

Citizen Resolution # 270220

(For Hearing Officer completion)



High Fence is Legally “Taking” Wildlife in Wisconsin

Private landowners are building, in some cases, miles of deer-proof 8’ high fence to divert or hoard wildlife for personal gain. Other states, to name a few, such as Kentucky, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, West Virginia, and Michigan have recognized this taking of public property and Wisconsin should too.

Trophy hunting operations are currently using high fences to funnel wild deer into large high-fence properties; using a series of high fences, gates, and cameras. One 33-foot opening in the fence makes them exempt from virtually all Captive Wildlife Laws, Wisconsin Chapter 169. No permits or fence inspections are required for this type of facility.

In 2017 a Trempealeau County game farm constructed an opening in their fence, attracting wild deer into the enclosed area, to be used for personal gain. They received criminal charges, civil penalties for illegal hunting, and charged with “The unauthorized taking of live wild animals from the wild.” If the ranch were NOT a captive wildlife farm, their actions would have been legal.

Michigan, for example, passed regulations in 2000 requiring fence to have wildlife passages. Sections of fence no more than 52 inches high constitute a “passage” as long as other factors do not act as a barrier. Exemptions are listed in Michigan’s wildlife regulations.

Would you support the Conservation Congress working with the natural resource board to enact administrative rule further defining the illegal take of wildlife by fence, and prevent the privatization of Wisconsin’s public resources through construction of these facilities?

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Signature: _____

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.