

Citizen Resolution # 020222

(For Hearing Officer completion)



Affirm Knowles Nelson Forever Stewardship

There is a growing consensus in the scientific community and among governments that 30% of global lands and waters must be protected for conservation by 2030 in response to climate change and the dramatic decline in biodiversity. In Wisconsin, the Knowles-Nelson stewardship program has made possible the purchase and permanent protection of over 5,000 important natural areas for the enjoyment of the public and the benefit of the environment, helping to steadily move Wisconsin towards this goal. However, to date only 17% of Wisconsin lands have been conserved. Yet, legislators have introduced Assembly Bill 852 and Senate Bill 802 that would move things backward, allowing protected lands to be taken out of conservation and sold. This legislation would allow popular biking, hiking, fishing and hunting locations to be closed off to the public and sold for development, subject only to the requirement that the landowner refund the original grant amount, undermining the progress that has been made. Wisconsin should not only continue its efforts, but also accelerate them, to permanently conserve natural and restored ecosystems for the benefit of the public, at the rate necessary to preserve 30% of Wisconsin's lands by 2030. The Knowles-Nelson stewardship grant program, as the most successful state land conservation program, should be affirmed, continued, and expanded. The requirement that protected lands be preserved forever should be affirmed.

Do you support continuation of longstanding state policy to preserve Wisconsin's public, protected lands forever, and affirm the integrity of the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program that was designed to do so?

Additional Information provided by author:

For in-depth research on the impact of the Knowles-Nelson stewardship program and examples of conservation projects completed with Knowles-Nelson dollars, visit www.KnowlesNelson.org

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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.