

# **2020 MUCC Passed Resolutions**



**Resolutions Passed at the September 2020  
Annual Convention**

**Resolution #1**  
**Required 2/3 Majority**

**Submitted by:** Patrick Hogan, Region 8 Executive Board  
**MUCC Region:** 8  
**Passed:** September 2020 MUCC Annual Convention  
**Title:** **Support FOIA When it Does Not Interfere with Science or Fair Chase**

1 **WHEREAS**, “Fair Chase,” as defined by the Boone and Crockett Club, is the ethical, sportsmanlike, and  
2 lawful pursuit and taking of any free-ranging wild, big game animal in a manner that does not give the  
3 hunter an improper or unfair advantage over the game animals; and

4 **WHEREAS**, it may be possible to use on-going scientific research studies to unethically gain information  
5 on wild game. This could hinder the scientific study, and general public support for fair chase hunting;  
6 and

7 **WHEREAS**, MUCC was the driving force behind the successful voter passage of Proposal G: a  
8 referendum on Public Act 377 of 1996, which amended the Natural Resources and Environmental  
9 Protection Act (NREPA) to grant the Natural Resources Commission (NRC) exclusive authority to  
10 regulate the taking of game in this state. The amendment also requires the NRC, to the greatest extent  
11 practicable, to use principles of sound scientific management in making decisions regarding the taking of  
12 game; and

13 **WHEREAS**, because all State of Michigan Commissions such as the NRC are mandated by law to  
14 adhere to the Open Meetings Act, the information from these meetings must be available for review, and

15 **WHEREAS**, it is important and necessary for our state departments to be as transparent and open as  
16 possible and must respond to citizen requests for information through use of the Freedom of Information  
17 Act; and

18 **WHEREAS**, anyone, at any time should have the freedom to file FOIA request in an equitable and  
19 speedy manner.

20 **WHEREAS**, allowing anyone to hinder a scientific study involving the state’s flora or fauna conducted  
21 by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR), directly impacts the NRC’s ability to use  
22 sound science when making natural resource decisions; and

23 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that MUCC will work with the legislature to ensure  
24 continued access to state and federal information, and  
25 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that MUCC will work with the legislature to ensure the end user will  
26 not use any information to jeopardize the definition of fair chase, or hinder any scientific study involving  
27 flora or fauna.

**Resolution #3**  
**Required 2/3 Majority**

**Submitted by:** Rob Miller, Bowfishing Association of Michigan  
**MUCC Region:** 9  
**Passed:** September 2020 MUCC Annual Convention  
**Title:** **Better Define or Discontinue the Public Boat Launch "Restricted Hours of Use"**

1 **WHEREAS**, water in the state of Michigan is like air, owned by no one, yet owned by all; and,  
2 **WHEREAS**, navigable waterways are legally open to the public for fishing and navigation reasons; and,  
3 **WHEREAS**, lakes are considered navigable if they have a navigable inlet and outlet; and,  
4 **WHEREAS**, navigable is historically defined by "can you float a log down it;" and,  
5 **WHEREAS**, the state of Michigan does not allow a riparian landowner the ability to limit the right of the  
6 public to fish on navigable waterways; and,  
7 **WHEREAS**, many public ramps are being posted with closed hours of usage such as "Closed 11 PM to 4  
8 AM;" and,  
9 **WHEREAS**, in working with multiple members of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources the  
10 reasons for these closures are of a wide variety; and,  
11 **WHEREAS**, enforcement is not uniform and is largely left up to the discretion of each  
12 jurisdiction/officer's interpretation; and,  
13 **WHEREAS**, these restrictions put undue burden on specific user groups such as 2nd-3rd shifters and  
14 those who enjoy nighttime fishing activities; **NOW**,  
15 **THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that Michigan United Conservation Clubs (MUCC) will work with  
16 relevant state government bodies to create policy such that any hours of use restrictions for public boat  
17 ramps specifically exclude the launching or retrieving of a vessel into the waterway; and,

18 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that MUCC will work to ensure that hours of closed use does not refer  
19 to the parking of one's unoccupied vehicle/trailer necessary for the transport of the watercraft to and from  
20 the waterway; and,

21 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that MUCC will advocate for policy so that any access restrictions  
22 applied to Michigan waterways will apply equally to both public and private access. This shall apply to  
23 both navigable as well as non-navigable waterways within the state of Michigan that have a public access  
24 point.

