

Citizen Resolution # _____

(For Hearing Officer completion)

Title: Support the Natural Resources Board Choosing the DNR secretary

The Problem:

For seven decades, the DNR secretary had been appointed by the Natural Resources Board. This policy had been popular with conservation groups throughout the state. This changed in 1995 when the post became an appointment by the governor and a cabinet position.

Degradation of water supply in the state has occurred in Kewaunee county, possibly due to large animal farms. The largest dead zone to date has occurred in the Bay of Green Bay, with projected growth next year. People near sand mining in the western part of our state feel there isn't adequate oversight of nearby sand mines (OSHA considers silica sand dust a known carcinogen). Lax enforcement of environmental laws and lack of adequate DNR staffing are concerns of many citizens in the state.

An independently appointed DNR secretary would less likely be influenced by politics in the management and protection of the state's natural resources.

BE IT RESOLVED: That the Conservation Congress at its annual meeting held in Dane County on April 13th 2015 recommends that the conservation Congress work with the Department to take action to correct this situation by introducing rule change allowing the seven member Natural Resources Board to appointment the Secretary of the DNR.

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