



MICHIGAN UNITED *Since 1937* CONSERVATION CLUBS

Uniting Citizens to Conserve, Protect and Enhance Michigan's Natural Resources and Outdoor Heritage

PO Box 30235 Lansing, MI 48909 | 800.777.6720 P | www.mucc.org

October 8, 2019

State Representative Jack O'Malley
Chairman, House Transportation Committee
House Office Building
Lansing, MI 48909-7514

Dear Chairman O'Malley and members of the House Transportation Committee:

Michigan United Conservation Clubs is the largest statewide conservation organization in the nation. With more than 40,000 members and 200 affiliate clubs, our voice can be heard from every region of the state. Our members have spoken; In 2008, MUCC passed a resolution stating that a long-term funding source for the state parks and recreation areas in our state is a priority of conservationists, hunters and anglers.

The recreation passport has been a success; We believe the State Park Citizens' Advisory Committee's recommendation of having an opt-out method is conducive to greater success. Currently, the Secretary of State gains funding from the recreation passport to cover administrative costs of hosting the passport through their office. These funds can be utilized for the proper education of staff and customers so that everyone is aware of the opt-out option.

The recreation passport has been well received by the citizens of Michigan. Its ease of purchase through the Secretary of State has been a benefit to the people who recreate in our parks and by helping to upgrade the parks themselves. But, the work is continuous. There is an estimated \$273 million of infrastructure needs within our parks system. Having a long-term, larger funding source for our parks is a necessity today and for future generations.

MUCC and its members express our full support of House Bills 4486, 4775 and 4776 due to the increased outdoor recreation opportunities for the citizens of our state. We would ask that you please consider these bills and pass them on to the Senate.

Sincerely,

Amy Trotter, Executive Director
Michigan United Conservation Clubs