

RESOLUTION # _____
GRASSLAND PROTECTION

WHEREAS, grasslands are a critical resource throughout the Midwest and the United States and provide habitat for many wildlife species and contribute to the overall health of Midwest ecosystems; and

WHEREAS, significant acreages of grassland resources are still being lost as a direct result of inadequate base resource protection measures in the farm bill and inadequate compliance monitoring and weak penalties; and

WHEREAS, the commodity provisions of the 2002 farm bill provide indirect monetary incentives to convert grasslands to commodities production; and

WHEREAS, conversion of grasslands to agricultural use diminishes the population of many valued wildlife species and denies their recreational, cultural, and esthetic benefits to the people of the United States.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Midwest Association Fish and Wildlife Agencies support stronger federal sodbuster legislation that would actually prohibit the conversion of grasslands to cropland uses by producers benefiting by farm program benefits.

Adopted: Springfield, Missouri

Signed: _____
John Hoskins, President
Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies