

## Corey Woodby

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**From:** Bret Springgay <bspringgay@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, May 15, 2016 12:29 AM  
**To:** The Office of Senator Warren; Corey Woodby; EricE@RuffedGrouseSociety.org  
**Subject:** Public Comment: 2016 Senate Bill 39&40 Public Land Use

[cwoodby@senate.michigan.gov](mailto:cwoodby@senate.michigan.gov); Michigan Senators;

Appreciate the opportunity to speak to the proposed subjects of Senate Bills 39/40.

I'm an avid bird hunter looking forward all year to the fall hunting season and enjoying as many days possible passing through the swamps and upland forests for Grouse and migratory Woodcock. My dad and I and friends are greatly thankful to have numerous areas to hunt in Michigan. Just as biologist Mr. Ellis with RGS/AWS states, we can cover in a single day 3-6 separate sections of land in search of the right habitat, much of which is created with responsible forestry management, young popular/aspen stands and swamp edges. The G.E.M.S Hunting areas are just the kind of aggregated recreational forests use we need more of, in my opinion.

From Ann Arbor, we travel to Gladwin Co. Secord, Grim, Sherman, Hay, Bentley, Clement, Bouret townships. We've had family cottages there to enjoy the outdoors. Our hunting travels have taken us to Allegan SGA, Clare Co. Ogemaw Co Saginaw Co. Gratiot Co. Arenac Co. Iosco Co. in the Thumb, and even seen birds in Sharonville. No one would have the means to cover so much ground for Grouse hunting without public hunting lands/healthy timbered/rotated forests.

I greatly appreciate the public land resources here in Michigan, and was a main reason I stayed through the recession for the access to those lands. You should consider the conditions in other states. I've live for several hunting seasons in WV and Washington, DC and did not like it nearly as much, i.e. the small parcels and private owners with extremely limited public land found out east.

I find it very disturbing the Bills propose private negotiation in sales of State Land to with private individuals and corporations, with no transparency to consider any offer. It feels too much like sky boxes in a stadium for the rich and well to do, or limiting and plucking prime hunting locations from the common man. Hopefully that's not the intent, and it wouldn't be interpreted as such if a larger plan was marketed better, Smaller sales would make sense if a citizen could easily find a long term recreational lands plan for the State we can all get on board with, say a 50yr outlook and goal. Considering Non Surplus Land for sale inside of designated/planned recreational areas should not be allowed where keeping a parcel achieves a broader long term land objective.

It's easy to recognize Michigan Land Use and Management is a very complicated issue with many viewpoints and conflicting interests. Townships always trying to increase the tax base and property values, development pressures and sprawl. Upland Bird hunters are just a small minority in a statewide land use discussion and greatly value a larger area for natural use for the land. The larger area recreational lands we seek are shared by other outdoor enthusiasts. I'm sure you already know the economic benefits of abundant outdoor recreation opportunities we have in Michigan.

I voice increasing the number of public land purchases around existing larger blocks of state hunting/recreational grounds, aggregating them, buying up the private small plots in them, houses, trailers, <5 acre homes. I would agree with selling/trading smaller detached 40 state properties land locked without access vs. forcing the DNR to obtain access easements, especially in the lower peninsula. Sell these sites at a premium x2 or 3, (wait for the right buyer, not a low price appraisal). Everybody wants to buy their 5-10 areas of paradise

(like out east). For safety and with the hunting rules/spacing, resident/landowners dotting a larger block of state land create interference and hazards for hunters to work around.

Please keep forests recreation lands continuous, preserve farmlands for pheasants and wildlife alike, Keep Rural, Rural. Open more lakes with public boating ramps and shoreline (tear down a couple of lots). Create the legislative incentives to do so/TWP support for those holding State Lands. (support our recreational districts) More HAP leases and promotion. A good example would be a 50yr plan in Waterloo to add state land within the existing boundary making a continuous recreational area, with some designated hunting grounds. A recreational area of 20 continuous sq miles of in or near each lower county is a nice goal.

We must Permit the DNR to give preference to conservation groups and farmland preservation conservancies over private citizens or corporations. The State and DNR officers should not be subject to trespassing in performing their duties to ensure compliance.

Fund aggregating land purchases using as many mechanisms as possible, Higher out of state hunting license fees, more costly penalties for poaching. Step up the lumbering/or more selective harvest practice (thin areas of mature forests with prime timber), Raise commercial forestry tax to \$1.40/acre to be put to new DNR land purchases in the lower peninsula. Stiffer penalties for dumping.

Have state voters pick a percentage or amount of taxes to set aside each year for buying more recreational areas or shoreline closer to lower peninsula population centers for the generations to follow us. Make it a priority, our legacy in the Great Lakes.

Thank you for your time,  
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