### **Resolution #8**

**Submitted by:** Michigan Trappers and Predator Callers Association  
**MUCC Region:** 9  
**Passed:** September 2020 MUCC Annual Convention  
**Title:** **Preservation of Hunting Contests**

1 **WHEREAS**, organized hunting contests are prevalent across Michigan in various forms, such as rabbit  
2 roundups, squirrel hunts, youth small game events, hunting retriever trials, and predator calling contests.

3 **WHEREAS**, these events are generally put on by local sportsmen's clubs, churches, and non-profit  
4 organizations in order to introduce youth to hunting, encourage families to spend time afield, and encourage  
5 good sportsmanship & camaraderie among sporting communities; and

6 **WHEREAS**, these events are often focused on youth, can aid in hunter retention, and rekindle a love of  
7 small game hunting in adults; and

8 **WHEREAS**, local economies are benefitted by the increased business they bring in (restaurants, fuel,  
9 supplies, etc.); and

10 **WHEREAS**, organized events can be a good starting point to get people introduced to the outdoors, as well  
11 as habitat improvements such as "rabbitat"; and

12 **WHEREAS**, certain contests can encourage harvest of animals that are overpopulated or causing duress to  
13 other wildlife species, such as deer yards, ground nesting birds, and non-game, rare, & endangered species;  
14 and

15 **WHEREAS**, coyote populations are expanding into urban areas increasing negative human/wildlife  
16 encounters, including increased attacks on pets; NOW,

17 **THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that Michigan United Conservation Clubs (MUCC) should defend  
18 hunting contests such as small game round ups, buck poles, and predator contests as legal hunting  
19 opportunities that promote the benefits of R3, reinforcing the social and community aspects of hunting, as  
20 well as the economic benefits to local economies; and

21 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that MUCC should work with member clubs to educate on best  
22 management practices for public relations, communications and social media on these contests to the non-  
23 hunting public to ensure that public perception of hunters remains neutral to positive; and

24 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that MUCC should support use of fur as a legitimate use of wildlife  
25 management and that these contests should be encouraged to utilize the fur and wild game to its fullest  
26 extent.

**Resolution #9**  
**Required 2/3 Majority**

**Submitted by:** Patrick Hogan, Member  
**MUCC Region:** 8  
**Passed:** September 2020 MUCC Annual Convention  
**Title:** **Diversify Funding For Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund**

1 **WHEREAS**, The Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF) has been in place since 1976. It  
2 provides grants to local governments and the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to purchase land or  
3 rights in land for public recreation or protection of land because of its environmental importance or its  
4 scenic beauty. It also assists in the appropriate development of land for public outdoor recreation; and

5 **WHEREAS**, the sources of funds for the MNRTF are annual revenues from the development of State-  
6 owned mineral resources, largely oil and gas. The program is administered by the MNRTF Board of  
7 Trustees and the Grants Management office of the DNR; and

8 **WHEREAS**, leasing of the state-owned oil and gas rights for exploration and development offered in a  
9 public auction generates revenue in three ways:

- 10 • Lessees pay a “bonus” to acquire the lease rights;
- 11 • Lessees pay rent on acreage leased; and
- 12 • Lessees pay royalties.

