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March 14, 2001

Thank you for downloading this sample Conservation Congress meeting resolution and instruction sheet!

### **Changes for 2001**

There was an effort this past year to cut down on the length of Conservation Congress meetings. This effort resulted in a reduction in the number of resolutions on the statewide printed ballot.

The good news is that resolutions may *still* be introduced from the floor at individual county meetings with the following restrictions:

- Resolutions must not exceed 250 words, and
- Only two resolutions may be submitted per individual

The resolution on the next page meets the 250-word limit, but if you want to introduce more than two resolutions, you'll need to enlist a friend.

Good luck. And thanks for placing this issue on your county's meeting agenda.

Sincerely,

Todd Hanson

**RESOLUTION TO RESTORE THE OFFICE  
OF THE PUBLIC INTERVENOR**

**THE PROBLEM:**

The Wisconsin Public Intervenor Office was created in 1967 during a struggle to reorganize state government. That year the Kellett Commission recommended the merger of the existing Wisconsin Department of Resource Development with the Wisconsin Conservation Department.

Conservation groups actively opposed such a merger. They feared that the conservation staff of the new DNR would be overwhelmed by the powerful development arm of the Department.

As a compromise, two actions were taken. First, the Legislature and Governor Knowles agreed to require the new DNR to be directed by an appointed seven-member citizen Natural Resources Board. Secondly, the Legislature also created the Public Intervenor Office as an independent watchdog agency charged with intervening when necessary to protect public rights on water and other natural resource issues.

Over the years, the Public Intervenor negotiated reasonable compromises and out-of-court settlements that protected public rights. They also provided valuable free information and advice to hundreds of citizens, businesses, and legislators who contacted the office each year. Despite this, Governor Thompson dismantled the office in 1995, leaving it up to individual citizens to provide this watchdog function.

**QUESTION: Should the Office of Public Intervenor be reinstated with all its powers as originally created in 1967, and with sufficient financing to allow it to carry out those powers?**

Submitted on \_\_\_\_\_, 2001, in \_\_\_\_\_ County by:

\_\_\_\_\_  
name

\_\_\_\_\_  
address

\_\_\_\_\_  
city                      state                      zip

\_\_\_\_\_  
phone

**RECORD OF VOTE:**        \_\_\_\_\_ Yes

   \_\_\_\_\_ No