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Michigan LCV Members Score Win for Hartwick Pines State Park

ANN ARBOR --- The Michigan League of Conservation Voters (LCV) thanked its 3,193 members from across the state who sent in comments in opposition to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) plan to put Hartwick Pines State Park on the auction block. Less than one week after comments were submitted, the Michigan DNR announced it would remove most parcels of Hartwick Pines from the upcoming October 29th public land lease auction.

“The Michigan DNR’s decision to do right by Hartwick Pines State Park, and protect the largest stand of old-growth pine forest left in the Lower Peninsula is a win for all Michiganders and the great outdoors,” said Jack Schmitt, Deputy Director. “There are some places in Michigan that should be off-limits to oil and gas activity, and Hartwick Pines State Park is one of those places.”

Hartwick Pines is home to 49 acres of virgin white pine trees, some of which are nearly 400 years old and more than 150 feet tall. The Park was donated the state in 1927 as an emblem of conservation. Michigan LCV’s Executive Director, Lisa Wozniak, recently made the case for removing Hartwick Pines from the auction block in the [Lansing State Journal](#).

“To open up Hartwick Pines to oil and gas activity would be to put a jewel of the state park system, a cultural marker and an ecologically significant slice of Pure Michigan up for grabs,” Wozniak said. “I am so proud of Michigan LCV and our thousands of members across the state for holding decision makers accountable for protecting public land that has been purposefully set aside for nearly a century. We will continue to put the pressure on the DNR to remove all parcels from the auction block, and ensure that Hartwick Pines is here for generations down the line to enjoy.”

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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>.