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32-01-11

**Resolution- In support of in lieu of taxes for Stewardship program**

**Whereas,** the Stewardship program preserves thousands of acres of critical habitat for us and future generations, and

**Whereas,** these lands provide access to outdoor recreation including hunting and fishing to all citizens of the state regardless of where they live, and

**Whereas,** the Walker budget bill fully funds stewardship but would cripple implementation via elimination of state payments to local governments in lieu of taxes, and

**Whereas,** local governments will be forced to block most if not all state land purchases, and

**Whereas,** this change undermines resource protection, local governments, and willing owners that want to see their good land stewardship preserved for future generations, and

**Whereas,** in order to preserve the function, spirit, and legacy of Stewardship,

**BE IT RESOLVED,** that the Conservation Congress at its annual meeting held in La Crosse County on April 11 2011 recommends that the Conservation Congress work with the department and elected officials to restore payments in lieu of taxes for state land purchases.

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**Signed:**

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Fisheries Retiree