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CITIZENS RESOLUTION BEFORE THE IOWA COUNTY, WISCONSIN, CONSERVATION CONGRESS

April 4, 2016

DNR ENFORCEMENT OF THE CLEAN WATER ACT

WHEREAS, in July, 2011, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) found the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) deficient in enforcing 75 provisions of the federal Clean Water Act, specifically, the Wisconsin Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (WPDES) Program.

In a letter to the DNR, the EPA, requested that the DNR's improper deviations from the federal requirements be "corrected quickly". To date the DNR has failed to comprehensively remedy enforcing these deficiencies.

Wisconsin's abundant surface and ground water resources are indispensable for recreation, drinking and economic activity. Due in large part to DNR's ineffective oversight and enforcement within the WPDES program, many Wisconsin waterways suffer from water quality degradation. Wisconsin's 2016 Impaired Waters List will likely include, per the DNR's recommendation, 209 more waterways than were included in the corresponding 2015 list and more than double the number of impaired waters listed in 2004. The bases of impairment include but are not limited to: phosphorus pollution and resulting algal blooms, high levels of nitrate pollution of ground water and many private drinking water wells and overuse of ground water and destruction of surface water from over use of high capacity wells.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Conservation Congress in its annual meeting in Iowa county on April 11, 2016 recommends that the Conservation Congress call upon DNR to take immediate remedial action to address 75 deficiencies in enforcing the CLEAN WATER ACT, and call upon the state legislature to pass legislation to further enable the DNR to cure WPDES program deficiencies that were identified by the EPA in 2011.

Respectfully submitted,

Doug Risch

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Signed

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Doug Risch". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.