Dear Friend,

I am reaching out to request your support for the Vote Yes for MI Water, Wildlife & Parks campaign to pass Proposal 1 this November.

Led by a broad and ever-growing coalition, we are seeking to pass a constitutional amendment that the Michigan legislature voted unanimously to place on the November 2020 ballot. The amendment will update the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund and the Michigan State Park Endowment Fund to guarantee continued investment in our public lands and outdoor recreation for generations to come.

We are asking your organization to join us in this mission by endorsing the Vote Yes for MI Water, Wildlife & Parks campaign.

Over the past several decades, the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF) and its sister fund, the Michigan State Parks Endowment Fund (MSPEF) have played an unparalleled role in the protection of Michigan’s natural resources and acquisition of public lands for conservation and outdoor recreation. All income that the State of Michigan receives from the sale of state-owned oil, gas and minerals is required to be deposited in these funds, which have been used to directly fund projects in all eighty-three counties across Michigan.

Projects supported by these funds help Michigan communities protect the state’s lakes, streams, lands and wildlife and build recreational facilities for the enjoyment of Michigan residents and visitors, with economic, quality-of-life and public health benefits. Every Michigan resident is within a one-hour drive of a state park or recreation area, which are critical contributors to Michigan’s $25.7 billion tourism industry that supports 237,733 direct jobs.

If passed, this amendment will:

- Remove the cap on the MNRTF and, once the MSPEF reaches its cap, direct all revenue from the sale or lease of state-owned oil, gas and minerals to the MNRTF. These changes guarantee the continuation of a constitutionally protected source of funding for our public lands and outdoor recreation, keeping them insulated from partisan gridlock.
- Add “renovation and redevelopment” alongside “development” as an allowable use for MNRTF dollars, and change the percentage of funds made available for these projects from a maximum of 25% to a minimum of 25% to match the percentage available for land acquisition projects. This update will allow the flexibility needed to fund trails, playgrounds, accessible boat launches, and more in communities across the
state, while ensuring that we continue to prioritize land conservation and protection.

Passing this amendment is critical to creating safe, accessible opportunities to enjoy the outdoors for all Michiganders, protecting our natural resources and drinking water sources, and invigorating our local economies. It’s a mission that we can all get behind!

From the time it was established in 1976, the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund has been a true bipartisan success story. We have an opportunity to continue that legacy, bringing together Michiganders from all corners of the state, all partisan affiliations, and all backgrounds to work towards our common goals.

To add your name to the growing list of organizations and leaders endorsing this campaign, or to take an active role in our partner coalition, please fill out the short form online at tinyurl.com/endorseMNRTF.

Please email becca@sustainablemi.org if you have any questions or require further information or assistance.

With the unanimous backing of the legislature, public opinion on our side, and your support, we are confident that we will pass this amendment to invest in a beautiful, healthy, thriving Michigan for future generations.

Sincerely,

Becca Maher
Campaign Manager
Vote Yes for MI Water, Wildlife & Parks