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RESOLUTION
COUNTYWIDE AND STATEWIDE BAN ON THE SALE AND USE OF PHOSPHORUS LAWN FERTILIZERS

The Problem: Phosphorus lawn fertilizer affects lakes, streams and groundwater and causes algae blooms and weed growth impacting the fishery, property values and tax base. Rarely needed on lawns, one pound of phosphorus can result in 500 pounds of algae growth. Phosphorus fertilizers used on residential properties, parks and other non-agricultural areas cause phosphorus runoff carrying up to eight times more phosphorus than that from similar-sized wooded areas. Eurasian Water Milfoil thrives in phosphorus rich water.

Dane County has successfully eliminated phosphorus with a similar ban. Minnesota prohibits phosphorus in lawn fertilizers statewide.

This is not a local problem. Local phosphorus regulation is difficult to implement. This resolution does not affect farmers.

The Solution: WHEREAS,

1. Protecting lakes, streams, and groundwater is extremely important.

2. Phosphorus accelerates weed and algae growth and decreases water clarity in lakes and streams.

3. Elimination of phosphorus from lawn fertilizer will reduce algae and improve water quality.

4. Local phosphorus regulation is ineffective because products can be purchased from outside the municipality.

5. The reasons to protect Iowa County waters from excessive phosphorus apply to all Wisconsin waters.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Wisconsin Conservation Congress at its annual meeting held in Iowa County supports immediate *countywide* and *statewide* legislation prohibiting the sale and use of phosphorous lawn fertilizer on residential properties, parks, and other non-agricultural areas.

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