

**Conservation Federation of Missouri
2019 Resolutions**

Committee: Public/Private Lands Committee

7 – Draft 2019

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Intended Recipients: Dr. Choi, President of the University of Missouri System, Steve Ehlman, St. Charles County Executive.

Halt Sale of Weldon Woods

1 **WHEREAS**, an area known as Weldon Woods, a wild forestland adjacent to the Katy
2 Trail and the Busch Greenway that was transferred to the University of Missouri by the
3 US Department of Energy after World War II has remained, until now, a 200 acre natural
4 green space with old growth forests and high bluffs along the Katy Trail,

5 **WHEREAS**, the University is well underway in the process of selling said tract to a local
6 home builder for a large subdivision development which will result in much earthmoving
7 and old growth tree removal to accommodate the current plan to erect several hundred
8 single family homes and condominiums,

9 **WHEREAS**, the St. Charles County Council approved (despite intense opposition and
10 lobbying from local residents) a development plan in June, 2018 to build approximately
11 three hundred homes on the acreage.

12 **WHEREAS**, this development will forever destroy the wild character of the land along
13 this part of the Busch Greenway and the Katy Trail and disrupt the delicate fauna and
14 flora of the ecosystem.

15 **WHEREAS**, while selling this rare asset of undisturbed open suburban land to a
16 developer may financially support the public university system for a time, it will result in
17 the significant reduction of public land on which to recreate by hiking and nature study,

18 **WHEREAS**, the majority of the St. Charles County Council members disregarded their
19 own Planning and Zoning commission recommendation to retain the land in agricultural
20 zoning and instead approved the rezoning of the acreage to residential allowing for this
21 unwise high-density development,

22 **WHEREAS**, other nearby hiking trails such as the Lewis and Clark Trail and the Lost
23 Valley Trail, much like the ones that should be constructed in Weldon Woods, are very
24 intensely used and more trails in the area are desperately needed to fill the demand of
25 those seeking healthful outdoor recreation,

26 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Conservation Federation of
27 Missouri assembled at the Capitol Plaza Hotel, Jefferson City, MO, this 10th day of
28 March, 2019 asks Dr. Choi. President of the University of Missouri system, and St.
29 Charles County Executive Steve Ehlman, to not allow this unwise sale to proceed.

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

Expires: March 10, 2024