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Resolution

The Problem:

The Department of Natural Resources and the hunting and trapping lobby have set up wildlife management as a killing business to be funded by killing licenses. Aldo Leopold in helping to establish the Conservation Congress, cautioned that the non-hunting environmentalist and the landowner be as valued a part of the decision-making process in the Congress, as the hunter. He cautioned that the money to manage Nature and wildlife similarly come from GENERAL PUBLIC FUNDS. Although the wildlife watching public generates 11 times the revenue of hunting to state tax coffers, we have never had a say. (U.S. Fish & Wildlife economic impacts of wildlife watching survey, WI, 2006) Killing license funding of wildlife management is a bias that has completely destroyed democratic input by the majority of the public for a stunning 78 years.

Whereas, non-killing citizens already bring four times the revenue of hunters to state tax coffers even when hunting licenses are added in, we want democratic reform of the DNR to include wildlife loving citizens.

Be it resolved, the Conservation Congress, in its annual meeting, held in every county in Wisconsin, April 9, 2012, recommend that the DNR take action to correct this situation by creating a Wildlife Watcher Task Force to craft legislation to include wildlife watching as a valuable funding resource and work to set up fair democratic representation and process for wildlife watchers and the revenue we already generate, to benefit living wildlife. The 90% majority want fair and SAFE participation in an open process of election under Wisconsin election laws for transparency. We want fair democratic representation tied to our funding to help our wildlife.

Submitted by:

Joyel Bianchi

Address:

1138 E. Walworth

County:

Milwaukee

Telephone # (414)

264-2537

Signature:

County vote: Yes

No