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May 29, 2012

Cathy Stepp, Secretary
101 South Webster Street
Madison, WI 53707

Dear Secretary Stepp,

The Executive Council of the Wisconsin Conservation Congress (WCC), at their May 22, 2012 meeting unanimously supported resolution 160412 regarding the creation of a local partnership to maintain the Brule River Hatchery in Douglas County. Resolution 160412 was introduced at the April 9 Spring Hearing in Douglas County by Tom Johnson and passed by a vote of 27-1 of the citizens in attendance. Because of the timeliness of the matter, the resolution was forwarded to the Executive Council for their consideration.

The closing of the Brule River Hatchery is one of the options being evaluated to address budgetary concerns and an aging infrastructure in the Fisheries program. However, there is considerable concern in northwest Wisconsin that the closure of this facility would have a significant negative impact on the community both economically and socially, as well as on the ability to stock regional fisheries.

Therefore, the WCC supports resolution 160412 and requests that the Department of Natural Resources works with the WCC, the Douglas County communities, and the local fish and game organizations to develop a mutually beneficial partnership that will maintain the Brule River Hatchery as a viable component of Wisconsin's fish production system.

Sincerely,

Rob Bohmann, Chair
Wisconsin Conservation Congress

Cc: Governor Scott Walker
Senator Bob Jauch
Representative Nick Milroy
Mike Staggs
Tom Johnson

As established by Wisconsin State Statutes, the Wisconsin Conservation Congress is officially recognized as the only natural resources advisory body in the state where citizens elect delegates to represent their interests on natural resources issues on a local and statewide level to the Natural Resources Board and the Department of Natural Resources. Their mission is to represent the citizens of Wisconsin by working with the Natural Resources Board and the Department of Natural Resources to effectively manage Wisconsin's greatest asset, our abundant natural resources, for present and future generations to enjoy.