

**Committee:** Public/Private Lands Committee

**Author:** Richard Orr

**Intended Recipients:** Dr. Mun Choi, President of the University of Missouri System, University of Missouri Systems Board of Curators, Steve Ehlman, St. Charles County Executive, St. Charles County Council

**Cc:** Ben Ellis, Director of State Parks

### **Halt Sale of Weldon Woods**

**WHEREAS**, Weldon Woods, a wild forest adjacent to the Katy Trail State Park and the Busch Greenway was transferred to the University of Missouri by the US Department of Energy after World War II. Until now, the area has served as a 200-acre natural green space with old growth forests and high bluffs along the Katy Trail State Park; and

**WHEREAS**, the University is in the process of selling Weldon Woods to a local home builder for a large subdivision development; and

**WHEREAS**, the St. Charles County Council approved a development plan in June 2018 to build approximately three hundred homes on the acreage; and

**WHEREAS**, this development will destroy the wild character of the land along this part of the Busch Greenway and the Katy Trail State Park and disrupt the delicate fauna and flora of the ecosystem; and

**WHEREAS**, the proposed sale will result in the significant reduction of public land on which to recreate; and

**WHEREAS**, the St. Charles County Council disregarded their own Planning and Zoning commission's recommendation to retain the land in agricultural zoning and instead rezoned the acreage to residential, allowing for this high-density development; and

**WHEREAS**, other nearby hiking trails such as the Lewis and Clark Trail and the Lost Valley Trail, are very intensely used and more trails in the area are desperately needed to fill the demand of those seeking healthful outdoor recreation; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED** that the Conservation Federation of Missouri assembled at the Capitol Plaza Hotel, Jefferson City, MO, this 10<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2019, asks Dr. Mun Choi, President of the University of Missouri system and St. Charles County Executive Steve Ehlman to stop the sale of Weldon Woods and retain the property for public recreation.

Searchable Key words: Weldon Woods, University of Missouri, St. Charles County, development

**Expires:** March 10, 2024