

## **Resolution to Support S. 556, the Federal Bipartisan Sportsmen's Act of 2015**

Whereas, the Federal Senate Bill 566 has been introduced in the United States Senate and is entitled the "Bipartisan Sportsmen's Act of 2015.

Whereas, the proposed bill recognizes and protects the public's right to engage in recreational hunting, fishing and shooting activities on US Bureau of Land Management and Forest Service Lands.

Whereas, the bill requires that the greater of 1.5 percent or \$10 million of annual Federal Land and Water Conservation Funds be made available for improving recreational access to existing federal land.

Whereas, the bill directs all federal public land management agencies to improve public access to high priority federal lands where hunting, fishing and other forms of outdoor recreation are permitted.

Whereas, the bill authorizes bows and crossbows to be transported on National Park Service lands as long as they are not ready for immediate use and remain inside the vehicle during the time they are transported across National Park Service lands, this authorization mirrors the current provision for firearms on Park Service lands.

Whereas, the proposed bill requires the US Army Corps of Engineers to provide more public access for hunting on the 11.7 million acres of lands managed by the Corps;

Whereas, the proposed bill increases funds to state fish and wildlife agencies for the development of shooting ranges;

Whereas, the bill reauthorizes the North American Wetlands Conservation Act, (NAWCA), thereby providing federal funds to match grants to organizations, state and local governments for the acquisition, restoration and enhancement of wetlands critical to the habitat of migratory birds, (Wisconsin has received \$22 million dollars from NAWCA in the past),

Whereas, the bill reauthorizes the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, a nonprofit organization associated with the US Fish and Wildlife Service that preserves and restores native wildlife species and habitats.

Now therefore be it resolved that the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation at its Annual Meeting in Wisconsin Rapids on April 10 and 11, 2015 hereby endorses US Senate Bill 556 and strongly encourages its support and adoption by the Wisconsin Congressional delegation and the President of the United States.

Submitted by the WWF Wildlife Committee, Ralph Fritsch, Chair