

April 17, 2019

Mr. Tyler Schwartze
Executive Director
Conservation Federation of Missouri
728 West Main
Jefferson City, MO 65101

Dear Mr. Schwartze:

Thank you for taking time to reach out regarding the sale of land in the Weldon Springs area. We appreciate your input and would like to assure you that we are committed to doing what is in the best interest of our students, their families and our state.

To provide some background related to the land in question. In 1948, the university received 7,930 acres of land from the federal government in St. Charles near Weldon Springs. In keeping with our commitment to environmental stewardship, more than 7,230 acres (91%) were sold to the Missouri Department of Conservation. Conserved in a natural-state, the land sold to MDC now makes up in excess of 85% of the present day 8,398 acre Weldon Spring Conservation Area. In 2017, the university entered into an agreement to sell approximately 180 acres of land near the Missouri Bluffs Golf Course for possible development of single and multi-unit housing, the proceeds of which will be used for educational purposes, in keeping with our land grant mission.

In reaffirming our commitment to serve the public good, the university will preserve a significant portion (approximately 46 acres of the 180 acres previously being sold) of the land closest to the river bluffs and the Katy Trail for future public use, and we have publicly promised that this land will not be subject to private development. Doing so will provide a significant buffer between the Katy Trail and the proposed development while also keeping a large tract of land in its natural state, allowing wildlife to flourish and Missourians to enjoy it for generations to come.

We have also pledged to work with St. Charles County officials and other public agencies to determine the best use of the land currently used by the Missouri Bluffs Golf Course should the golf course operations ever change. In that case, we will prioritize upholding the natural beauty and recreational importance of the area.

The public process in St. Charles County provided us an opportunity to meet with several groups who had a range of views regarding the sale. We want everyone to know that we took their concerns seriously.

Sincerely,


Mun Y. Choi, Ph.D.
President



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