

Citizen Resolution # 140622

(For Hearing Officer completion)



End Lead Poisoning of Bald Eagles

Bald eagles, our national symbol, made a remarkable recovery after their populations were decimated by wide use of the pesticide DDT. They are now nesting in every county in Wisconsin. Thousands of Wisconsinites travel to watch winter congregations along the Wisconsin and Mississippi Rivers, as well as enjoy watching nesting pairs raise their young on our many lakes. Although our eagles are no longer classified as threatened, they continue to face a serious threat. Recent research has documented that lead poisoning from bullet fragments is a health problem for eagles across the nation, and that lead poisoning has suppressed the growth rate of northeastern U.S. eagle populations. Here in Wisconsin, our licensed wildlife rehabilitators treat a couple hundred eagles and other raptors annually for lead poisoning from feeding on carcass remains. It's clear that eagle poisoning cases peak in the fall and early winter as they feed upon deer or other wildlife remains left in the woods from the hunting seasons. Hunters are not intentionally poisoning eagles, but the lead core bullets sold to them fracture upon impact and is ingested by scavenging birds. The good news is that non-lead bullets are increasingly available and just as effective for hunting. The bad news is most Wisconsin hunters are unaware of the lead poisoning issue for eagles, and the benefits of switching to non-lead alternatives. We can fix this. Wisconsin needs a statewide outreach program to inform hunters of the lead poisoning problem and how they can help by switching to non-lead bullets. Many state conservation organizations are willing to partner with the WDNR and Conservation Congress to build such a program.

Do you support the Conservation Congress and WDNR working cooperatively with other conservation organizations to develop a statewide outreach program that increases the use of non-lead ammunition to end the lead poisoning of wildlife?

Additional Information provided by author:

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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.