

# LOBBYIST ISSUE PAPER

<b>Lobbyist:</b>	Emily Antrobus
<b>Delegation:</b>	Lindbergh High School
<b>Issue:</b>	Wildlife Conservation

## Issue

Wildlife conservation is a major concern facing our state. In Missouri, there are 72 endangered species, which includes plants, insects, mollusks, fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds, and mammals. This is 13 more than our neighboring state of Kansas, which has 25 endangered species and 54 which are threatened. Eighteen of the species endangered in Missouri are also on the federal endangered species list, eleven are listed as threatened, and seven are candidates to be listed as threatened.

## Position

As a lobbyist in Youth in Government, I encourage the Missouri YMCA General Assembly to support legislature which increases funding for the Missouri Department of Conservation, state parks and nature education programs, increases penalties for those who violate hunting regulations, and helps protect species and environments native to Missouri.

## Organizations

As a lobbyist, I represent Missouri Teaming with Wildlife (MTWW) and the Conservation Federation of Missouri (CFM) MTWW is the Missouri state branch of the national coalition of Teaming with Wildlife. MTWW's goal is to prevent Missouri wildlife from becoming endangered. The coalition supports dedicating funding for fish, forest and wildlife conservation, education and outdoor recreation.

The CFM's mission is the conservation of natural resources and protection of the outdoor heritage of Missouri. The goals of CFM are "to educate, inspire and empower individuals and organizations to take action and to conserve and support the sustainable harvest and wise use of...wildlife."

## Key Terms

Wildlife is defined as:

- Wild animals and vegetation, especially animals living in a natural, undomesticated state.

Conservation is defined as:

- Official supervision of rivers, forests, and other natural resources in order to preserve and protect them through prudent management.

## Problems

### Cave Ecosystems

- Cave ecosystems in Missouri are degrading
- Organisms which reside in these caves are at risk of losing their habitat
- Range of caves has shrunk from 24-21

### Climate Change

- The effects of climate change in Missouri will have an adverse affect on human health, agriculture and wildlife
- Top climate scientists have concluded that the world must reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 30% in current levels by 2020 and by 80% below 1990 levels by 2050 in order to avert the most serious cost of global climate change

### Habitat Fragmentation

- Individual landowners control their property the way they see fit.

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## CONTINUATION OF EMILY ANTROBUS

- This individualistic approach to wildlife management can produce habitat fragmentation across a landscape.
- Fragmentation of the habitat is the disconnection of a landscape into various land uses, for example development, agriculture, etc, resulting in numerous small, disjointed habitat scraps left for utilization by wildlife.

### Solutions to the Problems

Educating citizens and implementing a large-scale monitoring program will assist in the correction of degeneration of cave ecosystems in Missouri.

- The Missouri Stream Team program has been successful in connecting citizens in the conservation and education of Missouri streams, and a program modeled after the Missouri Stream Team, but designed for caves would enhance citizen involvement and aid in gathering vital information on state-wide cave health.

Proven cost-effective technologies such as energy efficient buildings, renewable energy sources such as geothermal, biomass, solar, and wind have already saved individual universities upwards of \$5 million annually while reducing emissions 2% per year.

That the Missouri Department of Conservation be encouraged to work with the US Department of Agriculture and the US Fish and Wildlife Service to bring landowners together to form contiguous tracts of land with management plans that will contribute to creating continuous habitat that will provide wildlife with adequate cover and food resources to survive at a rate of greater than their predation.

### Legislative Goals and Summary

I will support any and all legislation that provides additional funds for the Missouri Wildlife Conservation and state parks, provides grants to organizations working towards wildlife conservation and offers education to citizens on native Missouri wildlife. I will also support any and all legislation that increases the penalties for violation of logging, habitat destruction, and hunting regulations. I will oppose any legislation that reduces penalties or funds for the said causes, and any legislation that would increase risk to native Missouri wildlife.

# LOBBYIST ISSUE PAPER

<b>Lobbyist:</b>	Maria DiPaola
<b>Delegation:</b>	Lindbergh High School
<b>Issue:</b>	Heath Care

There are over 47 million American citizens uninsured. This staggering statistic brings one question to mind: What is the government doing about it? At this point they are providing minimal support to those over 65 with Medicare and with Medicaid to low income families. What is the problem with these systems? The people in between. Medicaid only covers health care for families making \$23,225 a year or less and together Medicare and Medicaid only cover 40 million citizens. There were over 280 million citizens in 2006, as documented by the United States Census Bureau. Universal health care is the epitome of democracy and as we are striving to better ourselves as a country we should do everything in our power to aid those who need it most by socializing health care.

