Muskegon Sports Council, Inc.
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April 28, 2009

House Committee on Great Lakes and Environment
Attn: Cath Petroskey, Committee Clerk
124 N. Capitol, P.O. Box 30014
Lansing, MI 48909
[Fax: 517-373-7158]

Dear House Committee Members:

This letter is for consideration at the April 30, 2009 House hearing on the proposed "Recreation Passport" legislation. As past President and current Vice President of the Muskegon Sports Council, I strongly urge support for this bill. The Recreation Passport will have a significant impact on the use of the Muskegon State Park in general, but will an extraordinarily positive effect on the general public's use of the Muskegon Winter Sports Complex, located in the Park. The Complex has already shown its potential for expanding the use of the Muskegon State Park during the "off season" winter months. We project that winter seasonal use will increase by at least 30% or more in the first year the Recreation Passport is enacted.

Not only will this encourage increased use of the Winter Complex's unique facilities, but it will have the compound benefit of relieving the Sports Council from having to administer the parking permits. The Muskegon Sports Council relies very heavily on volunteer support to operate the Complex. Without the parking permit duties, our staff and volunteers will be able to better concentrate their efforts on the labor-intensive tasks necessary to maintain the winter facilities.

Notwithstanding the clear benefit to the Muskegon Sports Council and the Winter Sports Complex in Muskegon State Park, we think this far-sighted legislation will reap both near-term and even more significant long-term benefits to the financial and physical well-being of the entire state park system. We hope the House Committee will put its full weight behind this legislation.

Thank you for your consideration of these views.

Sincerely,

Peter J. Sartorius
Vice President, Muskegon Sports Council, Inc.

Cc: Mary Valentine, State Representative, 91st District
Doug Bennett, State Representative, 92nd District
Gerald VanWoerkom, State Senator, 34th District