



Conservation Coalition

May 1, 2012

House Committee on Natural Resources, Tourism, and Outdoor Recreation
Representative Frank Foster, Chair

RE: Opposition to SB 248

Dear Chairman Foster and members of the Committee,

We the undersigned, members and supporters of the Michigan Conservation Coalition, urge you to not play politics with our natural resources, and vote NO on the amendment requiring legislative intervention in SB 248.

As some of the foremost supporters of Michigan's natural resources, we are supportive of a strategic planning process for the Department of Natural Resources' (DNR) land acquisition and divestment process, and are pleased that SB 248 takes this approach. We are even supportive of placing a cap on the amount of land the DNR can acquire while the plan is being developed.

However, once the plan is developed, the cap should lift and the plan should go into effect. The legislature has the right and ability to alter Michigan laws that it does not deem sufficient. Because of this, once a strategic plan has been completed by the DNR, as required in the bill, that plan should take effect subject, as always, to the legislature's ability to amend statute.

This not only makes logical sense, it is in the best interest of our natural resources.

The strategic land acquisition and divestment planning process as laid out in the bill is intended to be comprehensive and transparent. It demands that the department take a big picture and regional look at our public land resources. The time, effort, and resources on behalf of the both the department and the public will be substantial and should not be taken for granted.

For SB 248, we urge you to vote no on the amendment requiring legislative approval of the land purchase and disposal plan in order to remove the cap.

Sincerely,

(over)

May 1, 2012

SB 248

Page 2

Dean Hall, President
Michigan Bowhunters Association

Bryan Burroughs, Executive Director
Michigan Council of Trout Unlimited

Dennis Eade, Executive Director
Michigan Salmon and Steelhead
Fisherman's Association

Erin McDonough, Executive Director
Michigan United Conservation Clubs

Mike Thiede, Legislative Affairs
Michigan Gun Owners

David Borgeson
Michigan Resources Stewards

Carol Moncrieff Rose, Chair
Upper Black River Council

Matt Wood, President
Michigan Hunting Dog Federation

Lynn Siebers
South Kent Sportsmen's Club

Denny Grinold
Michigan Charter Boat Association

Don Wright
Great Lakes Fishing and
Sportfishing Alliance

Tony Snyder
National Wild Turkey Federation

George Lindquist
U.P. Whitetails of Marquette County

John Caretti, President
Michigan Trappers and Predator Callers Assoc.

Alpena Longbeards

Alpena Sportsmen's Club

Presque Isle County Sportsmen's Club

Northland Sportsmen's Club

Black Mountain Chapter,
National Wild Turkey Federation