

February 22, 2019

The Honorable Senator Pete Lucido, Chair
The Honorable Senator Kim LaSata, Vice-Chair
The Honorable Senator Aric Nesbitt
The Honorable Senator Ed McBroom
The Honorable Senator Curtis Hertel Jr.
3100 Binsfield Building
Lansing, Michigan 48933

RE: Supporting the appointment of DNR Director Dan Eichinger

Dear Senators:

I am writing to you in your role as a member of the Senate's Advice and Consent Committee reviewing the qualifications of department directors. I am in support of the appointment of Mr. Dan Eichinger for the Department of Natural Resources Director position because he is well-qualified for the position, he has a passion for the work the DNR does, and he is a strong strategic thinker, good communicator, and solid leader who can build an effective DNR organization that serves all of Michigan well.

I know Dan to be an effective leader and most importantly, a good communicator. In my opinion, he has lead MUCC, one of the nation's largest umbrella conservation organizations, in an impressive manner. Under Dan's leadership, MUCC has become a much stronger and more influential state conservation association. During his time with MUCC, he also developed the skills of other key staff to strengthen MUCC's team, and he made the organization a much more important partner to the DNR. I do believe the DNR staff members today asks themselves, "What will MUCC think about this issue?" as they are working complex natural resources policy and legislative issues. I am most impressed with how effective Dan and his successor at MUCC, Amy Trotter, have strengthened MUCC's legislative leadership among the many diverse local conservation groups around the state. I believe many stakeholders can see how much more active and effective MUCC has become in key legislative and policy issues by engaging so many individual clubs and stakeholders, and then representing all of them with statewide positions of support. It's my personal opinion that MUCC is stronger today in the legislative arena than it has been in decades, going all the way back to the Thomas Washington days. I credit Dan and Amy for their skills in that area.

You also know that Dan previously worked in the DNR so he already has knowledge of the department and how things get done inside state government. That experience should help him hit the ground running faster than others from the outside could.

I also think it is important that a department director be a strong strategic thinker and one willing to partner with other outside groups to accomplish key initiatives that will improve our use of natural resources in the state. I am a firm believer that the DNR's role is too large and complex to complete alone, on its own. So, the DNR needs solid partnerships with other outside parties to complete its mission effectively. Based on my interactions with Dan, and his experience and reputation, I believe he

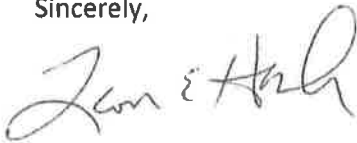
has demonstrated that he is a strong strategic thinker and that he makes good use of partnerships with key stakeholders to accomplish bigger things.

In summary, I think Dan will be an outstanding director and, based on my personal knowledge and experiences with him, I believe he has the passion for excellence to help the Department become an outstanding natural resources organization. I strongly encourage you to accept this Governor appointment as a step that is very positive for the state of Michigan and its citizens.

Here are my qualifications to know about the skills required to lead a major state government department: I have over 40 years' experience working in Michigan's state and local government organizations. I have had significant experience working with a number of former Michigan DNR directors. During my almost 35 years in state government positions, I worked for or very closely with eleven different state department directors (in five different state departments under four different Governors from both parties). I am also national Board of Director chair of the Quality Deer Management Association, where for over 20 years, I have worked closely with DNR directors and their key staff on deer, deer habitat and deer management issues. QDMA is the most respected deer management organization in the country with 60,000 members, and QDMA is a key DNR partner. I am a life time member of the NRA, QDMA, and MUCC organizations. The views in this letter are my personal views on this issue and may not represent the views of all organizations I am affiliated with.

I'd be pleased to speak or write more about this subject if that would be helpful. Feel free to contact me at any time.

Sincerely,



Leon E. Hank
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Holt, Michigan 48842
517-719-1133

cc: The Honorable Mike Shirkey, Senate Majority Leader
Ms. Amy Trotter, Director, MUCC