

#530216

(For Hearing Officer Completion)

53 #2 2016

Preservation and Protection of State Forests



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WHEREAS, global climate change is caused by the burning of fossil fuels producing carbon dioxide. Currently CO₂ of 400 ppm far exceeds the 280 ppm historical average. 450 ppm of CO₂ will cause irreparable harm to earth's ecosystems. Trees sequester CO₂ and store it.

10 year old trees sequester 48 pounds of CO₂ per year and remove sulfur and nitrogen oxides, ozone and particulate matter. Wisconsin's trees provide a buffer against runaway climate disruption and should not be indiscriminately cut, piled and burned.

Trees remove toxic metals like cadmium, chromium, nickel and lead from the environment. According to the U.S. Forest Service the forests in the United States, sequestered approximately 309 million tons of carbon each year from 1952 - 1992, offsetting approximately 25 percent of human-caused emissions of carbon during that period. Over a 50-year lifespan, a tree generates almost \$32,000 of oxygen, \$62,000 of air pollution control and recycle \$37,500 of water and controlling \$31,000 of soil erosion.

Currently, the DNR has been ordered to relinquish 10,000 acres of state land and its forests by order of the governor.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Conservation Congress at its annual meeting in Richland County on April 11, 2016, recommends the Conservation Congress call upon DNR take action to plant more trees, not allow government subsidized forests to be converted to cropland, not cut and burn trees, not sell off the forests, and not allow forest conversion for biomass.

Respectfully submitted,

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Introduced in Richland County

Signature: