

Originating Committee: Forest Resources and Management Committee

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Intended Recipient(s): Missouri Congressional Delegation

CFM Support for Hardwood Trees in the Farm Bill

WHEREAS, for the first time in the 33-year history of the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), language of the 2018 Farm Bill, Section 2201 (d)(2)(A), and provisions of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), 7 CFR 718.2, 7 CFR 1410.2 and 7 CFR 1410.62 significantly discriminate against hardwood tree plantings in Missouri and the nation; and

WHEREAS, only hardwood tree contracts are limited to one re-enrollment period, while this limitation does not apply to other CRP plantings, whether softwood trees (pines), grasses, or legumes; and

WHEREAS, the CFR contains provisions that disallow the re-enrollment of tree practices when a contract expires, such as in a year when there is no general CRP signup; and

WHEREAS, these provisions are biased against hardwood tree plantings, and their continued management, thereby making planting of hardwood trees counter to the economic interest of the farmer; and

WHEREAS, trees provide some of the best opportunities for long-term public benefits including carbon sequestration, wildlife habitat, wood products, lower soil erosion, streambank stability, and improvements to water quality; and

WHEREAS, these benefits to society extend far beyond the maximum 30-year enrollment limit currently imposed by the 2018 Farm Bill; and

WHEREAS, the Farm Bill is reauthorized and amended every 4-5 years; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Conservation Federation of Missouri, assembled this 6th day of March, 2021, calls for revisions to current and future Farm Bills and the Code of Federal Regulations that reflect equal treatment of Conservation Reserve Program plantings and their maintenance especially in regard to hardwood tree plantings.

Searchable Keywords: Conservation Reserve Program, CRP, trees, hardwood trees, Farm Bill.

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