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Dedicated to the Preservation, Protection and Improvement of Paw Paw Lake, its Ecosystem and Watershed
P.O. Box 341, Watervliet, Michigan 49098

Representative John Proos
79th District
P.O. Box 30014
Lansing, MI 48909-7514

Representative Rebekah Warren
Great Lakes & Environment Committee Chair
P.O. Box 30014
Lansing, MI 48909-7514

Dear Representatives Proos and Warren:

There are two tie-barred bills that are currently working their way through due process, hopefully leading to future enactment. House bills 5368 and 5369 both deal with the important issue of the element phosphorus in lawn fertilizer. Bill 5368 essentially prohibits the application of lawn (turf) fertilizer containing the plant nutrient "Available Phosphate" except under certain conditions. Bill 5369 essentially prohibits displaying for retail sales a lawn (turf) fertilizer containing the plant nutrient "Available Phosphate", again with some exceptions.

To quote the Michigan Lakes and Stream Association: "the debate within scientific communities regarding the harmful effects of excess nutrients on our lakes and streams ended many decades ago. The facts have been well established and are commonly known to the general public. An over abundance of phosphorus, a naturally occurring nutrient that is present in limited- though usually viable amounts in most Michigan soil types, presents a "clear and present danger" to the recreational and economic viability of Michigan's priceless freshwater resources."

The impact to the citizens of Michigan of the passing of this legislation is very small if not zero and the long term potential is very large. The cost of the so called "zero-in the middle" fertilizer (middle number denotes the phosphorus amount or zero) is on par with other formulations. Farmers are not at all impacted as the agricultural community is entirely exempted from the provisions of the legislation. The no phosphorus fertilizer is also readily available and situations really requiring phosphorus are well covered.

In attempting to get legislation such as this passed, the issue of enforcement is always raised. To address this issue, you only need to ask: Are the recreational waters of Michigan better off with or without the passing of this legislation? Correction of a social ill should not be predicated on enforcement issues, but rather educational issues.

The Paw Paw Lake Foundation located in Northern Berrien County who has been studying water quality, for a large number of years supports and strongly recommends the immediate passing of this legislation. Michigan's future social and economic success is clearly reliant on preservation of its world renowned valuable lakes, streams and rivers. These two bills address the issue of the nutrient phosphorus in storm-water runoff from over fertilized residential and commercial real estate turf lawns in a simple and cost effective manner.

Your prompt and positive action on this issue is requested and strongly recommended.

Sincerely,

Frank D Jurenka
Director Water Quality, Paw Paw Lake Foundation
Cc: Carl Spessard, President of the PPLF