

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.