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May 30, 2014

The Honorable Scott Walker  
Office of the Governor  
115 East State Capitol  
Madison, WI 53702

Dear Governor Walker,

In a June 29, 2011 letter, you asked the Wisconsin Conservation Congress (WCC) to work with your office, the Natural Resources Board (NRB), and the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to simplify Wisconsin's rules and regulations associated with hunting, fishing, and trapping. Specifically, you asked the Conservation Congress "to develop recommendations that could reduce complexity, increase opportunity, and eliminate regulations and policies that may be obstacles for hunters, anglers, and trappers that want to get involved in these Wisconsin ways-of-life."

The Congress and DNR did set up Town Hall style meetings at the 2012 Annual April Spring Fish & Wildlife Informational Hearings and Conservation Congress County Meetings. The purpose and goal of these town hall meetings was to gather input and ideas from citizens on ways to simplify regulations and identify barriers to hunting and fishing participants. Many of the suggestions from the public at these town hall meetings were more general in nature and did not provide specific examples of regulations that could or should be simplified. During this same time, the DNR's Fisheries, Law Enforcement and Wildlife programs also reviewed current issues they were dealing with for ways to simplify the rules associated with those issues. In addition, a review team consisting of Dr.'s James Kroll, David Guynn, and Gary Alt were hired to assess and make recommendations to address the public's dissatisfaction with Wisconsin's deer management. As the DNR and Congress have worked on implementing the recommendations from the Deer Trustee Report (DTR) they have also provided opportunities to simplify the regulations.

Attached is the Conservation Congress' report in response to your request. Included are changes that were developed and implemented in the recent past as well as those that have



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been worked on as a direct result of your charge. The report is categorized by the four specific requests to reduce rule and regulation complexity, increase opportunity, eliminate regulations and policies that are obstacles for hunters, anglers and trappers, and take some pages out of our regulations. The final part of the report summarizes the input received from citizens and provides you with some options that may further the above objectives of simplification.

As we move forward in our role of providing citizen input on resource issues, the Congress will continue to look for ways to simplify regulations, eliminate barriers, and increase opportunity while using sound science to effectively manage and conserve our natural resources. Thank you for providing the Conservation Congress with this opportunity. It was an honor to work with the Department on this project and we look forward to continuing this work with the DNR, NRB, your office, and the legislature.

Respectfully submitted,

Rob Bohmann, Chair  
Wisconsin Conservation Congress