

Why Stand Up? Why Take Action?

Do you care about the health of people in your family and community? Do you enjoy Michigan's scenic beauty and vast shorelines? Do you want to preserve Michigan's open spaces and pristine lakes for future generations?

If you answered "yes" to any of these questions, then *Stand Up! Take Action!* can help you. It is a guide for taking citizen action on environmental and conservation issues.

Michigan's Environment is at Risk

As you know, we are at a turning point in Michigan's environmental history. The decisions made in our communities and in our state capitol not only affect us, but our kids and grandkids. Policy changes today can help Michigan achieve toxic-free communities, make wise investments, and protect our natural heritage.

Stand Up! Take Action! will help you understand and reclaim your rightful place in our great democracy. You will find who really has power over the decisions that impact our water, air, and land. And, you will discover how you can affect those decisions. Your actions will help lawmakers understand what their constituents (you!) really value and want for their families.

Help Build a Stronger Michigan

In order to create a better future and stronger Michigan, it is important to make your voice heard. For more information on the most urgent of these public health and natural resource problems, we invite you to reference our companion publication, the *2005-2006 Michigan Environmental Briefing Book*. This briefing book shares realistic actions that your lawmakers can take to solve those problems.

Now is the time for you to become a more active participant in Michigan's future—and protect Michigan's water, air and land for generations to come!

Find out how to stand up and take action

Who has the power?

- 5** Michigan's Governor
- 6** Michigan's State Legislature
- 7** Michigan's State Agencies
- 8** You! And Other Michigan Citizens!

How can you take action and influence decisions?

- 10** Meet with your lawmakers
- 12** Call and write to your lawmakers
- 14** Testify at legislative committee hearings
- 16** Write letters to the editor
- 18** Create a community organization
- 20** Sign up with the Michigan Action Project
- 22** Join a statewide and/or community group

Find out how to stand up and take action

Appendices

- 23** **Appendix A: Contact Michigan's power players**
- 25** **Appendix B: Find Senate and House Committees**
- 26** **Appendix C: Find a newspaper editorial board near you**
- 27** **Appendix D: Find out more about State Government and Environmental Issues**

Who has the power?

Remember your high school civics class?

It's been a while since we all took a course in state government. In fact, most of us remember very little about that class (yawn!).

So, we thought it might be useful to give you a crash course in who actually makes the decisions that impact the health of our water, air, and land.

Once you know who the power-players are you can begin to develop relationships with them. Our goal is to help these policy makers negotiate decisions that are based on mutual respect and truly reflect community values.



Michigan's Governor

The governor's office is the single most powerful office in state government. Michigan citizens statewide elect the governor for four-year terms. A governor can serve up to two terms (or eight years).

What power does the Governor have?

Our governor has the power to:

- Veto any law passed by the House and Senate
- Issue Executive Orders
- Appoint key decision-makers in all of the state agencies (*for example, the Department of Environmental Quality, and the Department of Natural Resources*)
- Set up task forces to examine problems (*for example, the Michigan Land Use Leadership Council and the Michigan Electric Utility Mercury Workgroup*)
- Send messages to the legislature on the importance of particular issues
- Appoint state judges

All of these actions can be used to help protect public health and our environment.

Michigan's State Legislature

Michigan's state legislature is made up of the Senate and the House of Representatives. Michigan citizens elect these lawmakers to represent their communities. There are 38 state senators and 118 state representatives. Senators are elected for four-year terms and state representatives are elected for two-year terms

What about term limits?

Michigan currently enforces term limits, which means senators can serve up to two terms (or eight years), and representatives can serve up to three terms (or six years). These term limits can make it difficult to create strong leaders. By the time a senator or state representative becomes knowledgeable on a variety of environmental or conservation issues, their time in office has run out. Term limits make educating legislators and the use of documents, such as the *2005-2006 Michigan Environmental Briefing Book*, crucial to the health of our water, air, and land.

What power do legislators have?

In addition to sitting in session (the time when laws are actually voted on), senators and representatives are assigned to a number of legislative committees. Before a law is ever voted on in session, it is sent to a committee. The committee reviews the proposed law (or bill) and gives a recommendation to the full House or Senate.

