

Dakota Soda

From: Jeffrey Muck <muckje@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, October 7, 2019 11:52 AM
To: Dakota Soda
Subject: House Bills 4486, 4775 and 4776

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Dakota Soda -- House Transportation Committee Clerk,

Good afternoon. I am writing in support of the package of House Bills 4486, 4775 and 4776, which will increase funding for both local and state parks and recreation initiatives and improvements. I am not able to attend the October 8 House Transportation Committee Hearing and would like to submit a card electronically in support.

I 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. I believe 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.

I also support 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.

Passport participation rates have ranged from the initial rate of 24% to the current 33% and have provided growth from \$5 million to \$13 million for state park operations and maintenance and \$632,000 to \$1.6 million for local recreation grants.

Recreation Passport Grants are an important funding mechanism for communities who might not otherwise be able to complete projects and improve their parks facilities.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey A. Muck

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Hamburg Township