



August 30, 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:

I am writing to you on behalf of mParks – Michigan Recreation & Park Association and the nearly 3,000 statewide parks and recreation professionals we represent. Together, with our membership and a large coalition of diverse organizations, we support the passage of the State Park Citizens' Advisory Committee recommendation to pass the package of bills (HB 4486, 4775 and 4776) that will enhance the value of recreation opportunities for all Michiganders.

We support the recommendation of the Citizen's Advisory Committee to build the program after the successful Montana program that is an "opt-out" rather than the current "opt-in" approach. mParks believes that over the last 10 years of the Recreation Passport, Michigan citizens have proven their support for the value of the program and for parks and recreation.

The law allows the Michigan Secretary of State to spend up to \$1 million each year on the administration of the program. These are funds that can be used to help those understand that the option to purchase a Recreation Passport is clearly that—a voluntary election by checking the box that you do not want to purchase a passport.

Additionally, mParks supports increasing the amount of the Recreation Passport revenue allocated to local recreation grant programs from 10% to 15%. Recent statewide surveys have identified local recreation opportunities as the number one recreational need in Michigan.

mParks hopes this legislation will move quickly and allow Michigan to finally embrace the original version of the Recreation Passport program that will provide significant increases in funding for both our state and local parks and trails.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Clay Summers'.

Clay Summers
Executive Director
mParks – Michigan Recreation & Park Association