



22 September 2022

To: Senator Debbie Stabenow
Senator Gary Peters
Governor Gretchen Whitmer
DNR Director Dan Eichinger
Mr. Tom Barnes, Unit Manager, Grayling Forest Management
Colonel Scott Meyers, Garrison Commander, Camp Grayling Joint Maneuver Training Center
Major General Paul Rogers, Department of Military and Veterans Affairs

The League of Women Voters of Michigan opposes the proposed expansion of Camp Grayling to ~~over~~ more than double the size that it is now. The environmental impact could be devastating for years and violate the public trust.

We support the Crawford County Townships of Lovells and Beaver Creek that have passed resolutions to oppose expansion. We support environmental groups, such as the Anglers of the AuSable and Upper Manistee River Association that have expressed their opposition to expansion and the adverse effect on the public land and rivers.

Public land belongs to the citizens of Michigan. Yet the MI DNR and the National Guard are falsely claiming the Camp is undersized for the electromagnetic warfare training that it has been engaged in for years at their current 148,000 acres. No study has been conducted to substantiate their expansion claim.

It is not that we wouldn't support sacrificing public land, but no other state has sacrificed more land than Michigan. It is not that we are not patriotic, but National Guard installations across the country are conducting the same types of training on far less land than what is already dedicated in Crawford County. Private industry has already claimed much of the County public lands with the DNR supported forestry devastation.

Please encourage MI DNR Director Eichinger to rule on behalf of the citizens of Michigan and not allow the expansion. Please remind him that his duties as Director of the DNR is to protect and conserve the natural resources of this state.

League positions support the wise use and management of natural resources for the public interest. The League of Women Voters believes that natural resources should be managed as unaltered parts of life-supporting ecosystems. Resources should be conserved and protected to assure their future availability. Policy makers must take into account the ramifications of their decisions.

Sincerely

Handwritten signature of Paula Bowman in cursive.

Paula Bowman
LWVMI Co-President

Handwritten signature of Christina Schlitt in cursive.

Christina Schlitt
LWVMI Co-President

600 W. St. Joseph St., Ste. 3G, Lansing, MI 48933-2288
(517) 484-5383 office@lwvmi.org

lwvmi.org