# LOBBYIST ISSUE PAPER

<b>Lobbyist:</b>	Anna Guthrie
<b>Delegation:</b>	Columbia
<b>Issue:</b>	Energy

## Issue

The energy situation in Missouri is one that needs to be addressed. Currently Missouri relies primarily on coal for its electrical power, with conventional hydroelectric power as the only major renewable energy technology. The problems related to energy that Missouri faces right now are that the state is too dependent on coal as a source of fuel. This state does not utilize enough alternative fuel sources, and faces problems with rising gas prices. Missouri has good potential for revenue and jobs with the increase of alternative fuel sources.

## Position

As a lobbyist for, I will encourage the Missouri YMCA youth in government General Assembly to support legislation related to the use of alternative fuel sources. I will actively support any bill which directly harnesses alternative fuel in our state, and bills which indirectly encourage citizens and businesses to use and/or produce alternative fuel.

## Organizations

As a lobbyist, I represent American Council on Renewable Energy (ACORE). ACORE is a 501(c) (3), non-profit organization in Washington, D.C. The group's focus is on accelerating the adoption of renewable energy technologies, including solar, wind, biopower and biofuel, hydro, and geothermal. The goal of ACORE is to have these technologies in mainstream American society, and they plan on achieving this goal through work in convening national conferences, publishing information about renewable energy, and communications programs.

## Key Terms

ACORE defines the following terms as:

- "Solar power" is energy from the sun. Solar power may be utilized to passively heat and light buildings, provide solar cooling, heat water, and generate electricity.
- "Wind power" is energy from the wind. The kinetic energy of wind may be collected by turbines to produce mechanical electricity. The movement of a wind turbine's blade triggers the rotation of an inner rotor shaft, which in turn powers an electric generator. Turbines are often mounted to a structure of 100 feet or higher in order to capture a higher amount of nonturbulent energy.
- "Biopower" is Biological matter may be converted into electricity through gasification, combustion, and other processes. The use of biomass fuel can substantially reduce greenhouse gas emissions because the carbon dioxide released during combustion is recaptured during the plant's growth cycle. Biomass energy is used extensively in the forestry industries to produce process heat, and as a source of heat for generating electricity.
- "Biofuel": Biomass can be converted to liquid or gaseous fuels such as alcohol or oil through fermentation, transesterification and other processes. In addition to emitting fewer greenhouse gases than fossil fuels, biofuels have the potential to displace oil imports and improve energy security.
- "Hydro electricity" is electricity produced from water. Water may be harnessed, directed, or channeled to produce electricity.
- "Geothermal energy": Geothermal power plants extract heat from beneath the earth's surface to power turbines. These systems operate at base load, generating electricity at all hours of the day.

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## CONTINUATION OF ANNA GUTHRIE

### Problems

Missourians are losing jobs due to serious downturns in the economy.

The dependency on coal for Missouri energy is becoming costly and dangerous for the stability of the state.

There are five landfill gas to energy projects in Missouri with a shared size of 32.82 million tons of waste; however, in 2004, the Missouri Energy Center and the EPA's Landfill Methane Outreach Program (LMOP) assessed Missouri's landfill gas potential from existing and new projects at 22 landfills to be about 6.9 trillion BTU (by comparison, MO produces about 4.2 trillion BTU of coal, its primary electricity feedstock)

America's current dependency on foreign oil for fuel is a threat to our national security, and therefore, a problem for the state as well.

### Solutions

Missourians live in a land rich with biofuels. Our current potential for ethanol is 150 million gallons. Providing regulations and opportunities that support alternative fuel will provide much needed jobs for the state. It will also bring in a new revenue Missouri. Most benefitted by a switch to alternative fuel will be farmers. Missouri has the opportunity to lead the nation in biofuel technology, and be actively involved with wind and solar power. Embracing these technologies will make both Missouri and America more independent, which, in turn, improves our national security.

