



October 21, 2021

The Honorable Steven Johnson
Chairman, House Committee on Oversight
124 North Capitol Avenue
Lansing, MI 48933

RE: House Bill 5187 and House Bill 5188

Dear Chairman Johnson and Members of the committee:

For more than 40 years, the Sportsmen's Alliance continues to be the leading organization fighting coast to coast against any legislation or action that threatens our great American outdoor heritage, while at the same time, proactively advancing and supporting legislation that allows more opportunities for sportsmen and women and protects the future of hunting, fishing and trapping for our youth and future generations that will follow.

On behalf our Michigan members, I write to you today ***in strong support of House Bill 5187 and House Bill 5188.***

When the COVID -19 pandemic struck last year, states across the country panicked and closed down outdoor activities that directly affected sportsmen and women. Oregon canceled salmon fishing on the Columbia River, South Carolina canceled lottery turkey hunts on Wildlife Management Areas, and the state of Washington suspended the spring bear and turkey seasons, just to name a few.

Michigan was no different when emergency orders prohibited hunting on ***private*** gamebird preserves and prohibited families from accessing Michigan waters in motorized boats even small crafts with trolling motors.

What purpose did these random prohibitions serve? How does it make sense that a Michigan angler could fish in a row boat but not in a boat using a trolling motor? How does banning a hunter from the woods, let alone a ***private*** preserve, who may be out there trying to feed his or her family, help to prevent the spread of a virus?

Both House Bills are important pieces of legislation that will stop random, targeted attacks on Michigan's hunting, fishing and trapping communities. ***We urge you and the entire to committee to vote YES on HB 5187 and HB 5188.***

Best personal regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Bruce Tague", is written over the typed name.

Bruce Tague
Vice President, Government Affairs
Sportsmen's Alliance