

SR-171, As Adopted by Senate, April 22, 2008

Senators Birkholz, Kahn, Richardville, Pappageorge, Jansen, Gilbert, Jelinek and Kuipers offered the following resolution:

Senate Resolution No. 171.

A resolution designating April 20-27, 2008, the second annual Michigan Conservation Week, as Land Preservation Week.

Whereas, The Michigan Legislature is constitutionally charged with the responsibility to protect and preserve the natural resources of this great state; and

Whereas, The state of Michigan is blessed with an abundance of natural resources, plentiful lakes, rivers, and streams; bountiful wetlands and sand dunes; and precious forests. These resources provide Michigan residents and visitors to this great state a high quality of life; and

Whereas, Michigan's resources provide both beauty and background for those who live and recreate in the state; and

Whereas, The Legislature has acknowledged the sensitive nature of these resources through a number of environmental programs designed to keep our resource base healthy, while allowing for wise and continuous use of these natural resources; and

Whereas, Michigan's economic, environmental, and social futures are all dependent on the wise use of the state's 37 million acres; and

Whereas, Twenty-first century prosperity is inextricably linked to the quality of life this or any state provides to both its residents and the businesses and entrepreneurs it wishes to attract; and

Whereas, Michigan's land-based industries, including agriculture, tourism, forestry, and mining, currently account for more than \$37.6 billion (17 percent) of Michigan's yearly economic output; and

Whereas, Those same industries contribute immensely to the character of Michigan's landscape, while at the same time supplying the products that sustain and enhance our lives; and

Whereas, In many areas of the state, certain development of open spaces may be altering the character of Michigan's landscapes and threatening those land-based industries; and

Whereas, The ecological services provided by open space, greenways, and other green infrastructure are incalculable; and

Whereas, Through the state's Natural Resources Trust Fund, the Farmland and Open Space Preservation program, and through the growth and development of both public and private land preservation programs at the local level, significant landscapes have been protected for future generations; and

Whereas, Through the efforts of Michigan land conservancies, more than 400,000 acres of Michigan coastline, forests, unique agricultural lands, and other special lands have been protected for future generations of Michigan citizens; and

Whereas, Designating Land Preservation Week will offer local conservation groups and educators an opportunity to educate students and community members on the necessity of preserving Michigan's land-based natural resources in a sustainable manner to provide enjoyment to both current and future generations; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate, That we hereby designate April 20-27, 2008, the second annual Conservation Week as Land Preservation Week. We urge the citizens of the state of

Michigan to celebrate and commemorate the heritage of land preservation and its role in maintaining and enhancing the land-based natural resources of the state and preserving the high quality of life available to those who live, work, and recreate in the state; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to Rebecca Humphries, director of the Department of Natural Resources; the Natural Resources Commission; Steve Chester, director of the Department of Environmental Quality; Representative Rebekah Warren, chair of the House Committee on Great Lakes and Environment; Representative Joel Sheltrown, chair of the House Committee on Tourism, Outdoor Recreation and Natural Resources; Senate Majority Leader Mike Bishop; Speaker of the House Andy Dillon; Governor Jennifer Granholm; the Michigan Chapter of the Nature Conservancy, the Heart of the Lakes Center for Land Conservancy Policy; and all other state and local conservation groups.