Our state legislators:

- Make state laws
- Decide funding for state agencies
- Serve on legislative committees
- Hold public hearings on issues

All of these actions can be used to help protect public health and our environment.

Michigan's State Agencies

The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) are the two main agencies that work to protect our water, air and land.

Not long ago, all aspects of environmental and natural resource protection were covered by one agency, the Department of Natural Resources. In 1995, Governor Engler split the DNR in half, creating a separate agency to issue permits and enforce environmental laws. Recreational activities and managing public lands remain the responsibility of the DNR.

What power does the DNR have?

- Oversight of public lands and recreational activities
- Issuance of hunting and fishing licenses

The DNR is directed by a public body made up of seven members who are appointed by the Governor. This public body is called the Natural Resources Commission (NRC). The NRC sets policies and directs the Department of Natural Resources. The NRC holds monthly public meetings, which rotate to key areas around Michigan. By participating in these meetings, you can help manage our public lands.

What power does the DEQ have?

- Issuance of permits ranging from building a dock to monitoring how much water a factory uses from the Great Lakes
- Enforcement of environmental laws

Before the DEQ issues a permit, there is a period of time for public comment. These public comment periods are posted on the DEQ website (www.michigan.gov/deq). Anyone is welcome to submit comments during this time. If you are interested in the issue, we encourage you to review the proposed permit, attend a public hearing, and submit comments via mail or email. This is a great way to make sure your values are part of your community's development.

You! And other Michigan citizens!

The reality is that you and other Michigan citizens have the ultimate political power: you get to vote! And your votes put Michigan's decision-makers in office, or take them out of office.

Now, with that power comes responsibility to oversee it. You have a responsibility to make sure that your elected officials are acting in the best interest of your community. You should see your values reflected in the actions taken by your lawmakers.

What happens if you are not part of the decisions?

In Michigan, there is often a rift between what citizens want to see happen in our natural areas and the decisions made in Lansing. If elected officials don't hear from their constituents, they cannot make decisions that reflect their community's values. And, if we, as citizens fail to build enough power to hold lawmakers accountable for their decisions, there is no longer a healthy system of the checks and balances critical to a healthy democracy.

How can you regain your rightful role in decision-making?

You can read our companion publication, the *2005-2006 Environmental Briefing Book* to learn about critical issues facing Michigan. Then, you can use *Stand Up! Take Action!* to amplify your power as you:

- Educate and build relationships with your decision-makers
- Inform and unite your neighbors
- Join other citizens who share your values via an action network or a community organization

Remember, your votes already give you power in the political process. The next section of this guide explains how to stand up and take action!

How can you take action and influence decisions?

Now that you have a sense of who makes the decisions that affect Michigan's water, air and land, we can move to the fun part: how to stand up and take action!

What can you do?

There are lots of ways that you can affect the decisions that get made in our State Capitol. For instance, you can:

- Meet with lawmakers in your district or in Lansing
- Call or write to your lawmakers
- Testify at a legislative committee hearing in Lansing
- Write letters-to-the-editor of your local newspaper
- Create a community organization to advance a particular cause
- Join environmental or conservation action networks

Build strong relationships with lawmakers

The key is to build *positive* relationships with your lawmakers. And, ideally, you will communicate with them often (not just once). Remember that elected officials work for you (their constituents put them in office) and should fairly represent the values of your community. Also, remember that *lawmakers are real people*; they have real families, live in real places, and care about real things. Reminding them of shared values will help you connect.

Our lawmakers base their decisions on their knowledge of the issues, just like you and I make our decisions. The input they get from others is critical to building their knowledge base. The power of constituents' voices cannot be over-estimated. Elected officials understand that YOU put them in office and, since most want to be re-elected, they want to do what is right for your community.

Meet in-district with your lawmaker

What are in-district meetings and why have them?

In-district meetings are held close to your home with your legislator. They can be one-on-one or small group meetings and are great for getting your lawmaker's attention. Above all else, elected officials respond best to a living, breathing person making a personal request.

How do you set up a meeting?