### Legislation Goals and Summary

There are an immense amount of facts that prove the benefit of alternative fuel sources. Under the guidance of these facts and a desire to improve Missouri, I will support legislation which encourages the use of alternative fuel sources, improves alternative fuel technologies, and provides benefits to individuals and businesses that use alternative fuel. I will oppose legislation that encourages wasteful energy or makes it more difficult to improve the use of alternative fuel in Missouri.

# LOBBYIST ISSUE PAPER

<b>Lobbyist:</b>	Holly Haddock
<b>Delegation:</b>	Parkway South High School
<b>Issue:</b>	Environment

## Issue

As Americans continue to consume at a high rate, the rate of pollution and average temperature of our earth due to pollution is gradually increasing. When citizens put more of an effort into recycling, using alternative fuels, and becoming more resourceful with our natural resources, the threat of global warming will not be so intense. It all starts at the most remote area, and for Missourians, our legislation should pass the new policy of improving our environment with a better handle on recycling and ways to utilize alternative energy.

## Positions

As a lobbyist in Youth in Government, I will support and encourage any and all congressmen to pass legislation that increases the standards that are written for Missourians to recycle, and improve our overall environment. Any proposals for the functions of alternative fuels, alternative energy sources, and recycling programs that are better for our environment will be seen as an asset to our government to become a law.

## Organizations

As a lobbyist, I support the Missouri Recycling Association (MORA), and the Missouri chapter of the Sierra Club.

The Missouri Recycling Association provides information to help customers, business and government reduce waste, recycle and buy recycled products, as well as to promote pollution prevention and the efficient use of resources to protect the air, water and land.

The mission of the Sierra Club is to practice and promote the responsible use of the earth's ecosystems and resources; To educate and enlist humanity to protect and restore the quality of the natural and human environment; and to use all lawful means to carry out these objectives.

## Problem

- In 2005, Missouri ranked 27th in our nation's industrial energy consumption.
- We are ranked 32nd against other states in the industrial natural gas use rank.
- In 2007, 46 percent of reusable waste was diverged from being put to good use, and in 2006, only 44 percent was reported as reusable material in Missouri's landfills.
- Waste per person has increased recently from 1.14 tons per person, to 1.18 tons in 2007.
- Missourians alone generate 6.15 pounds of waste daily, which is 37 percent above the national average of 4.5 lbs.

## Solutions to the Problems

Pass legislation to improve the process of recycling in Missouri, which will benefit our environment and overall pollution.

- Studies have shown in California that after recycling levels in their state increased, appeared a pattern of reduced atmospheric carbon dioxide emissions, other toxic air pollutants, water pollution, as well as saving enough energy to power 400,000 homes for a year.
- Raise the value given to collected cans and bottles turned into recycling centers.
- The reward given to people who turn in cans and bottles that can be reused for many different objects should be raised to hopefully increase the amount of recycled materials in Missouri plants. With bottles and cans at a high availability rate, people can receive money which should influence the amount of reusable aluminum and glass turned in.

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## CONTINUATION OF HOLLY HADDOCK

Possibilities and opportunities for alternative energy sources are available and there to obtain easily and affordably.

- The estimated cost of exploring and engineering emission externalities would bring electricity prices up at the same level they were in 1980, when incomes of Americans were half as great.
- The current energy needs does not exceed the amount of available renewals, meaning it would be easy to compensate for the loss of electrical sources.
- North America is ranked competitively high with all the regions of our world that have available renewals that can be used for our energy needs.

Promote energy renewals as well as a more efficient recycling program statewide.

- By improving recycling standards in States across America, the threat against the ozone layer and the amount of pollution that is left in our environment has decreased.
- As of now, Missouri's recycling industry expands our state economy more than \$10 billion per year.
- In 2003 alone, the St. Louis- Jefferson district reduced the same amount of carbon emissions from our ozone as would to take 405,000 cars off our roads.
- Most importantly, the total of taxpaying money to help Missourians to reuse many renewable sources costs approximately one dollar per person per year.

### Legislative Goals and Summary

I will support any legislation that moves to improve the recycling programs and/or development of alternative energy in Missouri. I would hope to see these improvements to be set to occur before 2015. Any legislation that opposes the well-being of our environment I will oppose.

