

15 - #2 - 2010  
CODE - RES# - YEAR

# 2

## Resolution:

WCC process for conservation, hunting, habitat, wildlife, land and water issues before laws on these matters can be introduced to the legislature

**Problem:** Circumventing or by-passing the grassroots ideals of the Conservation Congress (CC). Every year members of Wisconsin's legislature introduce specific special interest legislation that affects hunters, outdoors women and men, habitat, land and water, wildlife, and conservation without using the efforts of the advisory body, the Conservation Congress. By doing so, they deliberately and effectively keep the people of Wisconsin out of the debate on those issues. The current head of the Wisconsin Senate, Senator Russ Decker, D-Weston and his gun case bill is the latest example.

This is not an issue of whether the legislation is good or bad but really an issue of where the citizens of Wisconsin through the Conservation Congress (CC) have the chance to be a part of the debate and through voting on specific questions can exercise their opinion. The State of Wisconsin is currently the only State in the Union to have such a grassroots organization to advise the DNR through the NRB (Natural Resources Board) on conservation, hunting, habitat, wildlife, land and water matters. While it is possible to lobby the legislature in Madison on specific issues whether they go through the Conservation Congress or not, often the time and travel to do that is prohibitive and therefore gives the average citizen little chance for constructive input on such related issues.

While it is true that it takes more time to run things through the CC and that the CC itself is just an advisory body, it still provides the means for grassroots ideas to move forward and provides you the people a voice. The DNR through the NRB has shown a great respect for this process and has demonstrated a willingness to work through the CC. It should be pointed out that the DNR currently has emergency powers so if temporary action has to be taken to correct a problem until proper law and legislation can follow, they can do it. While this resolution in one way or another has been presented in previous years it is time for us to act on it now!

Be it Resolved, that the Conservation Congress at its annual meeting held in <sup>Door County</sup>~~Lake Geneva~~, WI on April 12, 2010 that the Conservation Congress work with the Department to take action to correct this problem, by requesting the Wisconsin legislature pass a law that requires the procedure of allowing the Conservation Congress Process of public input on all matters concerning conservation, hunting, habitat, wildlife, land and water issues to take place before a law on these matters can be introduced to the legislature. We again affirm the Conservation Congress is strictly an advisory body and not a lawmaking body. We want a guarantee in written law that we are part of the process.

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