Scheduling an in-district meeting is easy. Call your legislator's office (either in Lansing or in your district). Let the receptionist know that you are a constituent and that you would like to schedule a brief meeting with the legislator. Let the scheduler know what topic(s) you would like to cover, and who else will be attending the meeting (if it's more than just you).

How can you make it a productive meeting?

1. Create an agenda. This will make the meeting formal enough to get work done. It also shows that you are serious and that this is a good use of the lawmaker's time.
2. Allow room in the agenda for relationship-building. Try to find something you have in common and begin the meeting on that shared note (build bridges). Find a way to truly "start where they are" is sometimes more important than being completely well-versed in the issue.
3. Give a clear statement of the issue at hand and what you want done. This provides the legislator with a clear road map of the problem and the solution.
4. Invite a few friends to join you. Politics is a team sport. By meeting as a group, you take the pressure off yourself and you show the lawmaker that there are numerous people who care about the issue.

continued

Meet in-district with your lawmaker

5. Make a direct ask at the end of the meeting. You should ask very politely but directly: “What action will you take on this issue?” If you do not get the answer you wanted, ask the lawmaker *why* they are leaning in the other direction.
6. Listen carefully to the elected official’s response. Work hard to meet them where they are on the subject. Try to understand their position. This will help you make a realistic plan for changing their position, if necessary.

Sample Agenda for an In-District Meeting

1. Introduce yourselves and make a personal connection. (Does the lawmaker have kids or grandkids that enjoy the outdoors?)
2. Clearly state your concern. “I wanted to talk to you today about the new development that is being planned on south Main Street. If it proceeds, the development will fill in precious wetlands.”
3. Give facts about the issue and even prepare a one or two-page fact sheet.
4. Ask if they have already thought about this issue and what their stand is on it. Use the meeting as a fact gathering session. If your lawmaker is not strongly committed one way or an other, ask him/her what actions constituents can take to help convince them.
5. State clearly what you would like to see done. “I would like you to help preserve the character of our community and the health of our water. I want my kids and grandkids to enjoy the benefits of Michigan’s wetlands. Will you fight to save this wetland and others across the state?”
6. Thank your legislator for his/her time. Let him/her know that you will follow up with their office by “x” date.

Call or write to your lawmaker

Why call or write to your lawmaker?

It is easy to write a letter or make a phone call on an issue that you care about. And your lawmakers want to hear from you—it helps them do their job. The key to calling or writing letters is finding other folks (family, friends, neighbors) to do it with you. A lawmaker is more likely to take action on an issue if she/he gets ten (or more!) phone calls or letters about it.

What needs to be in a letter or call?

1. State the issue in the first sentence. If there is a bill associated with the issue, make sure to include it in the first or second sentence. “I am writing to you in regards to House Bill 123, which will allow shorelines throughout the state to be bulldozed.”
2. Include your full name, phone number, and mailing address.
3. Keep your letter reasonably short and to the point. Include your personal experience with the issue. And include whatever facts you know. Keep the letter to one page if possible, and stay focused on information that is directly related to the issue.
4. When placing a call, you can check the session schedule on the web to find a time your lawmaker will most likely be in his/her office (www.michiganlegislature.org).
5. If you are leaving a phone message, make sure you state your specific concern as well as a bill number (if applicable).
6. Make sure you call or write your lawmaker to say “thank you” when they take action on your issue. You should also follow-up if they take the wrong action on your issue. Tell them you think they made the wrong decision.

continued

Call or write to your lawmaker

Sample letter to your senator

The Honorable Mary Jones
C123 Capital St.
Lansing MI 48918

Dear Senator Jones:

I am writing to urge your support of HB 1234 and all other legislation that would regulate large water withdrawals from the Great Lakes.

Every year I take my family to Lake Michigan for a vacation. My children swim in the lake, my husband goes fishing, and we have a wonderful time together as a family. When I found out that Michigan has no law regulating companies from taking as much water out of the lakes as they want, and that these companies are taking it to other states and even other countries, I was outraged.

