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Michigan House of Representatives  
Michigan Senate  
State Capitol Building  
Lansing, Michigan 48913

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Today I am returning Senate Bill 721 to you without my approval. The bill would have amended the statute pertaining to sand dunes protection and management. It would have allowed local units of government to provide a view of a Great Lake within a critical dune area if certain criteria were met.

Critical, vegetated dunes are important Michigan's shorelines and play an integral part of the dune ecosystem. They provide stability to the dune systems and protect parks, their users, and nearby residents from wind and blowing sand.

Allowing large-scale contour changes, as proposed by Senate Bill 721, is not protective of the dune ecosystem. Further, it would provide opportunities to degrade, erode and destabilize critical dunes, precisely what this statute was originally enacted to protect.

I appreciate the fact that over the eight years in which I was governor, my Administration worked closely with our legislative partners to craft sound environmental policy. However, I do not believe that this particular legislation reflects the priorities I have worked towards, and therefore, I am returning Senate Bill 721 to you today without my approval.

Sincerely,

Rick Snyder  
Governor