Limiting Non-Resident Participation in the WI Bear Hunt

Each year the Conservation Congress accepts written resolutions from the public, in each county throughout the state regarding natural resource issues of statewide concern. These resolutions are introduced by the public in attendance during the Conservation Congress county meeting that is held annually in conjunction with the DNR Spring Fish and Wildlife Hearings in April.

In order for a resolution to be accepted for further consideration by the Conservation Congress and for public input at the annual Conservation Congress county meeting, all resolutions introduced must meet the following requirements:

1. The concern must be of statewide impact.
2. The concern must be practical, achievable and reasonable.
3. The resolution must be typed.
4. The resolution must have a clear title and specifically define the concern.
5. Current state statutes and laws must be considered, with reasonable cause for change being presented.
6. The resolution must clearly suggest a solution to the concern and a description of further action desired.
7. Resolutions must be 250 words or less exclusive of the title and author contact information. (This guidance is not included in the word count.)

At present, Wisconsin has a healthy and thriving bear population, yet it can take close to a decade for a hunter to qualify for a bear permit in some zones, due to high demand.

Many states limit hunting opportunities for out-of-state hunters. Some states do this through charging non-resident hunters substantially higher prices for certain species. Some states set limits to how many non-resident hunters can buy permits based on quotas or a percentage. Some states limit the harvest of certain species to residents only. These restrictions can be statewide or by zone. Given the long wait times for bear permits, sometimes stretching to nearly a decade, it would seem reasonable to give more opportunities to Wisconsin residents, rather than out-of-state hunters.

Would you support having the Conservation Congress work on limiting non-resident hunter participation in the Wisconsin Bear Hunt through some combination of higher license/application fees for non-residents, limiting the percentage of permits available for non-resident hunters, or by allowing only Wisconsin residents to purchase bear permits?

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Resolutions introduced at each Spring Hearing are public documents under Wisconsin's Open Records law [ss. 19.31-19.39, Wis. Stats.] and will be posted online for the public to review. Any personally identifiable information will be available to the public but will only be used by the Department for administrative purposes.

Please print typed resolution on 8 ½ X 11 white paper (one-sided) and provide the WCC County Chair with TWO COPIES at the spring hearing. Only the individual author or designated representative may present the resolution. The author or designated representative must be present at the time the resolution is introduced. No more than two resolutions may be introduced by any person during the Congress portion of the spring hearings.

Contact one of your local WCC delegates with questions or for assistance with writing your resolution.