Citizen Resolution # 682221

(For Hearing Officer completion)



Stop Payments to Bear Hunters for Dogs Killed by Wolves While Training or Hunting Bear

Wisconsin is the only state that compensates hunters when wolves kill or injure their dogs. A hunter gets up to \$2,500 per dog; even when a hunter violates state rules or releases hounds in areas the state DNR has mapped as dangerous for wolf activity. Worse yet, Wisconsin has paid tens of thousands of dollars during the past decade to individuals who have violated state hunting or firearms laws. In one case, the state Department of Natural Resources paid \$2,500 to a man for a dog death that happened while he was prohibited from having a hunting license. due to a prior criminal conviction. From 1985 to 2020 a total of \$908,435.00 was paid out in compensation for hound injuries or deaths. Nearly one million dollars. Given that hunters knowingly, willingly and repeatedly put their dogs into a situation and location where there is a high probability that the dogs will be injured or killed, they should not be entitled to compensation. Additionally, the compensation may serve as an incentive to putting the dogs at risk. BE IT RESOLVED, that the Conservation Congress at its annual meeting held in Waukesha County on April 12, 2021 recommends that the Conservation Congress work with the state legislature to end the payments to bear hunters for dogs killed or injured by wolves while training or hunting bear.

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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 <u>local WCC delegates</u> with questions or for assistance with writing your resolution.