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## **Michigan LCV Applauds Senate For Moving State Budget Forward**

### ***Plan that prioritizes natural resources goes to Governor Snyder***

LANSING --- The Michigan League of Conservation Voters commends the State Senate today for passing an “omnibus” budget bill that funds critical programs for protecting Michigan’s land and water. The bill properly values Michigan’s natural resources by restoring funding to the Office of the Great Lakes and surface water protection programs, as well as allocating additional revenue toward hiring conservation officers. The budget bill passed on a vote of 24 - 14.

“Today’s vote sends a strong message: protecting our natural resources is a smart investment,” said Jack Schmitt, Political Director for the Michigan LCV. “Michigan’s economy relies on clean water and diverse forests, and this budget ensures our state’s most valuable resources will be preserved for years to come.”

The bill addresses Michigan LCV’s original concerns with a House budget that proposed damaging cuts to the Office of the Great Lakes and surface water protection programs. It reinstates \$700,000 for water protections, which are critical for a state so economically driven by its freshwater. The budget plan also assumes long overdue hunting and fishing license updates will pass, and uses additional revenue to pay for a larger force of conservation officers to protect public land and maintain habitats --- a plan Michigan LCV and its statewide membership fully support.

The bill now moves to Governor Snyder’s desk for approval.

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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>.*