



LEAGUE OF MICHIGAN BICYCLISTS

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October 8, 2019

State Representative Jack O'Malley
Chairman, House Transportation Committee
House Office Building
Lansing, MI 48909-7514

Dear Chairman O'Malley and members of the House Transportation Committee:

The League of Michigan Bicyclists supports an expanded "opt-out" approach to the Recreation Passport program, as reflected in HB 4486, 4775 and 4776.

We are hopeful that this legislation will move quickly and allow Michigan to embrace the original version of the Recreation Passport program and provide significant funding for both our state and local parks and trails.

We support the recommendation of the Citizen's Advisory Committee to emulate the successful Montana program that uses an "opt-out" approach. We believe that Michigan citizens are fully aware of the choice that can be made to support the program, or to voluntarily elect not to support the program by opting out. We also understand that current law allows the Secretary of State up to \$1 million a year to help in the administration of the program. These funds can be used to help those renewing a vehicle registration to understand that the option to purchase a Recreation Passport is entirely voluntary, and to appreciate the benefits that a Recreation Passport provides.

We also support the proposed increase from 10% to 15% in the amount of the Recreation Passport revenue going to the local recreation grants program that helps to fund local trails and parks, which has been clearly proven in recent state and local surveys to be the number one recreational need in the state.

Sincerely,

Matt Penniman, Communications Director
League of Michigan Bicyclists