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Plan to Gut Biodiversity Protections Puts Michigan's Outdoors On the Line

Senate Bill 78 jeopardizes the future of Michigan's public land

LANSING—The Michigan League of Conservation Voters (MLCV) today called Senate Bill 78 a short-sighted plan that denies science and threatens the future of Michigan's state forests, parks and public land. The House Natural Resources Committee passed SB 78, called the "anti-biodiversity" bill, today by a count of 6 in favor and 3 passes.

"Senate Bill 78 threatens the very things that make Michigan's outdoors a destination and that support our diverse tourism, fishing and agriculture industries," said **Jack Schmitt**, Deputy Director of the **Michigan League of Conservation Voters**. "The Legislature should be focused on passing bills that grow our tourism industry and protect the outdoors—not laws that limit our ability to implement landmark legislation like the Endangered Species Act. Senate Bill 78 is anti-science, anti-sustainability and threatens our Pure Michigan way of life."

Senate Bill 78 bill targets the scientifically-proven and widely-accepted principle of biodiversity, which demonstrates that ecosystems with a wide variety of plants and animals are healthier and more sustainable. By greatly restricting the DNR from considering biodiversity as part of its comprehensive land use policy, the legislation jeopardizes the forests, lakes, rivers, native plants and animals that make Michigan a world-renowned destination. It could also jeopardize Michigan's efforts to attract federal dollars. More than 100 scientists signed on to a letter in opposition to SB 78, calling it a "significant setback for the scientific management of state lands."

"Farmers, hunters, fishers, and anyone who enjoys or relies on our natural resources recognize biodiversity is vital to Michigan's land and water," said Schmitt. "This irresponsible legislation writes off the underpinnings of our state's natural resources economy. We urge members of the Michigan House to vote no on this backward legislation."

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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>.