

Michigan Bow Hunters

The Voice of Michigan's Hunting Archer.....

House Committee – Natural Resources, Tourism and Outdoor Recreation

Committee Chairman Frank Foster and committee members- Rep. Matt Huuki - Majority Vice Chair, Rep. Wayne A. Schmidt, Rep. Kurt Damrow, Rep. Holly Hughes, Rep. Joel Johnson, Rep. Peter Pettalia, Rep. Harold L. Haugh - Minority Vice Chair, Rep. Maureen L. Stapleton, Rep. Timothy Bledsoe, Rep. Dian Slavens.

May 1, 2012

Subject: Senate Bill 248

Dear Committee Chairman Foster and Committee members,

Our members and especially the people in the State of Michigan recognize the enrichment that the land available for recreational purposes provides. Granted the current structure of public land access and utilization could be better, but SB248 would end up doing more harm towards benefiting those involved than good.

The wide variety of outdoor use which Michigan public lands receive should have legislature more interested in increased public land and the fragmentation of these public lands, as opposed to setting a limit which SB248 in its written form dictates. With nearly 80 percent of the land base and the majority of the most productive forests and agricultural lands under control of private landowners in the state of Michigan, only 4 percent of the land in the Southern Lower Peninsula in public ownership for recreational use.

Land parcels that the MDNR receive through the tax reversion process enhances the Department's conservation and recreation efforts equally with the land purchased as the Natural Resources Trust Fund is designed to allow. Transparent goals for the sale of certain state lands that are not used or provide little or no recreational or natural resource value, would go far in the strategy of land use... understanding between those utilizing this public land and the desire to work towards a common goal in it's utilization and management, would go further.

Transparency in a strategic plan from the MDNR is also the interest and objective of the Conservation Coalition when it comes to land management. The Conservation Coalition working

as a collaboration of varied organizations, is working with the MDNR towards this and many other goals. The Michigan Bow Hunters Association feels SB 248 as fair as a plan some may feel it is, would create a political barrier without obtaining a solution that the MDNR and stakeholders could work out without utilizing politics or agendas.

The Michigan Bow Hunters Association working in alliance with other organizations opposes SB248 as written.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dean Hall", written in a cursive style.

Dean Hall
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