13 Royalty payments are a percentage of the gross value of the oil or gas produced and are determined at the  
14 time the product is sold; and

15 **WHEREAS**, in accordance with section 35 of article IX of the state constitution of 1963, the MNRTF is  
16 established in the state treasury. The trust fund shall consist of all bonuses, rentals, delayed rentals, and  
17 royalties collected or reserved by the state under provisions of leases for the extraction of nonrenewable  
18 resources from most state-owned lands; and

19 **WHEREAS**, Michigan's natural gas production has declined over the past two decades, and in 2017  
20 Michigan's gross withdrawals of natural gas were less than one-third of the state's 1997 peak<sup>1</sup>; and

21 **WHEREAS**, the MNRTF has reached its \$500 million cap, with new revenue being directed to the State  
22 Park Endowment Fund; and

23 **WHEREAS**, the SPEF has a cap of \$800 million and is currently at roughly \$255 million in 2018; and

24 **WHEREAS**, The Michigan State Parks System is in need of substantial reinvestment to continue to  
25 respond to customers' needs and also reflect current recreational trends appropriate to a state system.  
26 Maintenance and improvement were identified as priority needs by the Governor's Blue-Ribbon Panel on  
27 State Parks and Outdoor Recreation, which undertook a comprehensive review of the state park system in  
28 Michigan. The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) agrees with this assessment; and

29 **WHEREAS**, the amount of annual funding available to support basic infrastructure needs continues to be  
30 insufficient to adequately address the backlog of maintenance, repair, and improvement projects; NOW,

31 **THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that Michigan United Conservations Clubs use the strength of its  
32 40,000 plus hunters, anglers, trappers and conservationists and over 200 affiliated local clubs around the  
33 state to support an addition to the MNRTF to include the extraction of renewable resources, or creation of  
34 renewable energy; and

35 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that MUCC work with our state legislature to see that Bonuses for  
36 lease rights, rent on acreage, and percentage of gross values of solar and wind energy creation is  
37 deposited into the MNRTF, and ultimately the SPEF; and

38 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that MUCC work with the legislature to see that these Bonuses for  
39 lease rights, rent on acreage, and percentage of gross values will not negatively impact the establishment  
40 of renewable energy sources.

41 [https://www.eia.gov/dnav/ng/ng\\_sum\\_lsum\\_dcu\\_SMI\\_a.htm](https://www.eia.gov/dnav/ng/ng_sum_lsum_dcu_SMI_a.htm)

### **Resolution #11**

**Submitted by:** George Lindquist, MUCC President  
**MUCC Region:** 1  
**Passed:** September 2020 MUCC Annual Convention  
**Title:** **Encourage the Use of Non-Lead Alternatives**

1 **WHEREAS**, Increasingly, there are more and more alternatives to lead in hunting ammunition, and in  
2 fishing sinkers, jig heads, etc. In some cases, these alternatives perform better than lead, such as the newer  
3 copper bullets and tungsten jigs;

4 **THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, That MUCC educate the sporting public of the potential impacts of  
5 using lead, and the alternatives, for hunting ammunition, as well as fishing gear; and

6 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that MUCC encourage the use of non-lead whenever these options are  
7 available, and practical; and

8 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that this resolution does not apply to projectiles used at sport shooting  
9 ranges.

### **Resolution #12** **Required 2/3 Majority**

**Submitted by:** Gary Gorniak, Straits Area Sportsmen's Club  
**MUCC Region:** 2  
**Passed:** September 2020 MUCC Annual Convention  
**Title:** **Add to MDNR Wolf Management Plan: Expand Hunting & Trapping Area  
for the Gray Wolf and Long-Term Population Goal for the Gray Wolf**

1 **WHEREAS**, the gray wolf is a candidate for removal from the Federal Endangered Species List by the  
2 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; and

3 **WHEREAS**, Michigan United Conservation Clubs (MUCC) endorses the removal of gray wolves from  
4 the Federal Endangered Species List in the Great Lakes Region; and

5 **WHEREAS**, research conducted by the Campfire Program in Wildlife Conservation in the Upper  
6 Peninsula suggests that gray wolves are a primary predator of white-tailed deer year-round and especially  
7 during the winter months; and

8 **WHEREAS**, the Michigan Wolf Management Plan states that the Michigan Department of Natural  
9 Resources should attempt to decrease human-wolf conflict by maintaining a healthy deer herd in the  
10 Upper Peninsula to serve as a primary winter food source for wolves; and

