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Tuesday, April 1, 2014

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**Michigan LCV Calls the DEQ's Approval of Paved Road Through
Critical Sand Dunes Inexcusable, Gives Snyder Red Mark on *How
Green is Your Governor?***

GRAND RAPIDS --- Michigan League of Conservation Voters (Michigan LCV) called the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality's (DEQ) decision last Friday to approve a permit for a two-mile paved road through critical sand dunes inexcusable. Michigan LCV scored the decision with a glaring red mark on *How Green is Your Governor?* --- the environmental scorecard for the Governor and the state agencies he directs. The Michigan DEQ's decision paves the way for irreversible damage to one of Michigan's most naturally beautiful stretches of shoreline.

"Michigan's critical sand dunes are a completely unacceptable location for miles of pavement and multi-million dollar homes," said Patty Birkholz, West Michigan Director for Michigan LCV. "These dunes represent exactly what Pure Michigan expresses. The Michigan DEQ's decision to approve this permit is a disservice to our state's natural resources, our tourism economy, and our way of life in the Great Lakes State."

The permit approval for Singapore Dunes LLC creates a path for a multi-million dollar housing development, consisting of 18 separate building lots on top of shifting sand dunes, adjacent to fragile wetlands, and in view of Lake Michigan. The two-mile paved road will lead to that subdivision, as well as condominiums and a marina intended to be built along the Kalamazoo River Channel. More than one million people visit the Saugatuck Dunes every year, and they do not go to enjoy housing developments and pavement.

"Michigan's critical sand dunes are prime examples of vulnerable landscapes that warrant only the utmost of protections," Birkholz said. "The Michigan DEQ's decision approves permanent damage to pristine shoreline, and a driver of Michigan's tourism economy. We cannot afford to let this reckless decision set a tragic precedent for the beaches and dunes we want to be here for our children and their grandchildren to enjoy and appreciate."

View Michigan LCV's *How Green is Your Governor?* 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>.