

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 72

Senators Schmidt, Hollier and Chang offered the following resolution:

1 A resolution to urge the Governor to establish a statewide
2 goal of conserving at least 30 percent of land and 30 percent of
3 water in the state by the year 2030, as part of the nationwide
4 30x30 effort to accelerate conservation efforts, and to update the
5 state land management plan accordingly.

6 Whereas, Human activity has severely altered 75 percent of the
7 planet's lands and 66 percent of its marine environments. Over
8 57,000 square feet (the size of a football field) of natural lands
9 is lost to development every 30 seconds in the United States,
10 totaling more than 1,500,000 acres per year. The United States Fish
11 and Wildlife Service has reported that half of all freshwater and
12 saltwater wetlands in the contiguous 48 states have been lost since

1 the time of European settlement, with most of the loss coming in
2 recent decades; and

3 Whereas, The loss of preserved land and water has had
4 detrimental impacts on hunting and fishing, a proud part of
5 Michigan's heritage with traditions passed down by generations and
6 a critical economic component of many Michigan communities; and

7 Whereas, Habitat alteration and loss is a leading cause of
8 plants and animals becoming endangered. At least 26 species in
9 Michigan are currently on the federal threatened or endangered
10 species list, including the Canada Lynx, the Eastern Massasauga
11 rattlesnake, and the Northern Long-Eared Bat, among many others;
12 and

13 Whereas, The Great Lakes are one of the world's largest
14 surface freshwater ecosystems, accounting for 84 percent of North
15 America's and nearly 21 percent of the world's supply of surface
16 freshwater, but are faced with the growing threat of invasive
17 species, chemical pollution, plastic pollution, and nutrient
18 pollution resulting from human activities; and

19 Whereas, State law has banned the use of over 3,000
20 groundwater sites in Michigan due to severe contamination. Thirty-
21 eight percent of Americans rely on groundwater for drinking water,
22 and Michigan has the highest percentage of public groundwater-based
23 drinking water supply systems of any state; and

24 Whereas, Nature is nearing a breaking point as the destruction
25 and contamination of our land, lakes, rivers, and streams hinder
26 the long-term health, economic prosperity, and quality of life for
27 all Michiganders; and

28 Whereas, Access to public lands and nature is also essential
29 for the health, well-being, identity, cultures, and economic

1 prosperity of the state; and

2 Whereas, Every level of government must act quickly to protect
3 more of America's lands and waters. The state of Michigan, working
4 with local governments, tribes, and private landowners, can
5 safeguard access to public lands and nature and address ecosystem
6 degradation, creating a healthy environment for all residents; and

7 Whereas, In November 2020, Michigan voters showed their desire
8 to maintain state parks and recreation areas and preserve public
9 land by overwhelmingly supporting Proposal 1 to protect the Natural
10 Resources Trust Fund for generations to come. The bipartisan nature
11 of Proposal 1 shows that Michigan's outdoor spaces are cherished by
12 people of all walks of life, whether used for hunting, camping,
13 recreating, or simply for the goal of preservation; and

14 Whereas, 30x30 is a U.S.-led effort, being driven by local
15 communities, to accelerate conservation and protect our outdoor and
16 natural heritage. Conserving at least 30 percent of the land and
17 water by 2030 is the minimum action needed to ensure access to
18 public lands and effectively address ecosystem degradation and
19 wildlife welfare before an ecological tipping point is reached;
20 now, therefore, be it

21 Resolved by the Senate, That we urge the Governor to establish
22 a statewide goal of conserving at least 30 percent of land and 30
23 percent of water in the state by the year 2030, as part of the
24 nationwide 30x30 effort to accelerate conservation efforts; and be
25 it further

26 Resolved, That we urge the Department of Natural Resources to
27 update its land management plan to be reflective of this 30x30
28 initiative; and be it further

29 Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the

1 Governor, the Director of the Michigan Department of Natural
2 Resources, the Director of the Michigan Department of Environment,
3 Great Lakes, and Energy, the Director of the Michigan Department of
4 Agriculture and Rural Development, and the members of the Michigan
5 congressional delegation.