11 **WHEREAS**, the MDNR Wolf Management Plan states that studies have examined wolf predation  
12 success rates and recent estimates range from 30 to 50 deer eaten by each wolf each year; and

13 **WHEREAS**, the MDNR Wolf Management Plan states that wolf populations appear to remain stable or  
14 increase in both Canada and Alaska even when hunters and trappers annually harvested 28% of the  
15 population; and

16 **WHEREAS**, the 1997 Michigan Wolf Recovery and Management Plan defined a viable population as the  
17 maintenance of 200 individuals for five (5) consecutive years; and

18 **WHEREAS**, the Gray Wolf in Michigan has surpassed State and Federal population recovery goals for  
19 more than 19 years and no longer warrant a threatened or endangered listing status in Michigan; NOW,

20 **THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, MUCC will work with the Michigan Department of Natural  
21 Resources to revisit the Wolf Management Plan to expand the gray wolf harvest area to the entire Upper  
22 Peninsula of Michigan; and

23 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that MUCC will advocate for both hunting and trapping to be legal  
24 methods of take for wolf harvest in Michigan; and

25 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that MUCC will advocate for the Michigan Wolf Management Plan to  
26 include a goal of maintaining a population of 300-400 Gray Wolves (up to twice the population required to  
27 meet the delisting requirements in Michigan) in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan.



**Resolution #13**

**Submitted by:** Jack Ammerman, Michigan Gun Owners  
**MUCC Region:** 9  
**Passed:** September 2020 MUCC Annual Convention  
**Title:** **Rescind Outdated MUCC Policy AC740676 and AC760676 Regarding Firearm Transportation in a Vehicle**

1   **WHEREAS**, Michigan United Conservation Clubs (MUCC) passed two resolutions in 1976 to require that  
2   all guns be encased, and the case be inaccessible when being transported in a motor vehicle and all guns be  
3   locked in the trunk when being transported in a motor vehicle; and  
4   **WHEREAS**, based on the rise of sports utility vehicles (SUV) and pickup truck sales the majority of  
5   vehicles driven on Michigan’s roads no longer have separated trunks; and  
6   **WHEREAS**, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) has language that allows for various  
7   legal alternatives to transporting firearms in a trunk (hunting and trapping digest page 21); and  
8   **WHEREAS**, the Michigan Legislature has since passed laws allowing firearms to be transported uncased  
9   in the passenger area of the vehicle; and  
10   **WHEREAS**, MUCC supports the safe handling of firearms; and  
11   **WHEREAS**, twenty-five states allow firearms to be transported uncased in a vehicle; and  
12   **WHEREAS**, transporting an unloaded firearm inside the vehicle has not been documented as a safety issue  
13   in any of the states in our nation that allow it; NOW,  
14   **THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Michigan United Conservation Clubs’ (MUCC) outdated  
15   policy that all firearms being transported in a motor vehicle must be encased and the case positively secured  
16   from access to vehicle occupants, policy AC740676 be rescinded; and  
17   **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the MUCC’s outdated policy that all firearms being transported in  
18   a motor vehicle must be in the trunk of a vehicle, policy AC770676 be rescinded.

**Resolution #17**  
**Required 2/3 Majority**

**Submitted by:** Tim Muir, Lake St. Clair Walleye Association  
**MUCC Region:** 8  
**Passed:** September 2020 MUCC Annual Convention  
**Title:** **Work with the MDNR to Align Free Fishing Weekend with Father's Day**

1 **WHEREAS**, in an effort to increase participation in fishing and the outdoors; and

2 **WHEREAS**, moving free fishing weekend to Father's Day would satisfy all three R's (Recruit, Retain, and  
3 Reactivate) of the R3 program; and

4 **WHEREAS**, this would create opportunities for family members of multiple generations to reconnect, and  
5 spend quality time together outdoors; and

6 **WHEREAS**, moving free fishing weekend would also be useful to various clubs and groups to schedule  
7 outings designed around family participation; and

