SIERRA CLUB
FOUNDED 1892

MICHIGAN CHAPTER

May 19, 2014

To: Chair LaFontaine and members of the House Natural Resources Committee

Sierra Club urges a NO vote on SB 444 (Casperson), a bill that would extend the applicable time period for a permit for chemical management of invasive species in an inland lake from one year to three and allow a permittee to expand the area of chemical management and amount of chemicals used without a revision to the original permit.

Changing the area and quantity of aquatic pesticide treatment can have major adverse impacts on human health, non-target species, and on habitats. Specifically, we are concerned about the implications this has for contaminating drinking water and creating adverse impacts on endangered species. Thus, these changes need to be reviewed on a site-by-site basis by the Department of Environmental Quality, not left up to the permittee.

Aquatic ecosystems and their management needs change continuously, thus extending the permit period from one to three years is inappropriate for proper management of our natural resources. Currently, it takes only 15 days or less to gain approval for these permits, so the process is swift not overly burdensome.

For these reasons, we urge you to vote NO on SB 444. Votes pertaining to this bill will be included in the Sierra Club's legislative scorecard.

Sincerely,

Mike Berkowitz
Legislative and Political Director
Sierra Club Michigan Chapter