

# KANSAS WILDLIFE FEDERATION

## 2011 Resolution

### SUPPORT FOR SODSAVER PROVISIONS IN THE FARM BILL

**Whereas**, the vast majority of native prairie in the U.S. has been converted to crop production; and

**Whereas**, the remaining grasslands and other native habitats are largely confined to areas with poor soils, steep topography, and/or climatic conditions unsuitable for crop production; and

**Whereas**, the Farm Bill provides substantial risk protection to crop producers with a combination of crop insurance and disaster assistance that makes crop production on newly converted native grassland economically viable even with reduced yields or crop failure; and

**Whereas**, there is negligible government support for the cattle ranching industry, which is the current land-use for most native grasslands, thus landowners are provided with a strong incentive to break new ground; and

**Whereas**, the 2007 GAO report *Agricultural Conservation: Farm Program Payments Are an Important Factor in Landowners' Decisions to Convert Grassland to Cropland* called attention to the decline in private grassland nationwide and continuing conversion of native grassland to cropland; and

**Whereas**, the 2007 GAO report underscored the role that crop insurance and disaster assistance play in fueling that conversion; and

**Whereas**, the USDA's report *Ethanol and a Changing Agricultural Landscape* estimated that cropped acreage in the U.S. will increase by five million acres by 2015 to meet the demand for ethanol.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Kansas Wildlife Federation assembled during its annual meeting, February 26, 2011 in Great Bend, Kansas, urges Congress to provide a "sodsaver" provision be included in the next Farm Bill which disallows the payment of farm subsidies, crop insurance and/or federal or state disaster relief for the financial assurance of crops planted on native grassland converted after July 1, 2011; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Kansas Wildlife Federation provide this resolution to the Kansas Congressional delegation.