8 **WHEREAS**, Father's Day is the third Sunday in June, a day on which fathers are particularly honored by  
9 their children; and

10 **WHEREAS**, for example in 2020 Father's Day is June 21<sup>st</sup> and Free Fishing weekend is one week earlier  
11 on June 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>; and

12 **WHEREAS**, fishing is on a downward trend with license sales down every year with a 2.5% decrease  
13 from 2017 (1,134,421) to 2018 (1,105,345) and over a 3% decrease in the ten-year period ending in 2018;

14 NOW,

15 **THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Michigan United Conservation Clubs work with and  
16 request from the MDNR that future free fishing weekends in the summer be aligned with Father's Day in  
17 an effort to increase participation in fishing.

**Resolution #18**  
**Required 2/3 Majority**

**Submitted by:** Bruce Levey, MUCC Region 9  
**MUCC Region:** 9  
**Passed:** September 2020 MUCC Annual Convention  
**Title:** **Hunter Orange**

- 1 **WHEREAS**, for the same reason that all stop signs are red; and  
2 **WHEREAS**, for the same reasons as all traffic lights have the same color configuration (i.e. red above  
3 yellow above green); and  
4 **WHEREAS**, the current hunter orange law is not broken and does not need fixed; and  
5 **WHEREAS**, it is not reasonable to believe that people are not joining in, or just staying home, because  
6 they feel the need to wear colors other than hunter orange; NOW,  
7 **THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Michigan United Conservation Clubs work to establish a  
8 policy that “Hunter Orange” be the only color that is to be used as a safety color for hunting in the state  
9 of Michigan.

**Resolution #19**  
**Requires 2/3 Majority**

**Submitted by:** Jack Ammerman, Michigan Gun Owners  
**MUCC Region:** 9  
**Passed:** September 2020 MUCC Annual Convention  
**Title:** **Work to Change Language in MCL that puts Michigan Hunters and Shooters in Jeopardy of Committing a Crime**

- 1 **WHEREAS**, Michigan statute regulates activities of hunters and outdoor enthusiasts; and  
2 **WHEREAS**, under part 401, Wildlife Conservation, of the NATURAL RESOURCES AND  
3 ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ACT (MCL 324.40111) it is unlawful for a hunter or target shooter  
4 to have an uncased firearm “in or upon” a vehicle; and  
5 **WHEREAS**, most Michigan hunters and target shooters rely on a vehicle during hunting and target  
6 shooting activities; and  
7 **WHEREAS**, whether loaded or unloaded, leaning a shotgun, rifle, or handgun on an open tailgate or using  
8 a truck’s hood as a bench rest during target shooting can lead to fines, confiscation or both; and

9 **WHEREAS**, individuals that violate this section of law are guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by  
10 imprisonment for not more than 90 days, and/or a fine of not less than \$50.00 or more than \$2000.00, along  
11 with the cost of prosecution; and

12 **WHEREAS**, it is far easier for hunters and target shooters to utilize the bumper, tailgate or hood of a  
13 vehicle than it is to lean their firearm against the closest tree to the parked vehicle during a break; and

14 **WHEREAS**, Michigan allows certain individuals to carry loaded weapons in vehicles, whether stationary  
15 or moving; and

16 **WHEREAS**, other states have recently removed similar language from their laws so that it is no longer a  
17 crime to lean a firearm on a non-moving vehicle; and

18 **WHEREAS**, safely leaning or resting a shotgun, rifle, or handgun on a vehicle (tailgate, hood, etc.) or up  
19 against a non-moving vehicle is not a safety hazard resulting in innocent shooters and hunters being cited  
20 for unintentional violations; NOW,

21 **THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that Michigan United Conservation Clubs (MUCC) recognizes  
22 leaning or placing a firearm on a non-moving vehicle should not be a crime; and

23 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that MUCC work with the Michigan Legislature to actively pursue a  
24 change in Michigan statute removing the prohibition concerning placement of firearms upon non-moving  
25 vehicles.

