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Attorney General Bill Schuette Stands Up for Michigan's Natural Resources

Draws Praise from Michigan League of Conservation Voters

LANSING - The Michigan League of Conservation Voters applauded Attorney General Bill Schuette today for his affirmation that Michigan's Natural Resources Trust Fund (NRTF) is constitutionally guaranteed to be used solely for protecting our resources for future generations.

"Thank you, thank you, thank you," said Lisa Wozniak, Executive Director of the Michigan LCV. "The Attorney General's opinion is a huge victory for Michigan's natural resources and affirms what experts, statewide leaders and Michigan residents have been saying all along: Hands off the Natural Resources Trust Fund."

Attorney General Opinion 7270 concludes that NRTF dollars "cannot be used for the maintenance of existing public recreation facilities, such as maintenance dredging of existing harbors" (p.1). The opinion comes after Governor Rick Snyder signed into law legislation that found alternate funding for emergency dredging projects to address low water levels in the Great Lakes, rather than tapping the NRTF. Michigan LCV vocally supported the Governor's action.

"We saw leadership from Governor Snyder and the DEQ very early on this issue," said Wozniak. "Attorney General Bill Schuette has now ended this debate by sending a strong message that Michigan's Natural Resources Trust Fund is a unique, constitutionally-guaranteed promise to all Michiganders. It is not a political plaything."

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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.michiganlcvo.org>.