

Michigan United Conservation Clubs



Past Presidents

February 23, 2019

Michigan Senate
Natural Resources Committee

Dear Committee Members,

Most of us have had the opportunity to know and work with Daniel Eichinger for over two decades. Dan's appointment to the Director's position of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources is not only reflective of Dan's talents and abilities, but is also the culmination his family's multi-generational passion for natural resource conservation and the pursuit of our outdoor traditions. He is supremely qualified to lead the Michigan Department of Natural Resources as its Director, offering a unique blending of experience which includes natural resource management together with public and legislative engagement. The purpose of this letter is encourage your swift confirmation of Governor Whitmer's appointment of Dan in order to allow him to continue working on the challenging tasks which lie ahead.

Dan grew up as a member of the Michigan United Conservation Clubs (MUCC) family. As a boy he was able to witness first-hand what can be achieved when citizen-conservationists and dedicated hunter/anglers effectively partner with their State and Federal agencies. At an early age, Dan not only learned the history of Michigan conservation legends like Harry Gaines and Tom Washington, but also the significance of the modern conservation movement that began with the passage of the Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act in 1937 and coincided with MUCC's founding.

After graduation from Michigan State University's prestigious James Madison College and completing his Master's of Science degree in Fisheries and Wildlife, Dan joined MUCC where he served as its Membership Director. With a bachelor's degree in Political Theory and Constitutional Democracy and an interest in both natural resource management and public policy, accepting a conservation and natural resources policy position with then-Lt. Gov. John Cherry represented an

excellent opportunity to advance his understanding of the relationship between public policy and legislative interface.

Subsequent to his position with the Lt. Governor, Dan worked for the DNR in a variety of capacities which included serving as its legislative liaison. His service in this capacity was highlighted by his involvement in the passage of the legislation creating the Recreation Passport.

Before returning to Michigan United Conservation Clubs (MUCC) as its Executive Director, Dan was an administrator at Central Michigan University, an experience which enhanced his understanding of the programmatic importance of both active-duty military and veteran students.

As an avid hunter and angler, Dan has a deep appreciation of our outdoor heritage and the importance of sustainable fisheries and wildlife management. Among his many successes as the Executive Director of MUCC, Dan initiated the recently completed study on the significance of hunting, fishing and trapping to Michigan's overall economy. This analysis helped to confirm that the 170,000+ jobs created in Michigan by these activities help to generate more than \$11.2 billion annually.

For these reasons, together with Dan's impeccable personal character, we encourage your swift confirmation of Dan Eichinger as the next Director of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources.

Sincerely,

Past Presidents of Michigan United Conservation Clubs (MUCC)

Dan Delisle
Munising, MI

Russ Reister
Chelsea, MI

Don Meixner
Jerome, MI

Fran Yeager
Elkhart, IN

Paul Rose
Hillman, MI

Bill Krepps
Ravenna, MI

Dawn Levey
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