

**Originating Committee:** Big Game, Turkey, and Furbearers Committee

**Author:** Darren Haverstick, Share the Harvest Committee Chairman

**Intended Recipient:** Missouri General Assembly

### **Support for Adding Shelf Stable Packaged Venison Products to Share the Harvest**

**WHEREAS**, the Conservation Federation of Missouri proposes to use a portion of wild-harvested deer venison donated through the Share the Harvest program for the creation of shelf stable packaged venison products; and

**WHEREAS**, providing these shelf stable packaged venison products through foodbank supported food programs for students, such as Buddy Packs, will add an additional protein source for food insecure children in Missouri; and

**WHEREAS**, Feeding Missouri is a coalition of the six Missouri Food Banks working to provide hunger relief to every county in the state; and

**WHEREAS**, Missouri Food Banks and Feeding Missouri collectively distribute over 120 million pounds of food each year through a network of more than 1,500 community feeding programs; and

**WHEREAS**, current state statute stipulates that the donated meat must be frozen and packaged to be distributed to Missouri Food Banks; and

**WHEREAS**, updating the state statute would allow for meat to be frozen or packaged, as well as properly define the term “shelf stable”, which protects good faith donors; and

**WHEREAS**, a pilot program could be established to use deer venison taken during the January 2021 culling season, and expanded as an option for the 2022 Share the Harvest season; and

**WHEREAS**, the Conservation Federation of Missouri, Feeding Missouri, Missouri Department of Conservation and Missouri Meat Processor Association support this initiative; and

**WHEREAS**, supporting House Bill 1711 and Senate Bill 662 filed during the 100<sup>th</sup> General Assembly in Missouri would enhance these efforts; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED** that the Conservation Federation of Missouri assembled at the Capitol Plaza Hotel, Jefferson City, MO, this 8<sup>th</sup> day of March 2020, supports HB 1711 and SB 662 filed during the 100<sup>th</sup> Missouri General Assembly and any future legislation to allow shelf stable packaged venison products.

Searchable Keywords: shelf stable, food insecurity, backpack program, Missouri Hunger Atlas, Feeding Missouri, Share the Harvest

**Expires:** March 8, 2025