

RESOLUTION #2011-__

SUPPORT AND ASSISTANCE TO THE
NATIONAL BOBWHITE CONSERVATION INITIATIVE

WHEREAS, the Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies recognizes and appreciates the productive leadership provided by the Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (SEAFWA) and its former Southeast Quail Study Group (SEQSG) in launching the national movement in 2002 to restore the Northern Bobwhite Quail across its range through the development and successful early implementation of the *Northern Bobwhite Conservation Initiative (NBCI)* – hereafter referred to as the “Initiative;”

WHEREAS, the Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies states have actively supported the continued advancement and growth of this Initiative in part by engaging as full partners in the process that produced a revised, expanded, and upgraded NBCI 2.0 in March 2011; and

WHEREAS, the Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies states recognize the new National Bobwhite Technical Committee (NBTC) – the expanded, range-wide replacement for the SEQSG – as the bobwhite states’ unified technical guidance body for the NBCI, and will strive for greater staff participation in the NBTC annual meeting and related processes; and

WHEREAS, the Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies states recognize the University of Tennessee as the national operational center for the NBCI as designated in 2008 by representatives of the states, and the NBCI Management Board as the national administrative leadership body to shape, steer and support the Initiative; and

WHEREAS, the Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies bobwhite states pledge, to the extent practical, to strive to step down and integrate the NBCI into other bird and habitat conservation initiatives in their individual states, and to implement the habitat objectives of the NBCI in support of the Initiative’s population restoration goals; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of the unique logistical challenges of working at regional and national levels to restore resident game birds, the Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies also stands ready to ally with the SEAFWA, the Northeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (NEAFWA), and other partners to seek ways to continue "raising the game" for implementation of the NBCI.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies at its annual meeting in Moravia, Iowa on June 29, 2011, foresees and suggests the need to work with the SEAFWA, NEAFWA and other partners to begin charting a long-term course for the nation that fosters greater collaborative conservation of priority resident game birds across state and regional boundaries.