

NATURAL RESOURCES

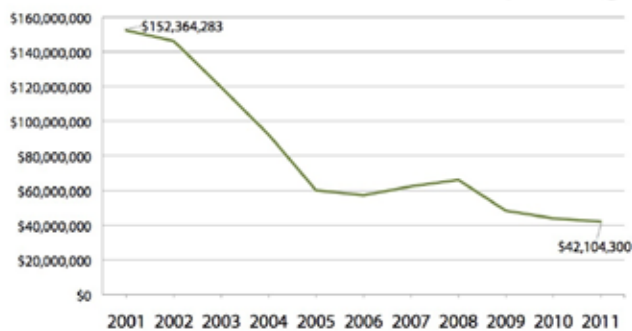
“Pure Michigan” at risk due to budget cuts at DNRE



MICHIGAN SELLS ITS NATURAL BEAUTY TO THE REST OF THE COUNTRY THROUGH ITS “PURE MICHIGAN” TOURISM CAMPAIGN. Michigan has a long history of environmental and conservation innovation and leadership. Unfortunately, in recent

years, that dedication has weakened, and investment has faded.

Natural Resources & Environment Spending



Source: State of Michigan Executive Budget, FY2011

The Facts —

Michigan industries rely on healthy natural resources

- Two of Michigan’s top three industries—agriculture, and tourism/recreation—rely directly on the health of our natural resources.
- Tourism generates \$17.5 billion annually in Michigan, resulting in \$971 million in state taxes and accounting for 193,000 jobs statewide.¹
- Our forest system contributes more than \$12 billion to the state’s economy and supports 200,000 Michigan jobs.²
- Annually, more than one million hunters and almost one million boaters pay for licenses.





The Solution— Successful long-term funding options for the DNRE

There are a variety of options to secure long-term sustainable funding for the DNRE that have been successfully used in other states. Some approaches deal with the limited issue of natural resource protection, while others address the larger structural budget deficit looming for the state. We ask you to support policies that:

Close tax loopholes

Eliminate tax incentives and loopholes for companies failing to create and retain jobs, while requiring yearly performance reviews for all remaining tax credits and incentives.

Create constitutionally protected sales tax

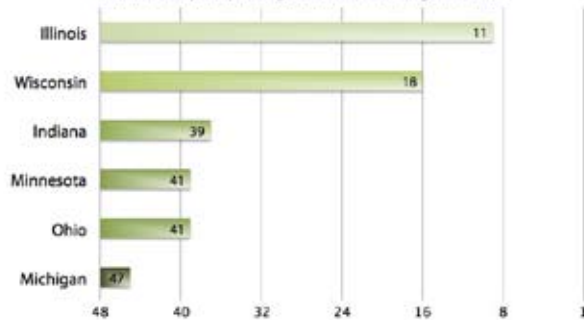
A constitutionally protected sales tax increase that generates revenue which can only be used for environmental conservation and arts programs. (Minnesota passed an 3/8 of a cent increase in 2008 that is providing secure funding for the next 25 years.)

Modernize Michigan's tax system

Instituting a graduated income tax could fund environmental and conservation programs as well as many other state agencies. (38 other states use a graduated income tax, while only seven use a flat income tax.³) A tax on services could provide additional revenues from a growing sector of our economy.

Ranking for Spending on Conservation and Environmental Protection

Annual Per Capita Spending, Out of the 48 Contiguous States



Source: Land Policy Institute's *Comprehensive Study on Economic Valuation, Economic Impact Assessment, and State Conservation Funding of Green Infrastructure Assets in Michigan*

Who to Contact —

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- Bill Kirk, Michigan League of Conservation Voters Education Fund, (616) 459-6459, bill@michiganlcv.org
- Grenetta Thomassey, Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council, (231) 347-1181, grenetta@watershedcouncil.org

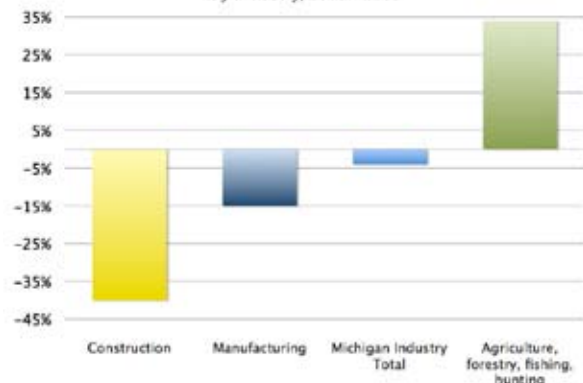
SOURCES:

- 1 Travel Michigan
- 2 Michigan DNRE
<http://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,1607,7-153-10366-30397--,00.html>
- 3 BetterMichiganFuture.org

2010cleanenergy.org/states/michigan

Change in Michigan Gross Product

By Industry, 2003 - 2008



Source: Dbusiness. 2009. <http://www.dbusiness.com/DBusiness/July-August-2009/Michigan-Gross-State-Product-By-Industry/>