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RE: **Bear harvest quotas for 2016 season**

Chair Cole, Secretary Stepp, and members of the Natural Resources Board;

The Conservation Congress would like to affirm our support for the recommended harvest quota of 4,750 bears and a permit level of 11,520 for the 2016 bear season.

The Executive Committee of the WCC met via conference call on January 19th and adopted the recommendation of the WCC's Bear Committee to support these levels. Department staff attended the Congress' Bear Committee meeting on December 5th to present the department's recommendations to the committee and the Bear Committee agreed with the objectives to stabilize the bear population in units A, B, and C and to decrease the population in unit D. The permit levels in each unit are reasonable and appropriate given the current population estimate, success rates, and goals.

The Congress respectfully requests the Board approve the recommended bear harvest quota for the 2016 season. Thank you.

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.