



MISSOURI PARKS ASSOCIATION

RESOLUTION

Whereas, our nation and our state have come into a condition of dangerous economic distress; and,

Whereas, the Parks and Soils Sales Tax reflects this national economic crisis through declining collections and lowered revenue; and,

Whereas, the Parks and Soils Sales Tax provides the major portion of the funding that sustains the operation of Missouri's state parks; and,

Whereas, the park system must operate with a balanced budget while at the same time remaining true to its mission of protecting and providing the best of cultural, natural, and recreational resources for our citizens and our visitors alike; and,

Whereas, the successful performance of this mission and delivery of a high quality of public service depends upon maintaining a skilled, trained and highly experienced workforce;

Now Therefore, Be It Resolved, that the board and the members of the Missouri Parks Association, meeting at Babler State Park, on October 25, 2009, at its 27th annual meeting, hereby express their gratitude for the loyal, steadfast, and professional service of the staff of the Missouri Division of State Parks, through good times and bad, and particularly at this time of fiscal crisis; and,

Further, the members and board of the Missouri Parks Association strongly request that the Missouri Department of Natural Resources re-evaluate the decision to lay off 15% of the state parks work force, thus causing great hardship to these loyal employees and their families, with the inevitable reduction in public service; and,

Further, that the Department of Natural Resources explore other clear and proven options to weather this crisis, including but not limited to job sharing, reduced work weeks, furloughs and other temporary measures, in cooperation with the state parks staff, to make a joint effort to ameliorate hardship and continue delivery of the high level of public service Missourians have come to expect from their state park system; and,

Further, the Missouri Parks Association urges Governor Jay Nixon to provide all possible support to the management of the Department of Natural Resources in seeking a creative solution to this crisis that will sustain its employees while maintaining the level of excellence for which Missouri state parks are known across the nation.

Attest:

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Susan Fluder".

President

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "D.A. Rucker".

Secretary