Michigan is the only state in the Great Lakes region that has not passed a law regulating large water withdrawals. This is unacceptable. Michigan needs to do something about this! I want my kids to be able to vacation at Lake Michigan with their children, and if there is no law from draining the Great Lakes, this will not happen.

Please support HB 1234. I look forward to hearing your position on the issue.

Sincerely,

Your Name
Address
Email
Phone

Testify at a legislative committee hearing

Why testify at a legislative committee hearing?

Many bills that would be protective environmental laws never make it out of legislative committees. Politics can come into play. Committees can “bury” bills and never report back to the full House or Senate on the issue.

Although the committee process sounds like one that citizens do not need to get involved in, it’s a place where you can make a huge difference. Both House and Senate committee meetings are open to the public.

You can help make sure a bill gets heard in committee by keeping track of particular bills and by calling the committee members. Ask them to consider the bill at their next committee meeting.

How can you track important bills?

There are a couple of ways you can keep track of bills:

1. Write the committee clerk and ask to be notified when the bill comes up in committee.
2. You can sign up online for email notification of House committee hearings at http://house.michigan.gov/committee_subscribe.asp.

Find a legislative committee

Once you know your issue is on the committee’s agenda, you can go to Lansing (ideally with your friends) to testify either in favor of, or against, a particular piece of legislation.

For a list of committees that deal with conservation issues and environmental protection, as well as contact information, please see Appendix B in the back of this guide.

continued

Testify at a legislative committee hearing

How to testify at a legislative committee:

1. Let the committee know you would like to testify.
2. Research the bill before you go.
3. Write a statement about your position before you get to the meeting. Keep in mind that you could be limited to 5 minutes or less of testimony. Often, it is easier to read what you have prepared than to remember what you wanted to say. You can also make copies of your statement for the committee members. That way, you can still be “heard” even if time runs short (perhaps there are too many folks signed up to testify) and you do not get a chance to speak.
4. Start your testimony by telling the committee who you are. If you are representing a community group, identify your group.
5. Remember what you are there for and stay on topic (stick to your statement). When you are done making your case, thank the legislators for their time and tell them specifically what you want them to do.

Write a letter to the editor

Why write a letter-to-the-editor?

A letter to the editor is simply a letter that you send to the opinion page of your local newspaper. You can write to comment on a story already printed or to raise an issue in your community. Letters to the editor are great ways to educate your community on issues that matter to you. People recognize that these letters are written by their neighbors and are more likely to respond to the issue.

Guidelines for submitting a letter to the editor can usually be found in the opinion section of your newspaper. Make sure to follow their guidelines and specifications or your letter may not be printed.

What needs to be in a letter to the editor?

1. State the issue and your opinion clearly.
2. Be concise with your statements. The paper may edit your letter if it is too long or unclear.
3. Include your name as well as any affiliation you may have with an organization (if appropriate).
4. Remember to state the problem at the beginning, then state your solution, which may include action that your neighbors/community can partake in.
5. Follow up! Watch the paper for your letter, and if it has not been printed within a few weeks, call the editor to check on the status of the letter.
6. Ask your neighbors to write letters to the editor on the same topic.
7. If possible, type the letter. It will be easier for the editorial staff to read and easier to print!

continued

Write a letter to the editor

Sample Letter to the Editor:

Dear Daily Newspaper,

I am disappointed that the Michigan legislature has been so slow in acting on its promises in the 1985 Great Lakes Charter. This promise was made by all the states and provinces surrounding the Great Lakes to regulate the withdrawal of large amounts of water from the Great Lakes basin. The recently proposed Great Lakes Compact seeks to build on the Charter, yet our legislators have made us the only state/province that has not yet taken the first steps outlined in the Charter. Given that we are surrounded by the Great Lakes, we should take the lead in protecting them for future generations.

Sincerely,

Your Name
Your Address
Your Phone (optional)

Start a Community Organization

Why start a community organization?

If there is not an organization in your area already focusing on the issue(s) you care about, you can start your own. It's really not that hard. A community organization is simply neighbors and friends that come together around a particular issue. By working together, you can better influence a decision-maker and get attention for your issue.

