

Citizen Resolution # 440320

(For Hearing Officer completion)



Wisconsin Hunter & Angler Lead Mitigation and Conservation Fund

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.)

Continued use of lead, a known neurotoxin, in hunting and fishing gear impacts both human and wildlife health. The DNR acknowledges human health risks issuing precautions. Hunters, their children, pregnant women may be consuming venison contaminated with lead filings which are not visible.

Lead toxicity in wildlife (e.g. bald eagles, loons, etc.) is also well documented. This proposal is to establish an excise tax on all lead ammunition and fishing gear. Since alternatives to lead are available but underutilized because of price, a conservation tax would make non-lead gear more attractive and competitive.

From my experience (Wildlife Biologist, Hawaii), introduction of new conservation programs must be linked to a funding source. This conservation tax and the subsequent fund will provide needed financial support for the DNR to administer this program.

Modeled after two successful federal programs (Pittman-Robertson and Dingle-Johnson Act) which supports wildlife conservation and fisheries. Tax collected would fund: 1) Research assessing the extent of lead toxicity in game species, preventing impacts to human health; 2) Financially support wildlife rehabilitators treating animals with lead toxicity; 3) Deliver comprehensive public outreach program; 4) Improve monitoring of lead contamination in game meat setting up portable X-ray stations at food banks and other areas around the state to examine meat for lead filings.

Passage of this resolution will prevent health risks to humans and meet our moral responsibility to protect nongame species like the Bald Eagle which has significance in Native American culture and should also be revered as our National Symbol.

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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.