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Michigan United Conservation Clubs
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Conserving, Enhancing and Protecting Michigan's Natural Resources and Outdoors Heritage since 1937.
MUCC

October 24, 2011

House Committee on Natural Resources, Tourism, and Outdoor Recreation
Rep. Frank Foster, Chair
Submitted by: Kent Wood, Legislative Affairs Manager

Re: Senate Bills 508-510 & House Bills 4826-4828; MUCC support of Aquatic Invasive Species legislation

Dear Chairman Foster and Members of the committee,

The Michigan United Conservation Clubs is a non-profit member-based organization with over 250 affiliated clubs and 42,000 members. For 74 years, MUCC has united citizens to conserve, protect and enhance Michigan's natural resources and preserve our outdoor heritage through education, communication and advocacy.

As we continue our strong tradition of defending the outdoors we are here today to support the passage of Senate Bills 508, 509, & 510 and House Bills 4826, 4827, & 4828. Aquatic invasive species are a continuing problem that threaten our $7 billion per year sport fishing industry in the Great Lakes, not to mention the millions of dollars per year for federal, state, and local prevention and control efforts. Aquatic invasive species impact the lives of all citizens in this state, whether we realize this or not, and failure to deal with this issue will have a drastic effect on the native habitats and species that live within our tens-of-thousands of rivers, lakes, and steams in Michigan.

The introduction of this legislation is an important step for Michigan and the surrounding Great Lakes states to take a centralized and systematic approach to dealing with present and future aquatic invasive species issues.

MUCC and our members are ready to assist with the passage of this legislation and to engage in further conversations and work groups designed to find solutions to our ongoing invasive species problems.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kent Wood
Legislative Affairs Manager