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February 5, 2014

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Governor Snyder's Budget Recommendation Cues Up Critical Investments in Natural Resources

ANN ARBOR --- Michigan League of Conservation Voters (Michigan LCV) said Governor Snyder's budget recommendation would make needed investments in natural resources and environmental protections, and it would move Michigan toward fully valuing the natural resources that drive our state's economy.

"Today's announcement sets Michigan on course to continue deepening investments in the clean water and public land that drives Michigan's natural resources economy," said Jack Schmitt, Deputy Director for Michigan LCV. "Now, it is time to get to work in the state legislature to ensure that these goals are met and exceeded in the coming years."

The Governor allocated \$3.5 million to hire 25 additional Department of Natural Resources (DNR) conservation officers. This would add to a growing force of conservation officers, made possible by legislation passed last year with strong support from Michigan LCV. The Governor also set aside \$4 million to hire additional foresters, who are responsible for on-the-ground land management within 3.9 million acres of state forest --- the largest state forest system in the nation.

"Michigan's water quality and recreation opportunities are critical to our state's tourism, fishing, boating and agriculture industries," Schmitt said. "The Governor's budget proposal does not top off needed investments in our state's natural resources, but it does point us in the right direction to guarantee future generations have access to the same Pure Michigan we enjoy today."

Michigan LCV scored Governor Snyder's budget recommendation as positive on "How Green is Your Governor?" See the score here: <http://www.michiganlcv.org/how-green-governor>

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