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REVIEW HUNTER EDUCATION METHODS RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, hunting in our state is a cherished heritage, passed down from generation to generation, with strong family ties as its base; and

WHEREAS, it has been paramount in Wisconsin that there needs to be a safe hunting experience for the sports persons of our state; and

WHEREAS, a mandatory hunter education program for first time hunters in our state is a requirement; and

WHEREAS, our state has maintained a strong and functional hunter safety program, taught by certified hunter safety instructors and providing a personal hands-on mentored experience; and

WHEREAS, the DNR has allowed the current book version portion of the course to be obtained by the use of the internet. This unmentored method is allowed to be used by students as young as11 years old; and

WHEREAS as a result, hands-on instruction is eliminated and the personal contact and direct question and answer portion of the instruction is lost; and

WHEREAS under this method, the only use of hunter education instructors is at the final testing at the completion of the course; and

WHEREAS the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation is greatly concerned that the loss of that hands-on instruction will lead to less qualified and safe students and hunters, especially in the case of novice youth hunters.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: that Conservation Congress at its Annual Meeting on April 13, 2009 in Dane County works with the DNR on eliminating the use of the internet hunter safety course for any hunter education students under the age of 16.

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