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A Resolution Directing the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources to Immediately Initiate Communication with Federal and Tribal Authorities on the steps necessary to Reconcile Differences between Wisconsin Natural Resource and Environmental Protection Laws and Federal Laws and Treaties.

Whereas, many changes to Wisconsin Statutes and Administrative Codes governing natural resources, environmental protection, and the rights of the citizenry have been enacted or revised since January of 2011; and,

Whereas, the Army Corp of Engineers, in a letter to the Wisconsin Department of Resources dated December 23, 2013, cited "differences between state and federal environmental review requirements" as the reason the Corps "must decline the request to jointly develop an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed Gogebic Taconite mine in northern Wisconsin"; and,

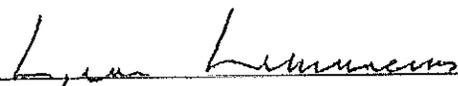
Whereas, the Bad River Band of Lake Superior Chippewa has officially asked for help from the EPA on environmental issues related to the permitting and planned operation of the Gogebic Taconite mine and threats posed by the mine to rights reserved within lands ceded by treaty; and,

Whereas, the degradation or destruction of natural resources, public and private, is already occurring at an accelerating pace due to frac sand mining in Wisconsin without adequate consideration of public health, welfare, and opinion; and

Whereas, private and public financial resources are also at risk until comprehensive reviews of the differences between Federal laws and treaties and Wisconsin natural resource and environmental protection laws are completed and any necessary changes to Wisconsin laws are made; therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Wisconsin Conservation Congress hereby advises the Wisconsin Natural Resources Board and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources to actively, effectively, and immediately communicate with Federal and Tribal officials on the steps necessary to reconcile differences between Wisconsin state laws governing natural resources and environmental protection and Federal laws and treaties.

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