How can you find people? Organizing a group of citizens in your community could be as easy as having a conversation with co-workers or other parents at your child's school. Invite your concerned neighbors, friends, and co-workers over to your house for snacks and a meeting.

How can you hold a community organization meeting and stay on track?

1. Invite concerned citizens to come together and discuss what needs to be done on an issue (or set of issues).
2. Set a preliminary agenda and ask for feedback on it at the beginning of the meeting.
3. Have the group decide what their focus will be (for example, shutting down the neighborhood incinerator or ensuring that sewage no longer spills into your neighborhood river) and write a clear, concise statement about the issue. Include an explanation of the problem and why the group formed. This will be your mission statement. Post the mission statement at every meeting because it can help keep everyone stay on-track.
4. Decide on your goals, short-term and long-term

continued

Start a Community Organization

Other things you can do to build your organization:

1. Contact other community or state groups. Find out what has worked for them, and gain support through idea-sharing and skill-building workshops.
2. Find ways to reach bring in other members of your community.
3. Have fun at your meetings and make new friends in the community. Remember, if it's not fun, it's not worth doing, and people won't want to participate.

Sample Community Organization Meeting Agenda

Citizens for the Protection of Black River
June 10, 2005

7-8:30 pm

Location

- | | |
|------|--|
| 6:45 | Sign-in |
| 7:00 | Welcome and Introductions |
| 7:10 | Issue overview: what's going on |
| 7:25 | Update on progress:
recognize victories |
| 7:45 | Brainstorm next steps:
set goals for next victories |
| 8:15 | Divide tasks, plan for next meeting |
| 8:30 | Socialize/ meet people/
make friends |

Sign up for the Michigan Action Project

Why join the Michigan Action Project?

The Michigan Action Project is an internet-based Email alert system. Today, it has about 6,000 members. It keeps you up-to-date on critical issues and gives you a monthly action that you can take to influence the decision-making process. This project turns Email messages into faxes and delivers them to decision-makers.

The Michigan Environmental Council, Michigan League of Conservation Voters Education Fund, National Wildlife Federation, and Michigan United Conservation Clubs work together to decide what message to send out to activists.

What is in an activist alert?

Action alerts are sent out about once a month. The alerts are targeted at key leaders and each alert consists of

1. background information on a timely environmental issue
2. an overview of the problem and
3. a letter that will be sent to the decision maker via fax machine.

Members of the network can edit the form letter (or not) and then they simply hit "reply." When a member replies to the email, the Michigan Action Project converts the text to a fax format and delivers it to the office of the decision-maker.

How can you sign up?

Go to <http://map.e-actionmax.com> to learn more and to sign up.

Sample Action Alert

Dear Pat,

Problem—Mercury is a potent neurotoxin that can have devastating consequences for Michigan citizens, especially children. Mercury has been proven to cause developmental problems in children, as well

continued

Sign up for the Michigan Action Project

as reproductive problems in certain fish, birds and other wildlife.

Solution—The US EPA has proposed rules to control the amount of mercury power plants can emit into the air. But instead of the stiff 90% reductions expected of other industries under the Clean Air Act the current proposals would slow pollution reductions to a snail's pace and allow power plants to continue to emit high levels of mercury into our communities for decades to come.

Action Needed— E-mail comments can be submitted by clicking on the link below.

Then, this message gets sent to the targeted decision maker from you:

As someone who cares about the health of our families, wildlife and economy, I am deeply upset about the mercury contamination of our lakes and streams. Mercury descends from polluted air into water and then works its way up the food chain. Not only does mercury threaten the health of people and wildlife that consume fish, it threatens our \$6.7 billion dollar recreational fishing industry.

Rather than help to reduce this major threat to our health, the EPA has issued a proposed rule under the Clean Air Act that not achieve the level of mercury reductions required by existing law. I see no reason why any power plant should be allowed to continue emitting harmful mercury at high levels when cost-effective technology is available to prevent it.

I urge you to reconsider your approach and require power plants to reduce their emissions of mercury to the greatest extent possible. This is what the federal law requires, and also what the people of this country deserve.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Join a statewide or community group

There are organizations around the state that focus on solving problems impacting Michigan's water, air and land. These organizations come in all different shapes and sizes, and you may find that a few of these truly represent the things you care about.

