

Resolution Opposing Major Reductions in the USEPA 2017-2018 Budget

Whereas the United States Environmental Protection Agency plays a fundamental role in protecting, restoring and enhancing the Nation's land, water and air resources by providing overall oversight to the 50 States in their implementation of the laws enacted by the Congress to protect our land, air and water; and

Whereas, EPA oversight assures that there is an even regulatory playing field between the states implementing Congress's laws such as the Clean Water Act, the Clean Air and the Safe Drinking Water Act, etc.; and

Whereas, Wisconsin citizens and non-profit conservation and environmental organizations, like the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation, have had to petition the USEPA to come into Wisconsin and require the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources to carry out its responsibilities in carrying out the Federal environmental regulatory programs delegated to it such as the Clean Air Act, the Clean Water Act and the Safe Drinking Water Act; and

Whereas, the President's budget eliminates 19% of USEPA employees and overall is a 31% cut in the USEPA budget and includes, among others, the following specific budget cuts:

1. A 50% reduction of the budget for EPA's Office of Research and Development, which does most of agency's science work;
2. A 45% reduction of environmental protection grants to local units of government;
3. A 24% reduction in EPA's environmental enforcement funding;
4. A 30% reduction in Super Fund site cleanup funding;
5. A 97% reduction in the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) funding;
6. A 100% reduction in EPA's Climate Change programs;

Whereas, these drastic cuts to the proposed USEPA budget will seriously undermine the land, air and water resources of Wisconsin and the Nation.

Now therefore be it resolved, that the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation at its 2017 Annual Meeting held April 21st and 22nd in Wisconsin Rapids, calls on the US Congress and the President to restore these drastic cuts in the USEPA budget so as to protect the land, air and water resources of Wisconsin and the Nation.

Submitted by the WWF Environmental Committee:
Jim Swanson, Chair