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Title: Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources "do not respond" list

The problem:

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR), an agency of the representative government of all citizens of Wisconsin, maintains a list of citizens to whom WDNR staff would not respond except as required by the state's open records law. This list tracks contacts from people deemed either very repetitive or abusive. Names are referred to the list by a variety of DNR officials.

Some WDNR constituents on the list may experience difficult personal circumstances related to the WDNR's stated mission "to provide a healthy, sustainable environment", or "to ensure the right of all people to use and enjoy these resources". Those circumstances may legitimately require "repetitive" contacts, possibly with multiple specialized WDNR public service providers. Constituents who find themselves most in need of WDNR services may be, or may have been denied their rights to due process and equal access.

Blacklisting its own constituency is subversive to the WDNR's stated mission, "To work with people to understand each other's views and to carry out the public will".

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Conservation Congress at its annual meeting held in Marquette County on April 11, 2016 recommends that the WDNR terminate maintenance of any list limiting any Wisconsin citizen's access to WDNR contact services provided for any other Wisconsin citizen, and that the Conservation Congress work with the WDNR to develop management policy for adequately and openly discerning between constituent situations requiring repetitive contacts and abusive contacts.

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