# LOBBYIST ISSUE PAPER

<b>Lobbyist:</b>	Alix Lewis
<b>Delegation:</b>	Francis Howell North High School
<b>Issue:</b>	Keeping the Drinking age at 21

## Issue

Some people in the state of Missouri are trying to get the legal drinking age lowered from twenty one to eighteen. I believe that lowering the drinking age would be harmful. Creators of the Missouri 18 to Drink campaign believe that an eighteen year old has a constitutional right to drink because they are legally an adult. I disagree with their campaign because I believe they are trying to manipulate the constitution for their benefit. I believe that lowering the drinking age would cause unnecessary accidents and possibly increase deaths in people between the age of eighteen and twenty. There is a movement in several states to lower the drinking age which I oppose. Wisconsin, South Carolina, and Kentucky are states that are considering lowering the drinking age for military personnel. While I think that protecting our nation is a very important job and admirable profession I do not believe that it entitles you to benefits that other citizens are not accorded.

In the state of Vermont a non-profit groups called Choose Responsibility promotes the idea that people between the ages of eighteen to twenty have earned the right to drink once they complete an alcohol education program. They believe that if people take the time to learn about drinking and the bad effects that can occur if you consume too much you should be allowed to drink. I do not agree with this line of reasoning.

## Positions

As a lobbyist in Youth in Government, I encourage the Missouri YMCA General Assembly to support legislation that keeps the legal drinking age at twenty one in hopes that it will continue saving lives. Some people just want the drinking age to be lowered. I do not believe that lowering the drinking age would benefit anyone. I think it would prove harmful to the young adults between the age of eighteen and twenty. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration says "laws setting the drinking age at 21 have cut traffic fatalities involving drivers age 18-20 by 13%". Having the drinking age set at 21 equals saving people's lives.

## Organizations

MADD is Mothers Against Drunk Driving. MADD's mission is to stop drunk driving, and prevent underage drinking.

## Solutions

If we could take more action to stop underage drinking then it will help save lives. NHTSA estimates the law to keep the drinking age at twenty one and up has saved 25,000 lives since 1975 through 2006.

## Legislative Goals and Summary

I will support all legislation that keeps the legal drinking age at twenty one and oppose all organizations that wish to change the legal drinking age to eighteen.

# LOBBYIST ISSUE PAPER

<b>Lobbyist:</b>	Taylor Roberts
<b>Delegation:</b>	Marquette High School
<b>Issue:</b>	International aide

All 6.6 billion people alive at this time share this one earth. We breathe the same air and we drink the same water as we have for generations upon generations, and yet the world has degenerated into a mess of global miscommunications and hostilities. For this reason, I am representing the Peace Corps and Invisible Children and other such organizations with the intention of providing global aid.

The Peace Corps all started in 1960 with a challenge from then Senator John F. Kennedy to University of Michigan students to “serve their country in the cause of peace by living and working in foreign countries” ([www.peacecorps.gov](http://www.peacecorps.gov)). Since then, 190,000 volunteers have served in 159 countries working on issues such as AIDs education and protecting the environment. I believe that with an organization as far reaching as the Peace Corps, whose 190,000 volunteers have served their country in helping with international education, youth outreach programs, community and business development, agriculture, health and informational technology, there is an opportunity for government to get involved with all facets of global aid through this one organization. Thus, I urge Youth in Government to support legislation that provides more funding the Peace Corps.

In the spring of 2003, three young amateur filmmakers set out for Africa to film something big. What Laren Poole, Bobby Bailey, and Jason Russell came back with was the Invisible Children of Uganda, who set out for local hospitals and churches each night, all in the hope of not being snatched up by the LRA rebels and being forced into child soldiery. If three young men from Southern California could have such an impact as to become a household name and raise enough awareness of the issue of these “Invisible Children” as to have both the Ugandan and U.S Federal Government looking into tangible solutions to this problem, then I believe, you, as members of Missouri’s Youth in Government Legislative Branch can make just as much of a positive impact as the three young filmmakers by supporting legislation that would further peace oriented negotiations between our nation and countries riddled with political strife, such as Uganda, as well as support legislation that increases funding for international-aid oriented organizations such as Invisible Children.

## Summary

I will support legislation that provides funding for international aid programs such as the Peace Corps and Invisible Children, while I will oppose any legislation that imposes a constriction upon funding for international aide oriented organization. We are all one people, so why don’t we start living that way.