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Title: Reciprocity Hunting Privileges

The Problem

Wisconsin is seeing an increase in the number of non-resident hunters which is causing conflicts. And it also increases the length of time for a Wisconsin resident to obtain a license/permit for certain species. For example, some residents wait over 9 years to obtain a Zone B bear permit while there are non-residents that also receive permits during that time.

- 1) Many states limit the licenses/permits available to non-residents or do not allow non-residents to obtain permits when tags are limited in availability and in high demand.
- 2) Where there are a limited number of permits being issued, a resident of this state should take preference.

Be it resolved, that the Conservation Congress at its annual meeting held in Polk County on April 11, 2016 recommends that the Conservation Congress work with the Department to take action to correct this situation by implementing a rule change similar to the Wisconsin Trapping Reciprocity rule. This law would allow hunting by non-resident U.S. Citizens only from those states that allow Wisconsin Residents to purchase non-resident licenses/permits for that species in that state. This law would also prohibit the application by or issuance of a license/permit to any non-resident if the permit requires two or more preference points to draw a permit for that species the previous year or if there are fewer than 200 permits available for that species. This change would include the following species only: Elk, Wolf, Bear, Bobcat, Otter and Fisher.

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