

Support the Propagation and Protection of Milkweed in Wisconsin

Whereas, the Monarch Butterfly population has declined 90% across North America in the past twenty years; and

Whereas, much of this decline is related to the disappearance of milkweed (*Asclepias Syriaca*); and

Whereas, milkweed is the ONLY food that Monarch Butterfly caterpillars eat; and

Whereas, Wisconsin Statute 66.0407 in part reads "noxious weeds... means any other weed the governing body of any municipality or the county board of any county by ordinance or resolution declares to be noxious within the respective boundaries"; and

Whereas, several Wisconsin city, village, and township ordinances eliminate planting of Milkweed through listing the plant as a noxious weed or through height restrictions for foliage on properties owned, occupied or controlled in the municipality; and

Whereas, the Department of Natural Resources, United States government agencies and National Wildlife Federation consider the decline reversal of this important pollinator a high priority.

Now Therefore Be It Resolved, that the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation at its Annual Meeting on April 8 and 9 in Wisconsin Rapids, Wisconsin encourages its members and affiliates to seek removal of milkweed from county, city, village or township "Noxious Weed" ordinances; and

Be It Further Resolved, that the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation requests that its members and affiliate clubs encourage the planting and maintenance of milkweed as allowed by the governing municipalities; and

Be It Further Resolved, that the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation encourages Wisconsin County Administrators, Mayors, City Administrators and Town Chairs to participate in the Mayor's Monarch Pledge program established by the National Wildlife Federation; and

Be It Further Resolved, that the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation continues to support legislative action to establish the Monarch Butterfly as the State of Wisconsin Official Butterfly.

Submitted by the WWF Endangered Resources and Non-Game Species Committee

Larry Laehn, Chairperson