



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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Contact: Katie Sulau, 734.222.9650 or [katie@michiganlcv.org](mailto:katie@michiganlcv.org)

## **Wetlands Overhaul Is Step Backward For Clean Water**

### ***House Natural Resources Committee moves bill that eliminates protections***

LANSING --- The House Natural Resources Committee passed a bill that would potentially result in a federal takeover of Michigan's wetlands regulatory system. Michigan LCV has long supported maintaining state control over a program that is essential to our Great Lakes, rivers and streams.

"Today's vote moves legislation forward that is a step backward for the clean water that is critical to Michigan's environment and economy," said Jack Schmitt, Political Director for Michigan LCV. "We are at a loss for a good reason why the legislature would make it possible to give up control of our state's wetlands protections. As one of two states that maintains that control, it's something we should be proud of and leverage for safeguarding our wetlands."

The bill was intended to address deficiencies raised by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), but in turn, creates exemptions for development and activity within wetlands, and eliminates important protections. If signed into law, the bill would make it easier for Michigan's wetlands protection program to be transferred to federal control.

"Michigan's wetlands are absolutely key to keeping our Great Lakes and waterways clean," Schmitt said. "This overhaul moves us in the wrong direction and puts Michigan's reputation as a clean water leader at risk."

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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>.*