How can I find out more?

A list of statewide environmental/conservation organizations is listed in our companion publication, the *2005-2006 Michigan Environmental Briefing Book*. Many are local or have local chapters. As you are working in your community or reading through the *2005-2006 Michigan Environmental Briefing Book*, you may find an issue that interests you. The organizational list allows you to contact one of the experts listed and ask them how you can get involved.

Contact Michigan's power players

THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE

P.O. Box 30013
Lansing, MI 48909
Phone: (517) 373-3400
Web: www.michigan.gov/gov

MICHIGAN STATE SENATE

124 N. Capitol
State Capitol
P.O. Box 30036
Lansing, MI 48909-7536

MICHIGAN STATE SENATE REPUBLICAN CAUCUS

Phone: (517) 373-8880
Email: webmaster@senate.michigan.gov
Web: senate.michigan.gov/gop

MICHIGAN STATE SENATE DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS

Phone: (517) 373-7370
Email: sendemcaucus@senate.michigan.gov
Web: hsenate.michigan.gov/demcaucus

MICHIGAN STATE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

State Capitol
124 N. Capitol
P.O. Box 30014
Lansing, MI 48909
Phone: (517) 373-6339
Web: house.michigan.gov

MICHIGAN HOUSE REPUBLICAN STAFF

Phone: (517) 373-3528
Web: www.gophouse.com

MICHIGAN HOUSE DEMOCRATIC STAFF

Phone: (517) 373-0150
Web: www.housedems.co

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Contact Michigan's power players

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

525 West Allegan Street
P.O. Box 30473
Lansing, MI 48909-7973

Environmental Emergency Hotline
1-800-292-4706

Environmental Assistance Center
1-800-662-9278

Environmental Assistance Email:
Deq-ead-env-assist@michigan.gov

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Contact Michigan's power players

DEQ district offices:

Upper Peninsula District Office

420 5th Street
Gwinn, MI 49841
Phone: (906) 346-8300

Cadillac District Office

120 W. Chapin Street
Cadillac, MI 49601-2158
Phone: (231) 775-3960

Saginaw Bay District Office

503 N. Euclid Avenue, Suite 1
Bay City, MI 48706-2965
Phone: (989) 686-8025

Grand Rapids District Office

State Office Building
350 Ottawa NW, Unit 10
Grand Rapids, MI 49503-2341
Phone: (616) 356-0500

Kalamazoo District Office

7953 Adobe Road
Kalamazoo, MI 49009-5026
Phone: (269) 567-3500

Lansing District Office

525 W. Allegan
Constitution Hall, 4th Floor, North
P.O. Box 30242
Lansing, MI 48909-7742
Phone: (517) 335-6010

Jackson District Office

301 E Louis Glick Highway
Jackson, MI 49201-1556
Phone: (517) 780-7690

SE Michigan District Office

38980 Seven Mile Road
Livonia, MI 48152-1006
Phone: (734) 953-8905

continued

Contact Michigan's power players

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

General inquiries and address for the Natural Resources Commission:

Mason Building, 6th Floor
P.O. Box 30028
Lansing, MI 48909

Natural Resources Commission Phone:
(517) 373-2352

Legislative Liasion Phone:
(517) 373-0023

Resource Management Deputy:
(517) 373-0046

Contact Michigan's power players

DNR Operations Service Centers:

Baraga Service Center

427 US-41 North
Baraga, MI 49908
Phone: (906) 353-6651

Bay City Service Center

503 North Euclid Avenue, Suite 1
Bay City, MI 48706
Phone: (989) 684-9141

Cadillac Service Center

8015 Mackinaw Trail
Cadillac, MI 49601
Phone: (231) 775-9727

Gaylord Service Center

1732 West M-32
Gaylord, MI 49735
Phone: (989) 732-3541

Livonia Service Center

38980 Seven Mile Road
Livonia, MI 48152
Phone: (734) 953-0241

Marquette Service Center

1990 US-41 South
Marquette, MI **NO ZIP**
Phone: (906) 228-6561

Newberry Service Center

5100 State Highway M-123
Newberry, MI 49868
Phone: (906) 293-5131

Plainwell Service Center

621 North 10th Street
Plainwell, MI 49080
Phone: (269) 685-6851

Roscommon Service Center

8717 North Roscommon Rd.
Roscommon, MI 48653
Phone: (989) 275-5151

Find Senate and House Committees

MICHIGAN STATE SENATE COMMITTEES

The following is a list of committees most critical to environmental protection. A complete list of committees can be found on the state Senate website senate.michigan.gov/gop.

