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Title: 5 year period without crane hunt legislative introductions, allowing time to investigate other options to a crane hunt.

Whereas:

- Not enough is known of the exact economic loss to WI farmers spring plantings of corn and cereal crops due to Greater Sandhill Crane depredations.
- Limited revenues from hunting licenses for cranes will likely not cover the cost of crane depredations/crop loss to WI farmers, and funding from other state programs would still need to be diverted to cover payments to farmers for crop losses.
- Crane deterrent or biopesticide application to seed before planting is already known to be a more cost effective and practical method to controlling crop loss due to crane depredation than a crane hunting option.
- As biopesticide crane deterrents are approved by the EPA for routine use by WI farmers to mitigate crop damage by cranes, the minimal cost per acre (~\$5/acre) will make adoption of this measure by farmers ubiquitous and market driven, invalidating the position that cranes are damaging farmers crop yields in WI and need to be hunted to manage their population.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Conservation Congress at its annual meeting in Dane County on April 9, 2012 recommends that the Department of Natural Resources advise the legislature to avoid crane hunting legislative introductions for a 5 year period to evaluate other measures for the crane management plan.

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