

Amy Rostkowycz

From: Bill Sanders <bill@sanders-czapski.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 15, 2020 11:53 AM
To: Amy Rostkowycz
Cc: Rep. Sara Cambensy (District 109); Rep. Gary Howell (District 82)
Subject: House Bill 5829

Dear Amy,

Please accept this email as my personal comment regarding the first reading of House Bill 5829 introduced by my State Representative Sara Cambensy. First I will say that the Michigan Natural Resources Trust fund is, in my opinion, one of the most beneficial pieces of legislation ever enacted. It has touched nearly every community in the state and has helped provide countless outdoor memories for generations. The MNRTF is truly a reflection of the people of this great state. Also the administration of this program by the Grants Management Staff as they carry out the statutory requirements of the program and the directives of the MNRTF Board, is first rate and their commitment and professionalism should be a model for all state workers and departments.

With that said, the current board appointments are very narrowly focused on a very small geographic area with a very dense population, essentially Lansing, Grand Rapids and Ann Arbor. Seventy six percent of Michigan counties have a population of less than 100,000 people, and they currently have no direct representation on the Board. I am certain that the current board does everything they can to ensure that the program is fairly administered within their authority, but including a broader reach across the state would be a good idea and a positive improvement to a very well run program. In fact I would suggest that the bill even carry the current recommendation a bit farther and require one member from the Upper Peninsula and one member from the Lower Peninsula north of Grayling.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this comment and thank you for the good work done by the Natural Resources Committee.

Bill Sanders, ASLA
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