



Protecting the Common Waters of the Great Lakes Basin
Through Public Trust Solutions

January 26, 2018

Honorable Rick Snyder, Governor Executive Office Lansing, MI 48933
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VIA EMAIL SUBMISSION

Dear Governor Snyder,

I write to urge you to veto Senate Bill 409, which the Legislature has now sent to you for your signature. This legislation unlawfully abdicates the responsibility of the government of the State of Michigan to protect public trust resources.

Fundamentally, the legislature does not have the authority to enact Senate Bill 409 because it violates and exceeds its authority based on the principles of the public trust doctrine in the Great Lakes. The public trust cannot be relinquished, transferred or leased for primarily private purposes, or in circumstances where private use of the bottomlands would necessarily exclude members of the public. And that is what this bill attempts to do.

The attached detailed analysis further develops and supports the strong case for a veto. We encourage you to protect the waters and submerged lands of the Great Lakes, and to demonstrate environmental stewardship as a legal trustee of these precious resources, with your veto.

Sincerely,

Liz Kirkwood
Executive Director

cc: Attorney General Bill Schuette