

Draft 7-15-02

RESOLUTION NO. 2

WETLAND PROTECTION

WHEREAS, wetlands 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, wetland acreages are still declining significantly, due to inadequate compliance monitoring and ineffective application of penalties that would otherwise prevent wetland losses; and

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

WHEREAS, conversion to crop production diminishes ecological, flood dampening, recreation, aesthetic, cultural, and water quality and quantity benefits of wetlands;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies requests and urges the U.S. Department of Agriculture to take all necessary steps to ensure rigorous, fair, and effective application of the Farm Bill's wetlands protection (Swampbuster) provisions.

Adopted: _____, Springfield, Missouri

John Hoskins, President
Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies