



Attn: Members of the Senate Oversight Committee

Re: House Bill 6192

Position: Oppose

Date: October 5, 2022

Honorable Members of the Senate Oversight Committee,

We, the undersigned organizations, write to express our opposition to House Bill 6192, a bill that strips the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) of its ability to make necessary and informed decisions to suspend or regulate the open seasons of fish, fur-bearing wildlife, and waterfowl species when those species are in danger of depletion or extermination. The Michigan DNR's ability to manage wildlife for the enjoyment of all Michiganders is paramount to fulfilling its purpose and cannot be seen as an unnecessary or overreaching power. For the good of all Michigan sportsmen and women, Michigan's fish and wildlife, and their habitats, HB 6192 must not be enacted.

The rarity with which the Michigan DNR has invoked its authority to suspend open seasons of certain species does not indicate that the power is unneeded, but instead indicates that the DNR has responsibly wielded this authority. The single time that the DNR has exercised this authority was in 2012, when it adjusted regulations for the taking of lake trout in Lake Huron to accommodate a population abundance. The DNR continually monitors and evaluates the health of Michigan's diverse fish and wildlife populations, and there is no entity better suited to make timely, science-based decisions to protect the health of those populations. Eliminating this authority would not help your sportsmen and women constituents but would instead threaten the time-honored traditions that so many of them cherish. The Great Lakes State is known for its plentiful fish and wildlife resources, and this state's more than 1.9 million hunters and anglers understand that without healthy, well-managed populations, those resources cannot be enjoyed.

We urge the members of this Committee to oppose HB 6192. The Michigan Department of Natural Resources must maintain its ability to protect the many fish and wildlife populations of Michigan. This piece of legislation harms the ability to properly manage those populations, and therefore harms the great people of this state. We thank you for the opportunity to provide comment on this bill and welcome any further questions that you may have on the matter.

Sincerely,

American Sportfishing Association
Bass Anglers Sportsman Society
Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation
Delta Waterfowl

Fur Takers of America
Houston Safari Club
National Deer Association
Ruffed Grouse Society/American Woodcock Society