



SENATOR MATT BARTLE

District 8 – Capitol Building, Room 431 Jefferson City, MO 65101

**Column for Week of:
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Protecting Hunting and Fishing in Missouri

Missouri is renowned for its excellent outdoor opportunities. Whether hunting in our magnificent fields and forests or fishing in our bountiful rivers, lakes and streams, Missouri has much to offer. However, there is an element in our society who would like to see hunting and fishing abolished.

In order to preserve these important traditions, this session I am sponsoring Senate Joint Resolution 2, which provides constitutional protections to hunt and fish in Missouri and emphasizes the importance of outdoor sports to Missouri's heritage and economic success.

Hunting and fishing provide outstanding sporting opportunities for Missourians and attract visitors from all over the country, which is a vital part of our economy. SJR 2 states the "opportunity to harvest wild bird, fish, and game is a heritage that shall forever be preserved to the individual citizens of the state."

Between 1980 and 2003, sales of non-resident spring turkey-hunting permits grew by 500 percent. Sales of deer-hunting permits increased 300 percent. Non-resident permits bring in more than \$8 million per year for state revenue, not including the overall impact on our economy when outdoor tourists rent hotel rooms, eat at restaurants, buy gasoline, shop for supplies and visit other major attractions. And all of these services mean jobs for Missourians.

Not only do Missouri's excellent outdoor sporting and recreational activities provide tremendous economic benefits for our citizens but they represent time-honored traditions that have been handed down from one generation to the next. My resolution works to ensure that these rights are never eroded and that future generations will be able to freely enjoy Missouri's great outdoors.

If you have comments or questions about any matter involving state government, please do not hesitate to contact me. You can reach my office by e-mail at matt_bartle@senate.mo.gov or by phone at (888) 711-9278.

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