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Continue Funding of State Parks by the State of Wisconsin

The Problem:

The new state budget proposes an increase in fees for State Park use permits such as park stickers, camping, and use fees and removes state funding. Because current fees already are high enough to eliminate or discourage low income state residents from using the parks, the new budget will make it more difficult or impossible for many state residents to enjoy land that belongs to all state residents.

Also, to keep parks financially stable, it would be against the principles of preserving a natural experience to solve the parks' budget problems by putting in hotels, restaurants, and other pay-to-use non-nature activities, whether by the state or private companies. Also, privatizing various existing park operations to decrease state expenditures would end up increasing prices for the user.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Conservation Congress at its annual meeting held in Dane County on April 13, 2015 recommends that the Conservation Congress work with the state to keep the public park lands affordable to all by continuing to fund the State Park system by the State using general revenue funds and not raising fees.

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