

Testimony in Opposition to House Bill 5321, Hearing before the Michigan Committee on
Natural Resources
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Submitted by Angie Sullivan
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As a Michigan resident for 14 years, and a resident of Ann Arbor for 14 years, I am writing to provide my input to the House Committee on Natural Resources on House Bill 5321 (“H.B. 5321.”)

I firmly believe that determinations of how communities manage their deer populations should not be legislatively mandated, but should instead be accomplished through a thorough and transparent process that allows the Michigan DNR, the local community and interested stakeholders to work together in a manner that allows those communities to fully assess a variety of management tools, including non-lethal tools, and determine the management tool the community believes would work best for their particular challenges.

While some Michigan communities support the management of white-tailed deer through lethal control and hunts, some communities oppose those hunts based on safety and ethical concerns, and some communities are interested in combining a variety of management tools to achieve faster results. I am concerned that the passage of this bill would preempt the ability of these communities to participate in how best to address conflict with their local deer populations by removing future opportunities for public input on how deer are managed.

Further, as a resident of Ann Arbor, I wanted to note that many members of our community have become invested in the current sterilization research taking place within our borders, and would ask that the Committee on Natural Resources halt consideration of this bill and until the project is completed and it can be determined how effective sterilization was on Ann Arbor’s deer population. Only when the project has been completed will we be able sufficiently understand its impacts on our local deer population, and until that point it is premature to shut down all future sterilization opportunities within the state.

Thank you for your consideration. I respectfully request that the members of Committee on Natural Resources vote against the passage of House Bill 5321.

Kind regards,
Angie Sullivan
Ann Arbor resident