

TO: Michigan Senate Natural Resources, Environment and Great Lakes Committee

Senators: [Tom Casperson](#) (R) Committee Chair, 38th District

[Phil Pavlov](#) (R) Majority Vice Chair, 25th District

[Mike Green](#) (R) 31st District

[Mike Kowall](#) (R) 15th District

[Arlan B Meekhof](#) (R) 30th District

[Rebekah Warren](#) (D) Minority Vice Chair 18th District

[Morris W Hood III](#) (D) 3rd District

DATE: February 1, 2013

SUBJECT: Removal of biological diversity from list of state forest management goals.

Dear Senator Casperson and Committee Members:

Michigan residents have been through difficult times and our economy continues to struggle behind the rest of the nation. Michigan is blessed with marvelous natural beauty. The quality of our natural resources is important to our state's economic development. Biodiversity is essential to the resiliency and health of our natural resources.

I would like to believe that this Senate Committee is interested in studying where growth is taking place across in the US. Believe it or not it, baby-boomers are moving to places near national parks. Now why would retired individuals with disposable income head to such natural areas? It is because of the natural beauty and the biodiversity of natural communities such as forests provide. With the stresses on our forests from poor policies to invasive species, we should pay attention to scientific research to support our natural resources. Emerald Ash Borer, Beech Bark Disease, Oak Wilt, gypsy moths, and others should be a higher priority due to the deteriorating health condition and mortality of our forests.

We view with dismay that Senator Casperson feels so compelled to dislodge biodiversity, a national accepted scientific term from our State's Forest Management Plan. It is obvious that to a large extent our healthy ecology produces a healthy economy.

Please support rational legislative policies consistent with economic studies that indicate that communities which develop biodiversity appreciation and opportunities for exploring them will be experiencing an increase in home ownership. Now that is a policy that should be explored.

Sincerely,

Dr. and Mrs. Bradford

Grassmick

28629 Kendallwood

Drive

Farmington Hills, Michigan 48334 (231-448-2314)

[mcgrass@ameritech.net](mailto:mcgrass@ameritech.net)

Cc: The Honorable Speaker of the House, Jase Bolger: [JaseBolger@house.mi.gov](mailto:JaseBolger@house.mi.gov)