



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

MICHIGAN

EDUCATING AND ADVOCATING FOR RESPONSIBLE GOVERNMENT

**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE  
MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY  
SAUGATUCK, MICHIGAN: AUGUST 26, 2013**

*Testimony given by Susan Smith, LWVMI President, directed to Mr. Ben Zimont, Water Resources Division, Michigan Department of Environmental Quality*

"The League of Women Voters of Michigan is opposed to the proposed road across the Singapore dunes which would result in the destruction of wetlands and dunes, and would have a negative impact on the surrounding ecosystem.

The League of Women Voters of Michigan adopted the following position on the Great Lakes Ecosystem in 2004, by consensus of its members:

"The League of Women Voters of Michigan supports the preserving and enhancing of the environmental integrity and quality of the Great Lakes Ecosystem. To achieve protection and improvement of this valuable, international resource, the League of Women Voters of Michigan supports efforts to:

1. Limit uses of fragile, historic, cultural and scenic shoreline areas
2. Preserve wild and pristine areas within the watershed, with no new development in these special habitats without adherence to strict criteria as prescribed by federal, state, or local governments.
3. Protect the remaining dune formations. Enforce strict regulations of development on the dunes."

Birders, geologists and biologists have all studied and documented the significant natural features of this particular dune ecosystem. It is home to threatened and endangered species and globally imperiled inter-dune wetlands. State, park planning and local planning efforts have established a strong desire to protect and acquire this property which is now listed for sale. There are other alternatives to approving this proposed road.

We appreciate the opportunity to comment on this proposed project, 13-03-0079-P."