

**Whereas**, the members of the Missouri House of Representatives feel it is altogether right and proper to pause from time to time to recognize milestones in the legislative history of this great country; and

**Whereas**, the members now pause to observe the fiftieth anniversary of the Wilderness Act, an Act passed by an overwhelmingly bipartisan vote in the United States Congress and signed by President Lyndon Johnson on September 3, 1964; and

**Whereas**, the Wilderness Act brought into being America's National Wilderness Preservation System, which promised federal lands would be "administered for the use and enjoyment of the American people in such manner as will leave them unimpaired for future use and enjoyment as wilderness, and will provide for the protection of these areas and the preservation of their wilderness character"; and

**Whereas**, the Wilderness Act made it the "policy of the Congress to secure for the American people of present and future generations the benefits of an enduring resource of wilderness ... in order to assure that an increasing population, accompanied by expanding settlement and growing mechanization, does not occupy and modify all areas within the United States and its possessions, leaving no lands designated for preservation and protection in their natural condition"; and

**Whereas**, wilderness, "in contrast with those areas where man and his own works dominate the landscape", is recognized as "Federal land retaining its primeval character and influence, which generally appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable, and has outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation"; and

**Whereas**, President Barack Obama said in proclaiming September each year during his first term as National Wilderness Month, "The mystery and wonder of wilderness is deeply rooted in our national character. For many of the first Americans—American Indians and Alaska Natives—the wilderness provided a source of sustenance and a foundation for their ways of life"; and

**Whereas**, the members of the Missouri House of Representatives honor the uniquely American qualities of the Wilderness accomplishment, a remarkable societal compact whereby the American people determined to forego in certain special places the prevailing trend toward development, there allowing nature, not human machinery and invention, to have the upper hand:

**Now, therefore, be it resolved** that we, the members of the Missouri House of Representatives, Ninety-seventh General Assembly, recognize that the Wilderness Act marks a fundamental cultural shift from a need to conquer nature to the need to preserve it, a modern philosophical expression of the human need to find spiritual solace in nature; and

**Be it further resolved** that the Chief Clerk of the Missouri House of Representatives be instructed to prepare a properly inscribed copy of this resolution for presentation in recognition of the fiftieth anniversary of the Wilderness Act of 1964.

Offered by \_\_\_\_\_  
Representative Chris Kelly  
District No. 45

I, Timothy W. Jones, Speaker of the House of Representatives, Ninety-seventh General Assembly, First Regular Session, do certify that the above is a true and correct copy of House Resolution No. \_\_\_\_\_, adopted \_\_\_\_\_, 2013.

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Timothy W. Jones, Speaker

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