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Resolution:

The Problem:

Wildlife refuges, purchased by the general public, were set up by Teddy Roosevelt in 1903 to be sanctuaries where wildlife could recuperate in Nature unaffected by man. In the nearly 100 years since then, human activity has destroyed and fragmented wildlife habitat and taken the best land and water for human usage. Wildlife refuges are needed more than ever.

Yet three fourths of U.S. refuges have been opened to hunting and intensive trapping. In fact, the DNR now designates wildlife refuges as "waterfowl production units", trapping out mid-range predators, seen as competitive to hunters to overproduce the ground nesting birds that hunters prefer as targets.

According to Michael Soule, wildlife biologist from the Re-Wilding Project, science has discovered the without natural top and mid-range predators in natural numbers (not man-arbitrated numbers), all of biodiversity collapses.

U.S. so-called wildlife refuges have been turned into hunting and trapping grounds without general public input or knowledge.

Whereas, wildlife sanctuaries are needed to protect the balance of nature without human interference, and they have been compromised for minority special interest hunting lobby exploitation,

Be it Resolved, the Conservation Congress, at its annual meeting held in every county in Wisconsin on April 11, 2011, recommend that the Dept. of Natural Resources take action to correct this situation by returning all wildlife refuges to protected refuge status, without hunting, trapping, or fishing or the intrusion of motorized vehicles or motorized watercraft.

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Signature: 

County vote: Yes: _____ No: _____