

Citizen Resolution # 68 02 16

(For Hearing Officer completion)



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GIVING NATURE AND WILD BEINGS BASIC LEGAL RIGHTS

By every measure, the environment today is in worse shape than when major environmental laws were adopted in the United States over forty years ago. Environmental degradation is advancing around the world. The United Nations has warned that we are heading toward "major planetary catastrophe." There is a growing recognition that we must fundamentally change the relationship between humankind and nature.

States all over this country and other countries have made constitutional amendments giving rights to nature to fight fracking, factory farms, and devastation. Ecuador and Bolivia put into their constitution the Universal Declaration of the Rights of Mother Earth and All Beings, drafted by the world's indigenous people, at the Climate Conference in 2010.

With 52% of all wildlife destroyed in just 40 years 1970 – 2010, scientists are warning us that we are moving quickly to a world that cannot sustain life. We must change course and respect the rights of natural systems, including wildlife, to exist in the complex interactions that provide us all with clean water, breathable air, and a living, intact web of life.

Laws recognizing the Rights of Nature change the status of ecosystems and natural communities to being recognized as **rights-bearing entities**. As such, they have rights that can be enforced by people, governments, and communities on behalf of nature.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Conservation Congress ^{at its annual mtg, Waukesha, WI, 4/11/16,} and DNR to take action to draft into the Wisconsin law the legal rights of Nature and all beings to be recognized as rights-bearing entities.

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UD SUPPORTER OF THE USO ★

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