Agriculture, Forestry & Tourism

Clerk: Jeff Cobb, 420 Farnum Bldg.
Phone: (517) 373-1635

Appropriations*

Clerk: Evelyn Zois, S-324 Capitol Bldg.
Phone: (517) 373-2523

Health Policy

Clerk: Jackie Mosher, S-8 Capitol Bldg.
Phone: (517) 373-3543

Natural Resources & Environmental Affairs

Clerk: Joy Brewer, 805 Farnum Bldg.
Phone: (517) 373-3447

Transportation

Clerk: Zita Gregg, 705 Farnum Bldg.
Phone: (517) 373-7708

* *The Appropriations committee also includes subcommittees for each state agency. These subcommittees make big decisions about how the agencies are funded. The subcommittees most critical to environmental protection are:*

*Agriculture
Natural Resources
Environmental Quality
Community Health
Transportation*

continued

Find Senate and House Committees

MICHIGAN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES COMMITTEES

The House Committees all go through one clerk (unlike the Senate Committees).

Committee Clerk Office

Anderson House Building

124 North Capitol, 3-South

PO Box 30014, Lansing, MI 48909-7514

Phone: (517) 373-0015

Email: committee@house.mi.gov

Sign up to be notified of committees online at
[house.michigan.gov/
committee_subscribe.asp](http://house.michigan.gov/committee_subscribe.asp)

The following is a list of committees most critical to environmental protection. A complete list of committees can be found on the state House of Representatives website house.michigan.gov/committees.

Agriculture and Resource Management
Appropriations*
Conservation, Forestry,
and Outdoor Recreation
Energy and Technology
Health Policy
Natural Resources, Great Lakes,
Land Use, and Environment
Transportation

** The Appropriations committee also includes subcommittees for each state agency. These subcommittees make big decisions about how the agencies are funded. The subcommittees most critical to environmental protection are:*

*Agriculture
Community Health
Environmental Quality
Natural Resources
Transportation*

Find a newspaper editorial board near you

DETROIT FREE PRESS

Editorial Page Editor
600 W. Fort St.
Detroit, MI 48226
Phone: 313-222-6583
FAX: 313-222-6774
Email: letters@freep.com

DETROIT NEWS

Letters, Editorial Page
615 W. Lafayette
Detroit, MI 48226
Phone: 313-222-2300
FAX: 313-222-6417
Email: letters@detnews.com

DOWNRIVER NEWS HERALD

Attn: Editorial Page Editor
1 Heritage Place, Suite 100
Southgate, MI 48195
Phone: (734) 246-0800
FAX: (734) 246-2727
Email: editor@thenewsherald.com

FLINT JOURNAL

Opinion Department
200 East 1st
Flint, MI 48502
Phone: (810) 766-6340
FAX: (810) 767-7518
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PUBLICATIONS

- *A Citizen's Guide to State Government* provides information concerning Senators and Representatives, as well as contact information. It also outlines the branches of the government and how a bill becomes a law. A copy can be obtained from your Senator or Representative's district office, or an online copy is available at www.michiganlegislature.org/documents/publications/citizensguide.pdf.
- *The 2005-2006 Michigan Environmental Briefing Book* provides you with an overview of critical environmental and conservation issues in Michigan. If you do not have a copy of this book to accompany **Stand Up! Take Action!** please contact the Michigan Environmental Council at (517) 487-9539 or the Michigan League of Conservation Voters Education Fund at (734) 222-9650 to receive a copy. It is also available online at www.michiganlcv.org.

Appendix D

