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# Citizen Resolution

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(For Hearing Officer completion)

## **Title: Support the Right of First Refusal of Public Land Sales to Conservation Groups**

State law allows for the sale of publicly owned lands. State parks and forests provide recreational and educational opportunities for Wisconsin citizens, along with a valuable economic benefit to surrounding communities (state parks have been known to provide \$1 billion dollars annually to the state economy). These lands also provide a home for a wide range of animals in the state, promote biodiversity and some, like wetlands, are valuable in keeping water safe for human use. If these lands are developed, these benefits are forever lost.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Conservation Congress at its annual meeting held in Dane County April 13th, 2015 recommends that the Conservation Congress work with the Department to take action to correct this situation by introducing rule change supporting the right of first refusal of lands sales of state parks and forests currently in use by citizens, to a conservation group who will maintain the conservation value of the land and conserve important environmental resource areas.

Judy Archibald  
314 Thompson St., Verona, WI 53593

Dane County  
Phone 608-845-9798