### **Resolution #20**

**Submitted by:** Greg Peter, MUCC Vice President  
**MUCC Region:** 8  
**Passed:** September 2020 MUCC Annual Convention  
**Title:** **Treatment Permits For The Treatment Of Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS)**

1 **WHEREAS**, the presence of aquatic invasive species (AIS) is increasing in intensity and distribution; and

2 **WHEREAS**, the treatment of these species often requires a permit from the Department of Environment,  
3 Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE); and

4 **WHEREAS**, EGLE is often restrained in the issuance of these permits by Convention of International  
5 Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) considerations; and

6 **WHEREAS**, the implementation of treatment plans are often hindered by delay and/or prohibition based  
7 on the uncertain presence of endangered or threatened species of flora and fauna; and

8 **WHEREAS**, many of these programs are funded by taxpayer dollars through the establishment of Special  
9 Assessment Districts and the public expects treatments to expeditiously occur; and

10 **WHEREAS**, recent regulatory provisions have been made for the expedited permit issuance of volunteer  
11 wetland improvement projects through a joint review by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources  
12 (MDNR) and EGLE representatives in order to prevent unnecessary delay and thereby providing biologists  
13 input to the process; NOW,

14 **THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that MUCC promote more DNR biologist input into the permit  
15 approval process to assess the risk/benefit of treatment regimens and the impact on other native populations  
16 of flora and fauna while considering the potential benefit of reducing the threat of AIS.

**Resolution #21**  
**Required 2/3 Majority**

**Submitted by:** Greg Peter, MUCC Vice President  
**MUCC Region:** 8  
**Passed:** September 2020 MUCC Annual Convention  
**Title:** **Boat Wash Law and the Prevention of Spreading Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS)**

1 **WHEREAS**, Aquatic invasive species (AIS) are usually spread by the actions of people, and in aquatic  
2 environments, this is the use of watercraft; and

3 **WHEREAS**, new Michigan law (Part 41325 of NREPA (PA 451 Of 1994)) prohibits the launching of any  
4 craft or equipment (trailer, etc.) that is contaminated with AIS, a violation punishable by a fine, and  
5 furthermore, DNR Fisheries order #245 prohibits the transport of water overland in ballast tanks, bilges  
6 and live wells to prevent fish disease dissemination; and

7 **WHEREAS**, no adherence to this statute is not only a violation, it is a behavior that threatens the  
8 biodiversity of the aquatic habitats within which we all recreate; NOW,

9 **THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that MUCC pursue an active educational campaign to help increase  
10 awareness of this law and adherence to its intent, impressing the boating public with the importance of this  
11 responsibility; and,

12 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that MUCC encourage the establishment of boat wash  
13 facilities/capabilities at state public launches particularly where the presence of AIS is established and the  
14 risk of spread is most likely.

**Resolution #23**

**Submitted by:** Patrick Hogan, Member  
**MUCC Region:** 8  
**Passed:** September 2020 MUCC Annual Convention  
**Title:** **Ban Balloon Release**

1 **WHEREAS**, Michigan United Conservation Clubs (MUCC) mission is “Uniting citizens to conserve,  
2 protect, and enhance Michigan's natural resources and outdoor heritage;” and

3 **WHEREAS**, MUCC Organizational Values are:

- 4 ○ Foster a conservation stewardship ethic in the public
- 5 ○ Protect the rights of the public to hunt, fish, trap and recreate outdoors
- 6 ○ Encourage the public to connect to our resources through active recreation
- 7 ○ Advocate for sustainable conservation practices and resource stewardship through sound  
8 scientific management; and

9 **WHEREAS**, The Alliance for the Great Lakes' annual "Adopt-a-Beach" shoreline cleanup program has  
10 found between 4,400 and 7,200 balloons or pieces of balloon debris on Great Lakes beaches each of the  
11 last three years; and

12 **WHEREAS**, [a scientific study](#) published in March out of the University of Tasmania that found balloons  
13 are the highest-risk plastic debris item for seabirds — 32 times more likely to kill them than ingesting  
14 hard plastics; and

