LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
MICHIGAN

EDUCATING AND ADVOCATING FOR RESPONSIBLE GOVERNMENT

June 4, 2013

Representative Andrea LaFontaine, Chair
House Natural Resources Committee
124 North Capitol
Lansing, Michigan 48933

Dear Representative LaFontaine:

The League of Women Voters of Michigan is opposed to SB 163. We believe that destruction of wetlands degrades the Great Lakes Ecosystem. This bill would create exemptions for development and the creation of wetland mitigation banks. Mitigation should be accepted only as a last resort. Mitigation proposals should be rigorously evaluated and such projects should be strictly monitored to assure no net loss to the ecosystem.

We support the state's commitment to continuing control over our wetland permit administration program, but disagree with the prohibition of regulations above federal law. State and local government should have the right to set more stringent standards. Enforcement should be carried out at the lower levels of government. The federal government's role is to enforce standards if other levels of government do not meet this responsibility.

The League of Women Voters supports all levels of government working together and would ask the committee to allow a review by the EPA to assure compliance with these proposed regulations.

We thank you for the opportunity to participate in this decision-making process.

Sincerely,

Susan Smith, President
League of Women Voters of Michigan

600 W. ST. JOSEPH ST., SUITE 3G, LANSING, MICHIGAN 48933-2288 (517) 484-5383
FAX: (517) 484-3086 office@lwvmi.org www.lwvmi.org