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LISA POSTHUMUS LYONS
County Clerk / Register

ROBERT J. MACOMBER
Chief Deputy County Clerk

December 10, 2019

The Committee on Natural Resources and Outdoor Recreation
The Honorable Gary Howell, Chair
Michigan House of Representatives
VIA E-MAIL

Dear Chairman Howell and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this letter of support for House Bill 5114, introduced by Representative Michele Hoytenga, to amend Part 401 of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to allow individuals to wear hunter pink while hunting, and to remove the requirement that the Natural Resources Commission determine whether hunter pink, or any additional colors, would be "effective and safe" for individuals to wear in order to meet safety requirements while hunting.

I had the privilege of sponsoring similar legislation in my final term, a bill that was passed by the Legislature and signed by Governor Snyder, but unfortunately it was not fully implemented due to an amendment that I now regret. I greatly appreciate both Representatives Johnson and Hoytenga, who have continued this worthwhile effort. While this is certainly not the most pressing matter to have brought before the legislature, it is one that will provide our state with one more tool to bring awareness to and hopefully increase participation in Michigan's rich hunting heritage. As you may know, my family are avid hunters. My husband Brad and I love to hunt with our four kids, and they represent the next generation of outdoorsmen and women. If our daughter Charlie could be here today like she testified before this committee last term, she would implore you to give her and her peers- and her three brothers for that matter- the freedom to wear safe alternatives in their hunting attire. She would also tell you that pink is not just a female color, and we all frequently see males wearing pink in the workplace and in casual clothes. In fact, my 11 year old son Gage has a camouflage bedspread with hunter pink sheets and pillows, and he can't wait to wear hunter pink in out in the woods!

This committee, as well as the committee in the previous two sessions, has heard testimony referencing the scientific research and studies that have proven hunter/blaze pink to be as effective a safety color- if not more so- as hunter/blaze orange. Anyone who has stepped foot in an outdoor retail store in recent years, has seen an increase in hunter pink apparel, and that is a result of not only a market demand, but proven science and the fact that six states have moved to allow for pink to be used as a safety color, equal to orange. With the science overwhelmingly proving all things being equal between orange and pink, I strongly urge support for this bill that would allow more freedom for Michigan's hunters.

I mentioned previously the amendment to my legislation on this issue. To provide additional context and historical perspective on this legislation, I was asked to amend my bill- which originally simply permitted hunter pink to be worn as a safety color- to allow the Natural Resources Committee to ultimately make

the decision to permit hunter pink. Despite having the support and sufficient votes to pass the bill without the amendment, and as a gesture of goodwill, I agreed to the amendment because since the science is irrefutable, I believed that the NRC would deliberate in good faith on the matter and decide to allow for the use of hunter pink. Unfortunately, that did not happen, and admittedly I learned my lesson and regret handing that policy-making power over to an unelected body. As our elected representatives of the people, you now have the opportunity to pass this legislation and provide Michigan hunters more freedom and safety in the woods, as well as promote our sport to a wider audience of citizens. This legislation may not change the world, but it will make it more colorful! I respectfully ask for and encourage your support. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lisa Posthumus Lyons". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Lisa Posthumus Lyons
Kent County Clerk / Register
Former State Representative – 86th District