

**Draft** 7-15-02

RESOLUTION NO. 1

**NATIVE GRASSLANDS PROTECTION**

WHEREAS, native grasslands are critical resources, which provide habitat for many wildlife species and contribute to the overall health of ecosystems, economies, and human lives throughout the Midwest and the United States; and

WHEREAS, the federal Farm Bill is one of the nation's most important conservation tools; and

WHEREAS, significant acreages of native grasslands continue to be lost, due to inadequate base resource protection measures in the Farm Bill, inadequate compliance monitoring and ineffective penalties for conversion of grasslands to crop production; and

WHEREAS, some of the Farm Bill's commodity production and price support provisions provide indirect financial incentives to convert native grasslands to crop production; and

WHEREAS, conversion of native grasslands to crop production diminishes the ecological, recreation, aesthetic, cultural, and water quality benefits of native grasslands;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies supports strengthened Sodbuster provisions in the Farm Bill and that such provisions should effectively discourage grassland conversion by precluding federal agricultural program benefits from any acreages that are converted from native grasslands to crop production.

Adopted: \_\_\_\_\_, Springfield, Missouri

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John Hoskins, President  
Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies