41-08-16

Citizen Resolution # 8

(For Hearing Officer Completion)

Ban the Ban on Bans

Each year the Conservation Congress accepts written resolutions from the public, in each county throughout the state regarding natural resource issues of statewide concern. These resolutions are introduced by the public in attendance during the Conservation Congress county meeting that is held annually in conjunction with the DNR Spring Fish and Wildlife Hearings in April.

In order for a resolution to be accepted for further consideration by the Conservation Congress and for public vote at the annual Conservation Congress county meeting, all resolutions introduced must meet the following requirements:

1. The concern must be of statewide impact.
2. The concern must be practical, achievable and reasonable.
3. The resolution must have a clear title.
4. The resolution must clearly define the concern.
5. Current state statutes and laws must be considered, with reasonable cause for change being presented.
6. The resolution must clearly suggest a solution to the concern and a description of further action desired.
7. Resolutions must be **250 words** or less exclusive of the title and author contact information. (This guidance is not included in the word count.)

WHEREAS Plastic bags are everywhere. Americans use an estimate of 100 billion of them every year, or about 3,000 per second. These "use once, last forever" items take 12 million barrels of oil to produce, or about 8-10% of our oil.

The average American throws away about 10 bags per week. That is 520 bags per person per year – enough to drive the average car 60 miles.

Plastic bags make a mess of our public spaces, kill animals, and pollute our rivers and lakes. Nationwide, city clean-up efforts are estimated to amount to an estimated $11 billion per year.

Wisconsin's abundant surface and ground water resources are indispensable for recreation, drinking, and economic activity. Plastic bags pollute these resources, impairing the quality necessary to sustain life. The recently-passed 2016 Wis. Act 302 prohibits local governments from regulating single-use containers such as plastic bags either through the use of actual bans or fees to recover the environmental and disposal costs.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Conservation Congress at its annual meeting in Milwaukee County on April 11, 2016, recommends that the Conservation Congress call upon the DNR to request that the legislature repeal 2016 Wis. Act 302, so that local communities are allowed to regulate single-use containers, especially plastic bags.

Respectfully submitted,

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Introduced in MILWAUKEE County

Signature: