

02-02-08

Wisconsin's deer hunting heritage and tradition is protected by a Constitutional Right to hunt, limited only by *Reasonable* restriction.

Deer hunting is more than killing deer. To many, the traditional deer season and hunting with family and friends was the most important social event of the year. *Unreasonable* changes imposed by DNR the last several years have negatively impacted many hunting traditions.

October gun seasons and especially Earn-A-Buck have alienated hunters across the state, yet do little to solve the problem of deer densities on private land. Those fortunate enough to hunt private land, can control harvest and October hunting pressure, providing an obvious advantage to earn bucks. Those less fortunate, hunting public land over-harvested due to these regulations, are being denied the right to hunt bucks. Six years of these *Unreasonable* regulations, in the CWD management zones, have lead to the lowest hunter densities in decades causing deer populations to explode.

Whereas, in 2000 without Earn-A-Buck, Wisconsin established the national record harvest simply by providing hunters two free antlerless tags.

Whereas, in 2005 at the Conservation Congress Annual Meetings the public rejected October hunts and Earn-A-Buck as *Unreasonable* restrictions with overwhelming support of Question #44.

Whereas, in 2007 without October seasons, hunters harvested antlerless deer at a 2:1 ratio statewide, the second all time harvest, therefore

**BE IT RESOLVED, the Conservation Congress at its annual meeting held in Ashland County on April 14, 2008, recommends the Natural Resources Board take action to eliminate October antlerless hunts and Earn-A-Buck statewide.**

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(Authorized by SCI Dairyland Committee)