15 **WHEREAS**, balloons can be filled with gas lighter than air, or ride thermals and travel up to a thousand  
16 miles when released; and

17 **WHEREAS**, the Great Lakes cover an area of 94,250 square miles, allowing more balloon debris to  
18 come back to the surface due the lack of thermals over bodies of water; and

19 **WHEREAS**, balloons pose a threat to our waterfowl, our non-game birds, and ruin the aesthetics of our  
20 natural resources that everyone enjoys; and

21 **WHEREAS**, Balloon releases are simply sanctioned littering events; and

22 **WHEREAS**, according to NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ACT  
23 451 of 1994 section 324.8905a littering is a state civil infraction with appropriate fines

24 (1) A person who violates this part, if the amount of the litter is less than 1 cubic foot in volume,  
25 is responsible for a state civil infraction and is subject to a civil fine of not more than \$800.00.

26 (2) A person who violates this part, if the amount of the litter is 1 cubic foot or more but less than  
27 3 cubic feet in volume, is responsible for a state civil infraction and is subject to a civil fine of not  
28 more than \$1,500.00; and

29 **WHEREAS**, many organizations (National Wildlife Federation, United States Fish and Wildlife Service,  
30 Balloons Blow, etc.) are pushing the message that balloon releases can cause harm, but there is little to no  
31 enforcement of littering laws or legal restrictions to back this message; and

32 **WHEREAS**, California, Connecticut, Florida, Tennessee and Virginia currently have legal restrictions.

33 While Arizona, Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Rhode Island, and  
34 Maine have legislation introduced to restrict releases; NOW,

35 **THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that Michigan United Conservations Clubs use the strength of its  
36 40,000 plus hunters, anglers, trappers and conservationists and over 200 affiliated local clubs around the  
37 state to oppose commercial, or public balloon releases; and

38 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that MUCC work with our national affiliate National Wildlife  
39 Federation, or other like-minded organizations, to also encourage education and littering enforcement in  
40 other states that have the potential to impact our natural resources here in Michigan.

**Resolution #24**  
**Required 2/3 Majority**

<b>Submitted by:</b>	Patrick Hogan
<b>MUCC region:</b>	8
<b>Passed:</b>	September 2020 MUCC Annual Convention
<b>Title:</b>	<b>Encouraging Full Appointments to the Natural Resource Commission</b>

1 **WHEREAS**, Michigan United Conservation Clubs (MUCC) has worked diligently to ensure that science remains  
2 at the forefront of fisheries and wildlife policymaking in the state of Michigan; and

3 **WHEREAS**, the leaders of the state of Michigan, in collaboration with stakeholder  
4 groups like MUCC, have determined that the best mechanism by which to incorporate science into natural  
5 resource management and insulate decisions from politics is through the Natural Resources Commission (NRC);  
6 and

7 **WHEREAS**, the state legislature has delegated (and reaffirmed) the exclusive authority to regulate the taking of  
8 game and sportfish, and the designation of game species to the NRC; and

9 **WHEREAS**, the people of the state of Michigan have also affirmed the authority of the NRC through Proposal G  
10 of 1998 – a ballot resolution which passed by a two-thirds majority; and

11 **WHEREAS**, boards and commissions that are full are able to represent more opinions, more closely review  
12 topics within their jurisdiction, and more carefully consider orders under their purview; and

13 **WHEREAS**, the NRC is a seven-member body, but currently only has four commissioners seated; and

14 **WHEREAS**, all currently appointed commissioners must be present for the NRC to consist of a quorum to do  
15 business.

16 **THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that MUCC will encourage, and work with, the Governor’s office to fill  
17 vacancies on the NRC by appointment; and

18 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that MUCC will encourage members of the state Senate to seriously  
19 and judiciously consider appointments made by the Governor to ensure the best possible candidates are  
20 appointed to the NRC, pursuant to MUCC Internal Policy AC030619 (“Michigan Natural Resource  
21 Commission Appointment Criteria;” a resolution passed in 2019).