



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

January 14, 2020
House Office Building
Lansing, MI

RE: House Resolution 154

Dear members of the House Natural Resources and Outdoor Recreation Committee,

Michigan United Conservation Clubs is the largest state-specific conservation organization in the nation. Representing more than 40,000 members and 200 affiliate clubs our voice can be heard from every corner of the state.

Our members have spoken on this issue, and we are in support of HR 154 per a member-passed resolution which you will find on the second page of this written testimony.

Our members believe that culling of the moose population is an effective method of wildlife management that utilizes hunters that are available and ready to participate. A lottery system, much like is used for Elk, would be the most fair and equitable way to carry out this method of management.

We would like to thank the resolution sponsor, Rep. Steven Johnson, and provide our full support for this resolution to move forward.

Sincerely,

Amy Trotter
Executive Director, Michigan United Conservation Clubs

MUCC's 2016 CONSERVATION POLICY RESOLUTIONS

Resolution #01 Requires 2/3 Majority

Submitted by: MUCC Wildlife Committee
Passed: MUCC Annual Convention, June 18, 2016, unanimously
Title: **ISLE ROYALE MOOSE MANAGEMENT**

WHEREAS, the moose population at Michigan's Isle Royale National Park is currently estimated at a minimum of 1,300 animals and that moose population is expected to continue to increase with only three wolves remaining on the island; and

WHEREAS, the growing moose population on Isle Royale will soon reach a point where they damage the island's vegetation, reducing favored winter moose browse along with the capacity of the habitat to support as many moose; and

WHEREAS, should science-based research determine that moose populations have exceeded, or are likely to exceed, the carrying capacity of the island to the detriment of the overall herd health, vegetation and bio-communities of the island then a culling system should be implemented; and

WHEREAS, considering the wilderness designation of Isle Royale National Park, culling moose is the best way to manage that population and reduce damage to the island's vegetation and maintain a healthy moose population; and

WHEREAS, involving the public in culling moose at Isle Royale through a limited entry drawing can generate revenue to help cover the cost of that type of management through the sale of moose culling permits; and

WHEREAS, MUCC supported naming moose a game species in Michigan and is always in favor of scientifically based, regulated hunting opportunities rather than culling; however, it is understood that Isle Royale National Park expressly prohibits hunting at this time. NOW,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that MUCC supports culling moose on Isle Royale National Park to manage the population and protect the island's vegetation and that the public be permitted to do the culling through a limited entry drawing from groups of two to four participants that would purchase a moose culling permit; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that MUCC supports such measures as an alternative to artificial relocation (human placement) of predator species to this island, such as wolves.