



2025 ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION 114

November 7, 2025 - Introduced by Representatives MIRESE, CLANCY, TENORIO, ARNEY, BARE, BROWN, CRUZ, DESANTO, DESMIDT, FITZGERALD, GOODWIN, HONG, JOHNSON, MADISON, MOORE OMOKUNDE, PALMERI, PHELPS, ROE, SHEEHAN, SINICKI, SNODGRASS, STUBBS and TAYLOR, cosponsored by Senators CARPENTER and LARSON. Referred to Committee on Rules.

1 **Relating to:** recognizing the inherent rights of nature and Wisconsin's
2 commitment to environmental stewardship.

3 Whereas, Wisconsin is home to diverse natural ecosystems, from prairies and
4 forests to lakes, wetlands, and rivers, that sustain the health, economy, and cultural
5 identity of our state; and

6 Whereas, Wisconsin has long been a national leader in environmental
7 stewardship, exemplified by the legacy of conservationists such as Aldo Leopold,
8 John Muir, and Gaylord Nelson, who helped define the modern environmental
9 movement; and

10 Whereas, Indigenous communities, including the Bad River Band of Lake
11 Superior Chippewa, Forest County Potawatomi, Ho-Chunk Nation, Lac Courte
12 Oreilles Band of Lake Superior Chippewa, Lac du Flambeau Band of Lake Superior
13 Chippewa, Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin, Oneida Nation, Red Cliff Band of
14 Lake Superior Chippewa, Sokaogon Chippewa Community Mole Lake Band of Lake

1 Superior Chippewa, St. Croix Chippewa Indians of Wisconsin, Stockbridge-Munsee
2 Community Band of Mohican Indians, and the Brothertown Indian Nations have
3 lived in respectful relationship with the land that is now Wisconsin for thousands of
4 years, and their deep ecological knowledge and principles of reciprocity remain
5 essential to understanding and protecting nature today; and

6 Whereas, the concept of the “rights of nature” is rooted in Indigenous
7 worldviews and is increasingly recognized around the world as a framework for
8 granting legal rights to ecosystems and species, acknowledging that nature itself
9 has intrinsic value and the right to exist, evolve, and regenerate; and

10 Whereas, this rights-based approach complements Wisconsin’s conservation
11 heritage by reaffirming the moral and legal responsibility of governments to protect
12 the natural systems upon which all life depends; and

13 Whereas, climate change, biodiversity loss, and ecological degradation
14 continue to threaten Wisconsin’s natural heritage, and new legal tools are needed to
15 meet the urgency and scale of these challenges; and

16 Whereas, recognizing the rights of nature would enable communities across
17 Wisconsin to more effectively safeguard their air, land, wildlife, water, and shared
18 future for generations to come; now, therefore, be it

19 ***Resolved by the assembly, the senate concurring, That*** the Wisconsin
20 State Legislature recognizes that nature possesses inherent rights, including the
21 right to exist, flourish, regenerate, and be restored; and, be it further

22 ***Resolved, That*** the Wisconsin State Legislature affirms that Wisconsin has a
23 duty to uphold those rights as part of its enduring conservation legacy and its
24 responsibility to future generations; and, be it further

1 **Resolved, That** the Wisconsin State Legislature expresses its intent to
2 explore and develop policies and legislation that recognize and protect the rights of
3 nature within the laws of the State of Wisconsin; and, be it further

4 **Resolved, That** the Wisconsin State Legislature commits to engaging
5 Indigenous communities, environmental scientists, legal experts, landowners, and
6 the public in building a framework for environmental law that reflects both
7 traditional ecological knowledge and modern science; and, be it further

8 **Resolved, That** the Wisconsin State Legislature will not pass laws preventing
9 local governments from adopting rights-of-nature laws and principles; and, be it
10 further

11 **Resolved, That** the Wisconsin State Legislature calls upon local governments
12 across Wisconsin to adopt rights-of-nature laws, including in their land use,
13 conservation, and environmental planning; and be it further

14 **Resolved, That** the Wisconsin State Legislature calls upon agencies and
15 institutions across Wisconsin to adopt rights-of-nature principles; and be it further

16 **Resolved, That** copies of this resolution be transmitted to the governor,
17 relevant state agencies, Wisconsin Tribal Nations, and environmental
18 organizations.

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(END)