

Citizen Resolution # 260322

(For Hearing Officer completion)



Getting Politics out of Conservation (requires legislation)

Wisconsinites rely on DNR's leadership, the Natural Resources Board (NRB), legislature, and Governor cooperation to create sound conservation policies for our natural resources. They are the trustees legally responsible to take care of our fish, wildlife, air, and water for current and future generations. Unfortunately, many citizens are concerned that natural resource policy decisions are now negatively influenced by party politics. Law changes that reduce political influence in the governance of the DNR and in policy decisions could offer better protection of our natural resources. For example, the following statutory changes could greatly reduce the influence of political parties within DNR. Restore the DNR Secretary to a merit-based, NRB-appointed position. Restore DNR Governor-appointed positions to civil service, merit-based selection positions. Clarify that NRB membership ends immediately after a member's term expires. Require the legislature to hold confirmation hearings and vote for or against NRB nominees within 90 days of their nomination. Such changes won't be made without strong and persistent support by Wisconsin's citizens, conservation organizations and businesses. It will take an organized effort to build this support and bring about these changes. This resolution is being offered to get the conversation started..

Do you support having the Conservation Congress work with the public and conservation organizations and businesses to draft legislation that will reduce the political parties influence on the conservation of our natural resources?

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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.