



To: Michigan House Natural Resources Committee

From: Amy Frankmann, Executive Director
Michigan Nursery & Landscape Association

Date: December 6, 2016

Re: Support of SB 1093

Michigan's Green Industry:

Protecting Michigan's Environment and Industries from Aquatic Invasive Species
The economic impact of Michigan's nursery, perennial plant production, Christmas tree, sod producers, landscaping and lawn care industries is \$5.715 billion.

- The economic impact of our Nursery and perennial plant producers is \$1.2 billion and they distribute their products into 35 states, Mexico and Canada, making us the largest specialty crop in Michigan, the fourth largest agriculture commodity group in Michigan and the fourth largest nursery industry in the nation.
- The economic impact of our landscape services and retail sectors is \$4.5 billion.

Together, all segments of the Green Industry account for a total of 36,162 individuals employed (Knudson & Peterson, 2012).

According to US Census Data, this equates to 1 out of every 170 Michigan citizens between the ages of 18-65.

Request:

Michigan's vibrant Nursery and Pet Trade Industries, Aquarium Societies, hobbyists, and garden clubs respectfully request that you support and pass Senator Kowall's Bill No. 1093 THIS YEAR. Thus providing our affected industries the time needed to continue discussions with our respective Departments on the development of a permitted species list and to find a workable solution.

- This Bill is a technical amendment to Michigan's Natural Resources and Protection Act (NREPA) that would provide an extension for developing trade lists, a permitted species list, and conducting the required assessments until April 2019.

Problem:

- As the respective Departments have consulted with affected industries, in numerous meetings, extensive complexities have emerged and the timeframe as enacted is not realistic.
- Without this extension, law-abiding, Michigan businesses will be left vulnerable and exposed to criminal sanctions.

Solution:

- A hearing and passage of Senator Kowall's Bill would allow our affected industries and interested stakeholders the time needed to continue discussions with our respective Departments on the development of a permitted species list and find a workable solution.

Background:

- By April 2017, Michigan's Natural Resources and Protection Act (NREPA) mandates the creation of a "Permitted List of Species" (a "White List") of aquatic animals and plants that could be sold or possessed in Michigan.
 - Once created, Michigan will have 3 lists: "Permitted", "Restricted" or "Prohibited Species."
- The creation of the Permitted Species List requires the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD) to assemble a list of every aquatic species "lawfully in wide commercial trade in this state for at least 5 years".
- Once this list is assembled, the DNR and DARD must assess and ascertain that each species on the list will not cause "harm to human health or natural, agricultural, or silvicultural resources in the Great Lakes region".

Conclusion:

We are asking you to support our collective industries by passing Senator Kowall's Bill No. 1093 THIS YEAR – providing the additional time needed for the development of a permitted species lists and to find a workable solution.

Contact Information: Amy Frankmann, Executive Director
Michigan Nursery & Landscape Association
2149 Commons Parkway, Okemos, Mich. 48864,
Telephone: (517) 381-0437
E-mail: amyf@mnl.org
Website: www.mnl.org