

Reps. Warren, Scripps, Smith, Miller, Roberts, Kennedy, Liss, Haase, Haugh, Barnett, Ball, Lisa Brown, Terry Brown, Espinoza, Robert Jones, Kandreas, Kowall, LeBlanc, Lori, Marleau, Mayes, Neumann, Polidori, Sheltroun, Spade, Stanley and Tlaib offered the following resolution:

House Resolution No. 256.

A resolution to declare April 19-April 26, 2010, as Conservation Week in the state of Michigan.

Whereas, The House of Representatives has seen great value in the proper conservation of our natural resources with three previous annual celebrations of Conservation Week, taking the charge specifically provided to the Legislature in Article IV, Section 52 of the *Constitution of the State of Michigan of 1963*:

“The conservation and development of the natural resources of the state are hereby declared to be of paramount public concern in the interest of the health, safety and general welfare of the people. The legislature shall provide for the protection of the air, water and other natural resources of the state from pollution, impairment and destruction.”

; and

Whereas, The House of Representatives has celebrated land conservation, state parks, recycling, and our Great Lakes and other key environmental issues during the third week of April to center around the nation’s celebration of Earth Day on April 22nd; and

Whereas, The House of Representatives has seen fit to again celebrate Conservation Week with another week-long series of events designed to draw attention to the need to conserve our natural resources; and

Whereas, This year, the House of Representatives has chosen to focus its efforts on the recent enactment of the Michigan recreation passport and the need to continue to educate the public in the mission to protect our waters and lands from invasive species; and

Whereas, Funding for the Michigan State Parks systems has been inadequate to protect our parks and ensure they are open for public access, and whereas the threat of invasive species is the number one threat to Great Lakes ecosystems. The House of Representatives has been active in passing legislation both to protect Michigan’s parks and guard against invasive species, while also adopting the Great Lakes Basin’s most comprehensive ballast water regulation law and remains the regional leader in instituting aggressive penalties to help provide deterrents to further invasions of land and water invasives; and

Whereas, The House of Representatives has taken specific action on Asian Carp through House Resolutions requesting funding for electric barriers, while one of Michigan’s Representatives has joined in a lawsuit filed by the Michigan Attorney General to close the Chicago shipping canals, and another legislator has introduced legislation prohibiting the use of Asian Carp as bait; and

Whereas, There is an increasing need for coordinated regional action to bring together all Great Lakes states to stop the spread of invasive species, including new threats from land and water invasives that will impact Michigan’s water quality and in that quest the House of Representatives has helped support the founding of the Great Lakes Legislative Caucus; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives, That the members of this legislative body declare April 19-26, 2010, as Conservation Week in the state of Michigan. During this week, the House of Representatives will take measures to educate the public and create awareness for threats posed by invasives and bring awareness to the new recreation opportunities that await Michigan citizens with the implementation of the Michigan Recreation Passport legislation; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Governor, the Director of the Department of Natural Resources and the Environment, the Senate Majority Leader, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives.