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Monday, September 30, 2013

The Honorable Alvin Ott
Chair, Committee on Natural Resources and Sporting Heritage
Room 323 North, State Capitol
Madison, WI 53708

RE: Assembly Bill 380 relating to a cumulative preference system for sturgeon spearing permits and the transfer of a sturgeon spearing license to a minor.

Dear Chair Ott and members of the Assembly Committee on Natural Resources and Sporting Heritage:

On Monday, April 9, 2012, the Wisconsin Conservation Congress asked the following question on the Spring Hearing Questionnaire.

QUESTION 66. Sturgeon Spearing Preference Point

When a person applies for an upriver sturgeon spearing tag there is no option to apply for a preference point only. Most other programs administered by the DNR that require numerous preference points to draw a harvest tag allow the applicant to apply either for a preference point only or a harvest tag. It currently takes on average about four to five years to draw an upriver sturgeon spearing tag and many times a person will know in advance that they will not be able to use a harvest tag in a given year. By not applying the person will lose that year in preference status and by applying for the tag, the person runs the risk of getting a tag they cannot use and losing all their preference points.

66. Would you support legislation requiring the DNR change the application process for upriver sturgeon spearing tags to allow the option to apply for a preference point only?

This question passed in seventy-one counties and failed in one county with 1,884 yes votes to 825 no votes.

The Wisconsin Conservation Congress supports creating a preference system for sturgeon spearing permits, and we respectfully request that you support the passage of AB-380.

Rob Bohmann, Chair
Wisconsin Conservation Congress

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.