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Contact: Katie Sulau, 734.222.9650 or [katie@michiganlcv.org](mailto:katie@michiganlcv.org)

## **Michigan LCV Commends Budget Decisions That Prioritize Natural Resources**

### ***Proposed DNR and DEQ Budgets Move Forward***

LANSING --- The Michigan League of Conservation Voters applauded legislative conference committees and the State House for moving forward a state budget that adequately values Michigan's natural resources today. The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and Department of Natural Resources (DNR) budgets, which were combined into one "omnibus" budget bill, restore cuts originally made by the House to the Office of Great Lakes and surface water protection programs, and provide funding for additional conservation officers.

"Michigan's natural resources are absolutely critical to our statewide economy," said Jack Schmitt, Political Director for Michigan LCV. "Our state budget must reflect the importance of protecting and maintaining the Great Lakes and Michigan's public land. We commend the Michigan legislature for concurring with Governor Snyder's recommendations and prioritizing funding for Michigan's land, air and water."

Originally, the House DEQ Appropriations Subcommittee voted to cut \$700,000 from the Office of the Great Lakes and surface water management programs, which Michigan LCV fought to restore. The vote also solidifies plans to use revenue from updated hunting and fishing licenses to bring on a new force of conservation officers to protect Michigan's public land and habitats, a proposal fully supported by Michigan LCV and its statewide membership.

"Right now, the list of threats facing our natural resources is long --- pollution, Asian carp and other invasive species, and legislation under consideration that ignores biodiversity and science-based

resource management,” Schmitt said. “It’s more important than ever to put our dollars behind clean water and well-maintained land. They are the drivers of Michigan’s economy.”

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