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## MICHIGAN CHAPTER

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May 2, 2012

To: Senator Casperson and members of the  
Senate Natural Resources, Environment  
and Great Lakes Committee

### **Sierra Club Urges a NO vote on SB 1090, Cleanup of Groundwater Contamination entering Surface Water (Casperson)**

Dear Senator Casperson and members of the Senate Natural Resources, Environment and Great Lakes Committee:

We appreciate your consideration of Sierra Club's position on SB 1090. Groundwater quality is of high importance in Michigan where half of our people are dependent on groundwater for their daily needs. SB 1090 is significantly flawed and should not be passed as written.

Sierra Club urges you to **vote NO on SB 1090**. Among our concerns are that the bill as written would fail to require oversight of the clean up of groundwater contamination by public officials whose charge is to enforce the laws and protect the public and the environment. This is a retreat from more than forty years of public health and environmental protection policies, with inadequate opportunities for families and communities that would be harmed to protect their interests.

In addition, we echo the numerous flaws pointed out in the testimony submitted by the Michigan Environmental Council last week regarding changes to definitions, authorization to use scientific theories that have not been subject to rigorous scientific review, and the elimination of some opportunities for public input regarding decisions that could affect surface water, including that used for recreational and fishing activities.

Sierra Club urges the Committee to recall that your constituents depend on the Legislature to protect their families, their communities, and their businesses from environmental threats by assuring responsible parties are held accountable. SB 1090 falls short on that count and should be voted down for those reasons.

**We urge you to vote NO on SB 1090. Votes pertaining to this bill will be included in the Sierra Club's legislative scorecard.**

Sincerely,

Mike Berkowitz  
Legislative Director  
Sierra Club Michigan Chapter