

200116

RESTORE DNR COMPLIANCE TO CLEAN WATER ACT

WHEREAS, in July 2011, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) found the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) deficient in their enforcement of 75 provisions of the Clean Water Act.

These deficiencies have greatly compromised critical protections within the program which exists to control pollutants discharging into our waters (WPDES). In the July letter, EPA informed DNR that this failure to comply with federal standards must be "corrected quickly". Nearly 5 years later, the DNR has been unable or unwilling to acknowledge authority and take responsibility for correcting these deficiencies.

Those of us who live in Wisconsin are aware of the rich heritage that exists in our abundant lakes, rivers, and wetlands. These resources are precious - and vulnerable. Our livelihoods depend on the quality and quantity of our water. This reality affects tourism, property values, wildlife, recreation, and public health. Due in large part to DNR's ineffective enforcement of the Clean Water Act provisions, many of Wisconsin waterways have become seriously degraded from high levels of nitrate and phosphorous pollution. Unrelenting approval for high-capacity wells is resulting in disproportionate water rights.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Conservation Congress at its annual meeting in Fond du Lac County on April 11, 2016, recommends that the Conservation Congress call upon the DNR to take urgent remedial action by addressing its 75 deficiencies identified by EPA, and call upon the State Legislature to pass legislation empowering DNR to restore the quality of Wisconsin's waters by regulating all future discharges.

Elaine Swanson
W10732 Triangle Road
Pickett, WI 54964
920-589-6477

elaineseverin@yahoo.com



INTRODUCED IN FOND DU LAC COUNTY AT THE CONSERVATION CONGRESS