



APR 10 2008

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April 9, 2008

Dave Murphy
Conservation Federation of Missouri
728 West Main St.
Jefferson City, MO 65109

Dear Mr. Murphy:

The Missouri Conservation Heritage Foundation appreciates this opportunity to comment on the resolution requesting that we issue a Conservation Heritage License Plate with a bobwhite quail design. Revenue from such a plate was to be dedicated to quail and early successional habitat projects. This letter explains why it would not be appropriate to do that.

The MCHF is limited to three license plate designs. We do not dedicate our license plate revenue to individual projects or categories. The MCHF Board rather desires flexibility in allocating those funds. Future plate designs will be chosen for the widest public appeal and the broadest range of conservation interests. This will maximize revenue for all of our work, including quail related projects. Organizations interested in having a license plate dedicated to bobwhite quail have the option of applying to the Missouri Department of Revenue for their own special license plates.

The MCHF has strongly supported quail and quail-friendly habitat projects. In fact, for at least the past eight years MCHF has directed more funding to quail-related projects, native grasslands, and early successional habitat projects than was generated by any of our license plates during those years. Projects ranged from supporting the Northeast Missouri Open Land Initiative, buying native grass drills for Soil and Water Conservation Districts, improving grassland and other quail-friendly habitats, and supporting Quail Academies and Outdoor Woman quail hunting experiences. In other words, people who display any MCHF license plate are benefiting quail, quail habitat, and recruitment of new quail hunters.

Sincerely,

Richard Thom
RICHARD THOM
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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