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4 **Originating Committee:** Environment and Ecology
5 **Author:** Marcus Ward, Cameron Haeffner, Demi White (CLC)
6 **Intended Recipient:** Missouri Department of Conservation

7 **Amphibian Chytrid Awareness**

8 **WHEREAS**, amphibian chytrid fungus, (*Batrachochytrium dendrobatidis*, or BD), is a water-
9 borne fungus that infects frogs, toads, salamanders and other amphibians; and

10 **WHEREAS**, BD inhabits moist soil and fresh water, and are found on plants, algae or
11 invertebrates; and

12 **WHEREAS**, BD infection can be fatal to infected amphibians; and

13 **WHEREAS**, BD spreads from infected amphibians through motile spores released into the
14 environment; and

15 **WHEREAS**, amphibians worldwide are dwindling both in numbers and distribution, and
16 according to the latest assessment of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)
17 Red List of Threatened Species at least 33% of all extant amphibian species worldwide are at
18 risk of extinction; and

19 **WHEREAS**, amphibians add to the overall biodiversity and resilience of ecosystems; and

20 **WHEREAS**, Missouri is home to 43 amphibian species that are important links in the food
21 chain, eating mosquitos, termites and other insects and providing food for other wildlife; and

22 **WHEREAS**, 40-60% of Central Newts (*Notophthalmus viridescens louisianensis*) in Missouri
23 test positive for BD; and

24 **WHEREAS**, anglers and recreational boaters can unintentionally spread BD by moving
25 amphibians, live bait and invertebrates from one area to another, or on muddy or wet shoes, tires,
26 boats, and fishing equipment

27 **WHEREAS**, anglers and other outdoor enthusiasts can help prevent the spread of BD by taking
28 simple precautions; and

29 **WHEREAS**, current BD treatments are invasive, requiring the amphibians to be captured and
30 treated with fungicide in a lab; and

31 **WHEREAS**, fungicide treatments of large bodies of water are expensive and impractical,
32 making prevention of the spread of BD a better alternative; and

33 **WHEREAS**, public awareness is essential to slow the spread of BD and its negative effects;
34 now, therefore, be it

35 **RESOLVED** that the Conservation Federation of Missouri, assembled this 6th day of March,
36 2021, encourages the Missouri Departments of Conservation, and Natural Resources to inform
37 Missourians about the threat of BD, how they can prevent the spread of BD, and to encourage
38 anglers and recreational boaters to practice basic sanitation regimens between lakes and streams.

39 Searchable Keywords: Chytrid, Amphibian, *Batrachochytrium dendrobatidis*, BD, Missouri
40 Department of Conservation, MDC, Department of Natural Resources, DNR, Education,
41 Anglers, Boaters, Central Newt, *Notophthalmus viridescens louisianensis*, frogs, toads,
42 salamanders

43 **Expires:** March 6, 2026

DRAFT