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**LOCAL RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF CONTINUATION OF WISCONSIN INLAND TROUT STAMP**

Vernon County Conservation Congress Hearing

April 11, 2016



**The Problem:**

Since passed by the State Legislature in 1978, Wisconsin's Inland Trout Stamp (ITS) has been used to restore habitat for trout on our streams. It has been the backbone of the state's trout habitat program, and has provided hundreds of miles of quality trout fishing for 38 years. The program is nationally recognized as a model for habitat work and trout management, and has been imitated by other states. In every project using Trout Stamp dollars, legal public access is required. The \$10 stamp is required of every angler fishing our trout streams, and annually approximately 150,000 trout stamps are sold. Since 2006, over \$14 million of trout stamp money has been put into projects.

Vernon County has been a leader in trout stream restoration through county conservation, partnerships with DNR and conservation groups including Trout Unlimited and the Westby Rod & Gun Club. Each year, Trout Stamp dollars are combined with funding from other government agencies and conservation groups to carry out projects, each one with a public fishing easement.

Some outdoorspeople have suggested replacing the trout stamp, pheasant stamp and other habitat stamps with a single stamp that would be required of every license holder. Revenues would be divided up among habitat programs, but there is no assurance trout project revenues would be maintained.

**Be it resolved:**

The Conservation Congress meeting in Vernon County urges that the Inland Trout Stamp program be maintained and not replaced with a multi-species habitat stamp.

Submitted by:

~~John (Duke) Welter~~

Yes: \_\_\_\_\_

No: \_\_\_\_\_

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