

Susan Leahy
Meridian Garden Club

Mr. Chairman and members of the Michigan House Committee on Natural Resources and Outdoor Recreation, thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of HB 5642. My name is Susan Leahy and I am a member of the Meridian Garden Club. Our members come from Lansing, E Lansing, Haslett, Okemos, Holt and surrounding areas. We are a non-profit, volunteer organization dedicated to making the world a better place through gardening, garden education, floral design and civic responsibility.

We support HB 5642, making the Black Swallowtail the official State of Michigan Butterfly. It is a *beautiful* butterfly! It can be found throughout the State of Michigan. It overwinters in Michigan as a pupa which makes it a full time Michigan resident and an excellent choice for school children to study.

Did you know that nearly **every** state in the country already has a state butterfly, state insect or BOTH? Michigan does not. We think that Michigan should join those states that celebrate the significance of butterflies by passing HB 5642.

Mr. Chairman and members of the Michigan House Committee on Natural Resources and Outdoor Recreation, thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of HB 5642. We would also like to thank representatives, Julie Brixie and Jim Lilly, co-sponsors of the bill.

I would be pleased to answer any questions.