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Title: Rail Safety measures to increase safety and emergency preparedness for Wisconsin's environment

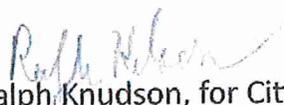
The Problem:

The railroad industry has changed. Today railroads transport over 1-mile long trains entirely comprised of highly hazardous materials including crude oil and ethanol that present danger to Wisconsin residents and environment with leakage and upon derailment. Wisconsin experienced two harmful train derailments in late 2015 in Alma and Watertown, with the former causing 20,000+ gallons of ethanol spillage into the Mississippi River. These were preceded by derailments in Prairie du Chien and Slinger, with others just across state borders.

The railroad system is regulated by the Federal government but the state and DNR may also take important steps strengthening rail safety measures and encouraging greater collaboration, to protect natural resources and communities. Minnesota does this.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Conservation Congress in La Crosse County on April 11, 2016 recommends that it work with the DNR, Office of the State Railroad Commissioner, elected officials, and other state and federal agencies to protect public resources for which the DNR is responsible, toward the following:

- State rail track inspectors participating in the Federal Railroad Administration's program for states
- Submission of prevention and response plans to the state
- Training for local emergency first responders along railroad routes
- Information for the Legislature on emergency preparedness, inventory of public and private resources available upon a derailment or leakage, adequacy of railroad insurance coverage, and further recommendations to the legislature to improve preparedness and safety of natural resources and citizens.


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Introducing in La Crosse County