63-02-12

Title: Act 21 and Hunting, Fishing and Trapping Regulations

The Problem:

Most of the hunting, fishing and trapping regulations in Wisconsin are adopted by administrative rule. Before Act 21 was implemented; this process took 1 to 1.5 years. Most of these rules originated from resolutions submitted by citizens that attended the Department of Natural Resources Annual Spring Fish & Wildlife Rule Hearings & Wisconsin Conservation Congress Annual County Meeting held every year in April, voted on in all seventy-two counties.

Act 21 has dramatically changed the hunting, fishing and trapping rule-making process in Wisconsin. The process now takes between two to three years to adopt even the simplest of rules. Under Act 21, citizens will only be able to vote on rule changes that address hunting, fishing and trapping rules every other year.

Even the most simplest of rule now have to be approved and signed by the Governor two or three times, passed by the Natural Resources Board three times and reviewed by three legislative committees. Each rule must have an economic impact study done by staff, and this impact study is paid for by our license dollars.

Be It Resolved, that the Conservation Congress, at its annual meeting held in Vernon County on April 9, 2012 requests that the Wisconsin Conservation Congress work with the Governor, Legislature and the DNR to restore the former rulemaking process for hunting, fishing and trapping rules that go through the DNR Annual Spring Fish & Wildlife Rule Hearings & Wisconsin Conservation Congress Annual County Meeting process.

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