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020414

A RESOLUTION to address air standards for respirable silica dust

Frac sand mining has exploded in Wisconsin over the past few years. Half of Wisconsin has sandstone formations and over 100 silica mining and processing operations are permitted or in stages of permitting. Wisconsin's beautiful sand counties are disappearing.

Citizens are concerned about dangerous air pollutants caused by mining, crushing, processing and transport of silica throughout the state in areas of close proximity to heavy industrial operations. Fugitive dust caused by the industry is extensive.

Airborne silica dust is carcinogenic. Because silicosis and related diseases take 10-20 years to develop based upon exposure, it is crucial to public health to establish a regulatory standard for respirable crystalline silica dust and require that the industry provide continuous monitoring.

Towns, counties, or municipalities lack the capacity to measure and regulate particulates. The DNR lacks an acceptable standard that can be monitored and enforced.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Wisconsin Conservation Congress directs the Wisconsin Natural Resources Board and Department of Natural Resources to establish a regulatory emission standard for respirable crystalline silica dust of an annual average of less than 3 micrograms per cubic meter; require mandatory monitoring of PM10, PM2.5, and PM4 dust at frac sand sites to ensure compliance with US EPA National Ambient Air Quality Standards and the 3 $\mu g/m^3$ standard; conduct regular inspection of facilities and locations where fugitive dust is generated; take immediate enforcement action for violations; and work to educate the public about the health dangers inherent in the industry.

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