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Citizen Resolution # 4 130415
(For Hearing Officer completion)



Implement online voting for spring WCC hearings.

The vision of the Wisconsin Conservation Congress (WCC) is to strengthen and enhance our ability to gather and convey the wisdom and influence of Wisconsin citizens in the formation of natural resource policy, research, education, and conservation. But the established process for gathering the opinions of Wisconsin citizens is outdated. Only a minute proportion of Wisconsin citizens attend the WCC spring hearings each April. Only 7,053 of Wisconsin's 5.7 million citizens (~0.12%) attended the 2014 spring hearings to vote on important natural resource management questions. Many reasons have been given by natural resource enthusiasts for not attending, including work obligations, children at home, and distance to the hearings.

Technological advances readily available today could be implemented to allow a much greater proportion of Wisconsin citizens the opportunity to participate in the Congress' vital work. Any citizen in Wisconsin can obtain a Wisconsin DNR Customer ID. This ID could be collected from citizens attending the spring hearings in person, and used as the basis for online voting to avoid any potential for an individual to vote multiple times.

BE IT RESOLVED, that to dramatically increase the opportunity for Wisconsin citizens to participate in the WCC spring hearing process, the Congress shall work with the DNR to implement an online system, using Wisconsin DNR Customer IDs for identification, that will allow Wisconsin citizens the opportunity to vote in WCC Spring Hearings for a one-week period each spring. WCC delegate elections and citizen resolutions will remain in person at the spring hearings.

Name of Author: Jason Dorgan
Name of Organization: Private Citizen
Address: 10848 Blue Mountain Avenue
City, State, Zip code: Blue Mounds, WI 53517
Telephone Number (608) 877-7277
Name of County in which Introduced: Dane

Signature: 