



MICHIGAN UNITED *Since 1937* CONSERVATION CLUBS

Uniting Citizens to Conserve, Protect and Enhance Michigan's Natural Resources and Outdoor Heritage

PO Box 30235 Lansing, MI 48909 | 800.777.6720 P | www.mucc.org

February 26, 2019

Michigan Senate
Advice and Consent Committee

Dear Committee Members,

Michigan United Conservation Clubs fully supports the appointment of Daniel Eichinger as the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) director.

Eichinger has a demonstrated and professional history in natural resources, administration and public policy. Eichinger has served as legislative liaison for the department, conservation policy advisor to former Lt. Gov. John Cherry, membership relations coordinator at Michigan United Conservation Clubs (MUCC) and most recently as executive director of MUCC.

The new DNR director must have these certain, innate qualities:

- A strong leader with the ability to inspire and work with department staff to play their role in the creation and implementation of the best natural resources management agency in the nation;
- Knowledgeable and respectful of the user-pay system of funding natural resources and outdoor recreation management in Michigan, as well as able to work with diverse stakeholders to develop sustainable, long-term funding models;
- Committed to active management of the 4.6 million acres of Michigan's public lands, including consideration of the diverse recreational users and industries that rely on those lands;
- Willing to lead the region in the protection, management and restoration of the Great Lakes fisheries;
- Able to work within Michigan's state government, with other state and federal agencies, with both parties in the state legislature and with outside, non-governmental partners to conserve, restore and enhance our natural resources;
- Able to understand, adhere to and explain the complexity of sound-scientific natural resources management decisions;
- Open to citizen input and dialogue, committed to a service-based philosophy and willing to work towards consensus, science-based solutions with stakeholders and the public;
- Able to withstand political pressure to make decisions that do not violate sound-scientific management principles;
- A good communicator that is approachable, visible, and in touch with the department staff and the general public; and

- Understanding of the difference and the important balance between conservation (wise use) and protection of our natural resources.

It is clear that Eichinger has long championed these traits and abilities through his professional career, and commitment and involvement on boards like Hunting Works, the Great Lakes Fishery Trust, Oil and Gas Advisory Committee, and the Michigan Legislative Sportsmen's Caucus Advisory Council.

Priorities of Eichinger shared by MUCC include ending the long-standing, looming problem of invasive carp, tackling chronic wasting disease in Michigan's deer herd, addressing the infrastructural backlog of Michigan's state park system and recruiting new and different hunters and anglers as Michigan license buyers.

Eichinger's professional history places him in a unique and advantageous position as someone who is able to engage, listen and problem solve with stakeholders. In his short tenure with the department, he has made a commitment to be open and transparent. He understands the needs and concerns, and takes them to heart, of Michigan hunters and anglers.

For these reasons, Michigan United Conservation Clubs would ask that this committee support Gov. Whitmer's appointment of DNR Director Daniel Eichinger.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Amy Trotter".

Amy Trotter
Executive Director

CC: Senate Majority Leader Mike Shirkey