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 100th 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 8th day of March 2020, supports HB 1711 and SB 662 filed during the 100th 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