

Citizen Resolution # 560721

(For Hearing Officer completion)



End the depredation compensation program for hunting hounds

The state of Wisconsin is the only state in the country that allows for the reimbursement of hounds killed by wolves in the act of hunting or chasing wildlife. There is no justification for this practice. The state paid out more to hunters for loss of hounds (\$845,751) than the state did to farmers for loss of calves, cattle, sheep, pigs and goats combined (\$657,584) in a 35-year period. The payments to hunters have only continued to grow, as some individuals have claimed multiple losses including leadership of the Sporting Heritage Committee. The program has approved more than \$80,000 in payments to repeat claimants. Many recipients were convicted of hunting and firearm-related offenses.

The number of Wisconsin bear hunters has risen, along with the use of hounds to chase bear year-round on our public lands. Hunters are knowingly placing their pets in dangerous situations and expecting the state to negate that risk. The state should not be held accountable for their inability to keep their dogs safe. The state's limited budget to "protect and enhance our natural resources" is not put to best use in subsidizing an activity that brings the chaos of barking dogs and terrified wildlife for hours on end on our public lands.

BE IT RESOLVED that the state of Wisconsin end the depredation compensation program for hunting hounds.

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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.