



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Thursday, December 18, 2014

Contact: Katie Sulau, 734-222-9650 or katie@michiganlcv.org

Anti-Biodiversity Plan Threatens Pure Michigan Way of Life

LANSING—The Michigan League of Conservation Voters (MLCV) today called Senate Bill 78 a short-sighted plan that ignores science and threatens the future of Michigan’s state forests, parks and public land. The House passed SB 78, called the “anti-biodiversity” bill, today by a count of 59 in favor and 50 opposed.

“It’s a shame that rather than protect our outdoors, the Michigan Legislature is focused on passing an anti-biodiversity bill that completely ignores science and threatens our Pure Michigan way of life,” said **Jack Schmitt**, Deputy Director of the **Michigan League of Conservation Voters**. “This plan puts at risk the very things that make Michigan’s outdoors a special place and that support our diverse tourism, fishing and agriculture industries.”

Senate Bill 78 targets the scientifically-proven and widely-accepted principle of biodiversity, which demonstrates that ecosystems with a wide variety of plants and animals are healthier and more sustainable. By greatly restricting the DNR from considering biodiversity as part of its comprehensive land use policy, the legislation jeopardizes the forests, lakes, rivers, native plants and animals that make Michigan a world-renowned destination for outdoors enthusiasts, hunters, anglers and more. It could also jeopardize Michigan’s efforts to attract federal dollars.

“More than 100 scientists have called this legislation a significant setback for the scientific management of state lands. Our elected officials should support Michigan’s natural resources economy rather than pass legislation that undercuts it by ignoring science, facts and common sense,” said Schmitt. “We urge Gov. Snyder to veto this legislation to protect our public land and outdoor heritage.”

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Michigan League of Conservation Voters is Michigan’s leading non-partisan political voice for land, air and water. Visit our website: <http://www.michiganlcv.org>.