

Senator Bishop offered the following resolution:

Senate Resolution No. 196.

A resolution of tribute for the Honorable Patricia Birkholz.

Whereas, It is a pleasure for the members of the Michigan Senate to commend and thank Patty Birkholz as she brings her distinguished legislative tenure to a close. We deeply appreciate her commitment to the residents of the 24th Senate District and the entire state; and

Whereas, Patty Birkholz's commitment to our state, and in particular our natural resources, began three decades ago, when she became the first park commissioner for Saugatuck Township. Under her leadership and tireless work, the township established the beautiful River Bluff Park on the Kalamazoo River. Afterwards, Patty Birkholz continued working for the residents of Saugatuck Township as a trustee and then as the Allegan County treasurer; and

Whereas, In 1997, Patty Birkholz brought her leadership skills and experiences to the Capitol. During her three terms in the House of Representatives and two terms in the Senate, she was committed to protecting the Great Lakes and our state's natural resources. Senator Birkholz championed the adoption of the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Basin Water Resources Compact, was instrumental in the passage of the nation's first scientifically-based water withdrawal legislation, and sponsored the legislation creating the State Parks Passport program. As the chair of the Senate's Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs Committee, she earned the respect and admiration of business leaders, environmentalists, hunters, and conservationists alike; and

Whereas, Michigan has benefited from Patty Birkholz's ability to work with others and see the big picture. Her involvement was critical in advancing funding for early childhood education, enacting the safe haven for abandoned babies law, passing historic renewable energy and energy efficiency legislation, and creating programs to fight the clandestine manufacture of methamphetamine. The entire state has benefited immensely from her leadership, and we are grateful for her service; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate, That we offer this expression of gratitude and commendation to Senator Patricia Birkholz for her outstanding service and commitment to Michigan; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to Senator Birkholz as evidence of our esteem and best wishes.