



# SIERRA CLUB NEWS RELEASE

JOHN MUIR CHAPTER

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## Conservation Congress Results Show Wisconsinites Support Protecting Air, Water, Natural Places

*Majorities support mining safeguards, protecting clean water, oppose tar sands pipeline*

Madison--The full votes are in from the Conservation Congress Spring Hearings and the results are clear: hunters, people who fish, and those that otherwise enjoy Wisconsin's natural resources believe they should be protect from proposals that could be permanently damaging. Last week the results from the questionnaire were published; this week the full results, including the resolutions that were introduced, have been published.

"As a hunter and fisherman, I've been attending the Spring Hearings for 40+ years and I'm always glad to see Congress attendees discuss and vote on questions presented that impact hunting, fishing, trapping and the enjoyment of our natural resources," said Don Hammes, Dane County attendee and Executive Committee member of the Sierra Club-John Muir Chapter.

The geographically-diverse crowd that attended the hearings all supported the safeguards. Regardless of whether it was the 400 people in Dane County, the 60 people in Jefferson or La Crosse County, or the 75 in Sawyer County, the results were the same. Wisconsinites value safe drinking water and protecting our natural areas.

Overwhelmingly, the Congress voted to support the measures that would protect clean drinking water. This includes all 72 counties and 91% of attendees supporting measures to address drinking water violations. The attendees also supported further analysis, safeguards, or opposition to proposals around frac-sand mining, shipping oil by railroad, [taconite mining](#), and [the proposed tar sands pipeline](#).

<b>63.</b> Moratorium on frac-sand mines until implementation of recommendations of the Strategic Analysis of Industrial Sand Mining?	<b>PASSED</b> 71/72 counties 80% statewide
<b>68.</b> Do you support legislation which would repeal Act 1, the iron mining law from 2013?	<b>PASSED</b> 70/72 counties 71% statewide
<b>71.</b> Suspend a high capacity well approval for a well that has caused impact or impairment to area wells, wetlands or surface waters?	<b>PASSED</b> 71/72 counties 95% statewide
<b>72.</b> Do you support the Wisconsin Conservation Congress taking an official position to oppose the Enbridge Pipeline expansion?	<b>PASSED</b> 67/72 counties* 75% statewide
<b>84.</b> Working to create safeguards for transportation of oil by rail in Wisconsin.	<b>PASSED</b> 72/72 counties 93% statewide
<b>INTRODUCED RESOLUTION:</b> Preserve the intent of the Mining Moratorium Law	<b>PASSED</b> 12/12 counties 88% overall

"The results of citizen voting at the annual hearings this year prove once again that our state lawmakers are wildly out of step with the thinking of the public on issues like water protections and repealing Act 1, the iron mining legislation," said Dave Blouin, Mining Chair for the Sierra Club-John Muir Chapter. He continued, "Year after year, conservation-minded voters demonstrate that they understand the importance of protections for habitat and wildlife and yet the legislature continues to approve extremist deregulation to reward the developers and industry that fund their campaigns."

\* Polk County, one of the 5 counties that did not support the question, *did* vote in favor of holding public hearings and conducting a full Environmental Impact Statement of Enbridge's Line 61 pipeline. The same resolution passed in the other two counties (Vernon and Wood) that introduced it as well.

[Full results from all questions and introduced resolutions can be found here.](#)

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*Founded in 1892 by John Muir, the Sierra Club is America's oldest, largest and most influential grassroots environmental organization. The Sierra Club's mission is to explore, enjoy, and protect the wild places of the earth. The Sierra Club – John Muir Chapter is made up of 15,000 members and supporters working to promote clean energy and protect water resources in Wisconsin.*