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Michigan LCV Applauds Approval of Emergency Dredging Plan

Legislature sends dredging plan to the Governor that holds the Natural Resources Trust Fund harmless

LANSING --- The Michigan League of Conservation Voters commended the Michigan State Senate today for approving emergency dredging funding that does not draw from Michigan's Natural Resources Trust Fund (NRTF).

"We commend the legislature for sending a plan to the Governor to fund emergency dredging projects that doesn't raid the constitutionally protected Natural Resources Trust Fund," said Jack Schmitt, Political Director for the Michigan League of Conservation Voters. "This is a balanced approach with bipartisan support, and it affirms that the Trust Fund is not a viable or constitutional option for infrastructure and maintenance issues such as dredging."

The bill appropriates \$20.9 million for dredging in 49 harbors and bays without raiding the NRTF, which was established and constitutionally protected to acquire and develop state parks and public land. Other legislation on the table proposes opening up the NRTF to pay for ongoing maintenance projects, such as dredging - a proposal that Michigan LCV strongly opposes. The bill now moves to Governor Snyder's desk for approval.

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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>.