

House Concurrent Resolution No. 31

96TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVES COOKSON (Sponsor), SWINGER, PHILLIPS, RUZICKA, FITZWATER, AULL, CASEY, SHIVELY, BLACK, ROWLAND, LASATER, SCHIEBER, FALLERT, DENISON, HOUGHTON, KRATKY, MEADOWS, SMITH (150), WELLS, RICHARDSON, HAMPTON AND FRAKER (Co-sponsors).

1332L.011

2 **WHEREAS**, the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) was established by the
3 United States Congress in 1965 to preserve, develop, and assure accessibility to quality outdoor
4 recreation resources "to strengthen the health and vitality of the citizens of the United States";
5 and

6 **WHEREAS**, the LWCF is principally funded by revenue received from offshore energy
7 extraction and is authorized to receive \$900 million annually through the annual appropriations
8 process; and

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10 **WHEREAS**, the LWCF funds a federal land acquisition program and provides matching
11 grants to states and localities for capital projects through the State Assistance program; and

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13 **WHEREAS**, investments from the LWCF State Assistance program support the creation
14 of public parks in rural and urban communities throughout America, protect green space and
15 local water supplies, guarantee outdoor recreation opportunities, spur economic development,
16 create jobs, and significantly aid national efforts to promote health, connect youth to nature and
17 the outdoors, combat childhood obesity, and protect the environment; and

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19 **WHEREAS**, in the original authorizing legislation, Congress recognized the important
20 role of state and local parks in achieving its intended purpose by requiring the allocation of 60%
21 of LWCF annual funding to the State Assistance program and 40% to the federal program; and

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23 **WHEREAS**, the language protecting the State Assistance program was removed in the
24 mid 1970s resulting in a disproportional amount (84%) of LWCF funding going to the federal
25 side of the program over the past 25 years; and

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27 **WHEREAS**, no language exists to protect the State Assistance funding allocations, and
28 Congress appropriated a total of approximately \$304 million to LWCF in FY 2009 but allocated
29 only \$19 million (6%) to the State Assistance program, and in FY 2010 appropriated a total of
30 approximately \$479 million to LWCF with a mere \$490 million (8%) going to the State
31 Assistance program; and

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33 **WHEREAS**, Missouri received only \$509,599 in FY 2009 and \$699,429 in FY 2010
34 based on Missouri's portion (.017%) of the 16% that is currently allocated to the states; and
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36 **WHEREAS**, the disproportional allocation of LWCF funding between the two programs
37 has severely limited state and local governments in their capacity to develop parks and open
38 spaces and protect green space and local water supplies in light of rapidly increasing populations;
39 and
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41 **WHEREAS**, LWCF provides one-time funding for state and local capital projects and
42 state and local governments equally match the federal dollars, then assume all costs of
43 management and maintenance; and
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45 **WHEREAS**, LWCF State Assistance program has invested more than \$84,125,968 in
46 Missouri since 1965 and has funded 1,275 projects; and
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48 **WHEREAS**, requiring 40% of LWCF funds to be annually allocated to the State
49 Assistance program would not increase the national debt, but would ensure a more balanced
50 allocation of resources between federal land acquisition and state and local community
51 conservation efforts, as intended by the authorizing legislation. This would provide \$6 million
52 for Missouri's 2012 LWCF budget:
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54 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the members of the House of
55 Representatives of the Ninety-sixth General Assembly, First Regular Session, the Senate
56 concurring therein, hereby call on the United States Congress to implement legislation specifying
57 an annual allocation of at least 40% of Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) moneys to
58 the State Assistance program; and
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60 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Chief Clerk of the Missouri House of
61 Representatives be instructed to prepare properly inscribed copies of this resolution for President
62 Barack Obama, the Majority and Minority Leaders of the United States Senate and House of
63 Representatives, and each member of the Missouri Congressional delegation.