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McMiller Shooting Range

Whereas, the eighty-acre McMiller Shooting Range was established by the State of Wisconsin as part of the twenty thousand acre Southern Unit of the Kettle Moraine State Forest in 1974 in order to provide hunters and sports shooters the opportunity to enhance their shooting skills; and

Whereas, the McMiller Shooting Range was operated by the Department of Natural Resources until 1994, when the DNR leased the operation of the facility to an experienced private owner; and

Whereas, the McMiller Range provides over 30,000 hours a year of shooting skills training to sportsmen and women of Southeast Wisconsin; and

Whereas, environmental studies show that the shooting range has environmental impacts similar to other shooting ranges in the state and no irreparable environmental damage is occurring on the property due to the use of the range; and

Whereas, the McMiller Range is protected by Wisconsin's Range Protection Law; and

Whereas, the McMiller Range lease has expired and the DNR is proposing new conditions on the lease renewal which will cause the significant reduction of the use of the facility and thereby will endanger the economic viability of the lease; and

Whereas, there are not viable alternatives to the McMiller Range operations within a reasonable driving distance of the facility.

Now, therefore be it resolved, that the Conservation Congress at its Annual Meeting in Walworth County on April 13, 2009, request that DNR reauthorize the current McMiller Shooting Range operation and supports expanded hours of use of the sporting clays course.

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