

THE HONORABLE BERRIEN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS respectfully approves the following resolution:

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF) has funded public land acquisition and recreation projects with royalties from oil, gas and minerals from public lands in all eighty-three counties in the state since its founding in 1976; and

WHEREAS, projects supported by the MNRTF help Michigan communities protect the state's lakes, streams, lands and wildlife habitats and build recreational facilities like parks, trails and river and beach access for the enjoyment of Michigan residents and visitors, with economic, quality-of-life and public health benefits; and

WHEREAS, every Michigan resident is within an a one-hour drive of a state park or recreation area and Berrien County residents are within minutes of a Berrien County Park, which are critical contributors to Michigan's \$25.7billion tourism industry that supports 237,733 jobs; and

WHEREAS, Berrien County along with many of the municipalities in Berrien County have received \$21,144,963 to create park and recreation opportunities such Silver Beach, Galien River, Rocky Gap, Paw Paw River, Love Creek and Madeline Bertrand County Parks; and

WHEREAS, the Michigan Legislature unanimously voted to allow the MNRTF to again receive royalties from the oil, gas and mining on public land to fund land conservation and recreation, to commit at least 25% of the Trust Fund dollars to building and renovating public recreation facilities like trails, parks and river and lake access and at least 25% for land conservation, and requiring 20% of the State Parks Endowment Fund expenditures be for improvements at state parks, without raising taxes; and

WHEREAS, Michigan voters will now have the opportunity to approve these changes in the 2020 general election, thus amending Article IX, Section 35 and 35a of the Michigan Constitution.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that the Berrien County Board of Commissioners does hereby support the Proposal 1 ballot question placed before voters in the 2020 general election to update and expand the MNRTF, guaranteeing the investment in conservation and outdoor recreation for generations to come, protecting our natural resources and invigorating our local economies.

**Respectfully submitted,
Berrien County Board of Commissioners**

William J. Chickering

R. McKinley Elliott, Chair

Mamie L. Yarbrough

Jim Curran

Ezra A. Scott

Teri Sue Freehling

David Vollrath

Jon Hinkelman

Michael J. Majerek

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