



STATE OF MICHIGAN  
EXECUTIVE OFFICE  
LANSING

RICK SNYDER  
GOVERNOR

BRIAN CALLEY  
LT. GOVERNOR

January 15, 2015

Michigan Senate  
State Capitol Building  
Lansing, MI 48913

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Today I am returning to you enrolled Senate Bill 78 without signature. I believe that biodiversity is an essential component of sustainable forest management, a principle affirmed throughout this legislation.

The proposed legislation -- specifically the re-definition of the conservation of biological diversity and the complete elimination of designation options -- causes confusion and inconsistencies and could make it more difficult to sustainably manage Michigan's Public forests and world class natural resources to meet the changing needs of current and future generations.

Michigan's robust forest products industry has responded positively over the past decade to national and global demand for certified forest products. Michigan's state forest system is the single largest source of certified wood fiber in Michigan, and our robust forest products industry has grown to rely on this steady supply. Legislation that may threaten forest certification could weaken existing industries and make Michigan less competitive in attracting additional forest products investment. I believe there is continuing support by the forest products industry to maintain certification and a clear understanding of the need to protect biodiversity. In addition, I believe that responsible state management should not result in the removal of large areas of land from forest production.

I concur that providing public access to DNR state forest lands, state parks, and wildlife areas is a critical part of our public trust responsibilities. Consideration of the economic value and contribution of these lands to state and local economies is very important to DNR land management strategies. I believe there is an opportunity to further address sustainable forest management, public access and economic considerations through the DNR Managed Public Land Strategy.

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It is for these reasons that today I am returning Senate Bill 78 without signature. I respectfully request the Legislature work with the DNR in the context of the DNR Managed Public Land Strategy to strengthen our mutual commitment to prioritize access to our quality outdoor public recreational opportunities and foster regional economic prosperity while protecting our natural and cultural resources for the current and future citizens of Michigan.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rick Snyder", written in a cursive style.

Rick Snyder  
Governor