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For Immediate Release
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JARCHOW QUESTIONS LOBBYING BY CONSERVATION CONGRESS

Madison... On Tuesday, Larry Bonde, the Chairman of Wisconsin's Conservation Congress sent a letter to the entire Legislature urging representatives and senators to oppose a bill intended to modernize Wisconsin's wetlands laws.

The letter states, *"We understand that there may need to be some review of current regulations regarding isolated wetlands, but an across-the-board removal of all protections on nonfederal wetlands is something the Conservation Congress opposes. The WCC is requesting the authors withdraw or suspend this proposed legislation and work with the sporting groups to reach a compromise that would be suitable for the economic interest as well as the sporting interest of this state."*

At the bottom of this letter (letterhead) is the following, *"As established by Wisconsin State Statutes, the Wisconsin Conservation Congress is officially recognized as the only natural resources advisory body in the state where citizens elect delegates to represent their interests on natural resources issues on a local and statewide level to the Natural Resources Board and the Department of Natural Resources. Their mission is to represent the citizens of Wisconsin by working with the Natural Resources Board and the Department of Natural Resources to effectively manage Wisconsin's greatest asset, our abundant natural resources, for present and future generations to enjoy."*

The Wisconsin Conservation Congress is surpassing its statutory mandate (Wis. Stat. § 15.348) by recommending policy directly to the legislature, usurping the legitimate authority vested in the Natural Resources Board by Wis. Stat. § 23.30(3).

Jarchow commented, "The job of the Conservation Congress is to advise the Natural Resources Board – not lobby the Legislature on the taxpayer's dime. The Wisconsin Conservation Congress should go through the proper channels enshrined in our law and coordinate such policy recommendations with the Natural Resources Board, who may then properly make such recommendations to the Legislature and Governor. I hope that, in the future, Mr. Bonde and his colleagues will follow the law in order to achieve what the Conservation Congress was meant to accomplish."

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