

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 12

Relating to rivers of Missouri day.

Whereas, the State of Missouri contains the confluence of the Missouri and Mississippi Rivers, the two longest rivers in the United States and on the North American Continent; and

Whereas, Missouri is home to more than 110,000 miles of rivers and streams in total, with a great diversity of habitat, character, and uses; and;

Whereas, the history of the state is inextricably tied to these rivers and streams that have served as channels of commerce, sources of energy, and avenues of exploration; and

Whereas, these rivers include the first national park area to protect a river system, the Ozark National Scenic Riverways; and

Whereas, Missouri has four aquatic faunal regions with distinct aquatic animals that reside in each; and

Whereas, the Grassland/Prairie Streams region includes the portion of the state north of the Missouri River and is distinguished by turbid water due to clay and soil particles in the water; and

Whereas, the Ozark Streams are located mostly south of the Missouri River and many are characterized by the caves and springs of the Ozark region and are clear, cool, and fast-flowing; and

Whereas, the Mississippi Lowland Streams are primarily located in the Bootheel and are much different from streams elsewhere in the state due to their low elevation and unique, swampy ecosystems; and

Whereas, the Big Rivers, the Missouri and Mississippi, are distinct from all other rivers in the state due to their

size, swift and constant flow, the extent to which they have been channelized and dammed, and continual monitoring by public engineers to maintain safety for barge traffic; and

Whereas, Missouri's agricultural, recreational, and tourism sectors are dependent upon our rivers and streams and the water they contain; and

Whereas, Missouri rivers and streams are a source of pride for Missourians and are essential to maintaining our quality of life:

Now Therefore Be It Resolved that the members of the Senate of the One Hundred Second General Assembly, First Regular Session, the House of Representatives concurring therein, hereby designate the first Tuesday in March each year as "Rivers of Missouri Day"; and

Be It Further Resolved that this resolution be sent to the Governor for his approval or rejection pursuant to the Missouri Constitution.