mailto:ESchmitt@senate.mo.gov) 751-2853
- Minority Floor Leader - Sen. Victor Callahan [Victor\\_Callahan@senate.mo.gov](mailto:Victor_Callahan@senate.mo.gov) 751-3074
- Asst. Minority Floor Leader - Sen. Jolie Justus [Jolie.Justus@senate.mo.gov](mailto:Jolie.Justus@senate.mo.gov) 751-2788
- Minority Caucus Chair - Sen. Timothy Green [Timothy\\_Green@senate.mo.gov](mailto:Timothy_Green@senate.mo.gov) 751-2420
- Minority Caucus Secretary - Sen. Robin Wright-Jones [Robin.Jones@senate.mo.gov](mailto:Robin.Jones@senate.mo.gov) 751-2606

#### House of Representatives Leadership

- House Speaker - Rep. Steven Tilley [Steven.Tilley@house.mo.gov](mailto:Steven.Tilley@house.mo.gov) 751-1488
- Speaker Pro Tem - Rep. Shane Schoeller [Shane.Schoeller@house.mo.gov](mailto:Shane.Schoeller@house.mo.gov) 751-2948
- Majority Floor Leader - Rep. Tim Jones [Tim.Jones@house.mo.gov](mailto:Tim.Jones@house.mo.gov) 751-0562
- Asst. Majority Floor Leader - Rep. Jeanie Riddle [Jeanie.Riddle@house.mo.gov](mailto:Jeanie.Riddle@house.mo.gov) 751-5226
- Majority Caucus Chair - Rep. Jason Smith [Jason.Smith@house.mo.gov](mailto:Jason.Smith@house.mo.gov) 751-1688
- Caucus Chair - Rep. Shelley Keeney [Shelley.Keeney@house.mog.gov](mailto:Shelley.Keeney@house.mog.gov) 751-5912
- Caucus Secretary - Rep. Sue Allen [Sue.Allen@house.mo.gov](mailto:Sue.Allen@house.mo.gov) 751-9765

- Minority Leader - Rep. Mike Talboy [Mike.Talboy@house.mo.gov](mailto:Mike.Talboy@house.mo.gov) 751-1309
- Assistant Minority Leader - Rep. Tishaura Jones [Tishaura.Jones@house.mo.gov](mailto:Tishaura.Jones@house.mo.gov) 751-6800
- Minority Whip - Rep. Mike Colona [Mike.Colona@house.mo.gov](mailto:Mike.Colona@house.mo.gov) 751-6736

Thank you for your immediate attention and action on this vital issue! Please contact me if you have any questions.

Yours in conservation,

Dave Murphy, Executive Director

Conservation Federation of Missouri

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