

JAN 22 2002

AB415 2



WISCONSIN CONSERVATION CONGRESS

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January 16, 2002

Representative Mike Powers
Room 310 North
State Capitol
PO box 8953
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Dear Representative Powers;

Since our discussion last Thursday, I have discussed AB 415 with Conservation Congress Chairman Steve Oestreicher, and seventeen of the twenty three Congress Fur Harvest Committee Members. The committee was not willing to support your bill at this time. The unwillingness to change our position was fairly consistent throughout the committee. It was based on the statewide and committee votes which I discussed at the Senate Resources committee hearing.

However, the committee believes that nonresident trapping is going to happen. The consensus is that when it happens, it should be conditional upon the following:

- 1) A 75 trap limit should be placed on nonresidents to encourage recreational trapping vs. a more commercial type of trapping.
- 2) Permit species should not be trapped by nonresidents. The language in the eventual law, should not define permit species as "otter, fisher, and bobcat". At some point in time, we expect that pine martin, and perhaps timber wolf will become permit species as well.

Other issues were discussed, but did not gain consensus. The most thought worthy of these is the idea of a delayed season opening date for non residents. Michigan does this, and Wisconsin does it for nonresident Raccoon hunters.

Ten of the committee members suggested that if AB 415 does not become law, the committee should try to work with the Wisconsin Trappers Association, to put a well

thought out, detailed question on the 2003 questionnaire. They are hopeful that we could get a positive statewide vote, which would allow the Congress to get on board.

We would also like to see DNR law enforcement involved at a little higher level. For example, Michigan has a ten day fisher season with a three fisher bag limit. They have no permit system, and no lottery. Michigan fishers are tagged after the close of the season. Under the proposed law, Wisconsin trappers with a Michigan nonresident trapping license (without AB 415, we can not purchase a Michigan license) would need some way to legally possess up to three untagged fishers in Wisconsin, and to move them back and forth across the boarder. I am sure that this can be worked out, but it needs to be worked out.

I am sorry that we can not support the prospect of nonresident trapping at this time. We hope that we will have opportunities to work with you on many other resource related issues.

Thank You

Edgar Harvey, Jr.
Fur Harvest Committee Chairman

cc: Sen. Baumgart
Chairman Oestreicher
Al Phelan
All Fur Harvest Committee members