

130570

RESOLUTION;

The PROBLEM:

During the 76 years of this election, it has been kept private to the hunting and trapping clubs who understand how it works. It has a rural bias, is not under Wisconsin election law, and is not a transparent usual type of election. The candidates do not announce that they are running and debate the issues before the election. The entire process is secretive and targeted to the hunting and trapping minority, who are amassing power in law over our public lands and trying to gain access to private property with opening hounding, changing Forest Management Law, and hunting and trapping 95% of our publicly funded Stewardship Lands, former wildlife refuges, and opening more and more State Parks to hunting and trapping. This excludes usage by the 2.3 million wildlife watchers in Wisconsin, hikers, bikers, and canoers who do no harm. The bias of having the DNR set up with a focus on killing licenses as a funding mechanism with no alternative funds taken from the tax contribution of the general public, is a bias that corrupts any democratic intent.

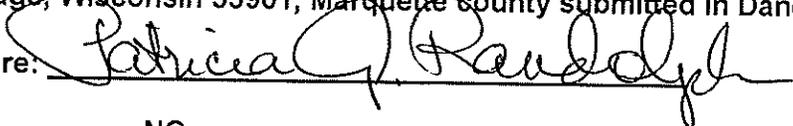
Whereas, wildlife watching is the fastest growing outdoor activity, growing at 8% /year, and Wisconsin has 2.3 million wildlife watchers who bring 11 X the tax revenue to state and local tax coffers as hunters, and

Whereas, this system of governance is the sole advisory to the DNR and Natural Resources Board to govern our commonwealth land and wildlife,

Be it Resolved, the Conservation Congress, at its annual election, held in every county in the state of WI on April 12, 2010, recommends that the DNR take action to correct this situation by restructuring the annual election of this sole advisory, to tie it to the county elections the week before, restructure the delegate representation apportioned to one delegate per a certain number of citizens so that counties with very low populations do not have more power per person than counties with very large populations, and figure out a system of general public funds to run wildlife management so as not to give killing wildlife an unfair advantage over the majority of citizens' wildlife watching preferences. The DNR and Natural Resources Board should move to put this election under Wisconsin Election Law to make it transparent and accountable to all of the citizens of this state to become democratic for the first time ever. Require that candidates announce their candidacy publicly two months before the election, and debate the issues openly with other candidates. This is a sacred responsibility to the future of our commonwealth and fair representation of all citizens to steward nature for future generations. It should not be just a private game farm for special interests. That time is at an end. These are reasonable democratic parameters respecting all citizens.

Submitted by: Patricia Randolph
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608-981-2287 Signature:



County Vote: YES _____ NO _____