

# ALGER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Mary Ann Froberg, Clerk  
101 COURT STREET, MUNISING, MI 49862

## RESOLUTION #2016-14

At a regular meeting of the Alger County Board of Commissioners held on August 15, 2016 at Munising, Michigan.

Present were: Commissioners Mattson, Pullen, Rondeau, VanLandschoot, and Doucette

Absent were: None

**WHEREAS**, the Michigan Legislature has a bill pending before it, known as Senate Bill No. 39 introduced in 2015 to amend the "Natural Resources and Environment Protection Act," that proposes to prohibit the Department of Natural Resources (department) from acquiring surface rights to (additional) land if the department owns the surface rights to more than 4,626,000 acres of land, without an approved (legislature) Strategic Plan which contains a land inventory describing intended and authorized use(s) of existing lands, and is any established payment in lieu of taxes on department land due to a local unit of government is delinquent; and

**WHEREAS**, the proposed amendments require maximizing access to department lands and bodies of water adjacent to the lands by removing gates, berms, and other human made barriers; and other natural resources by providing public access to all lands under control of the department for all natural resource dependent outdoor recreation activities including motorized and non-motorized activities; and

**WHEREAS**, if a county receives reduced tax income from state parks within that county's boundaries, county residents should not have to pay entrance fees to the park; and

**WHEREAS**, the proposed amendments further provide housekeeping edits and procedural updates that enhance transparency and support the intent of the amendments, clarifies authority of the department to sell or lease land and establishes scheduled procedures for processing applications to purchase surplus lands, the allowance of fees, prohibition of preference to a qualified conservation organization over another private party or individual, and limits further purchases of land by the department in a county or township without prior written agreement and authorization by that jurisdiction is more than 33% of the jurisdictions property is owned by the state, federal government, qualified conservation organization and commercial forest-land.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the Alger County Board of Commissioners supports reducing barriers to the public use of public lands for recreation and access and encourages the department to develop the Strategic Plan in consultation with local jurisdictions where department lands are located to ensure accuracy and local preference in proposed land uses; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Board of Commissioners supports the passage of Senate Bill No. 39 of 2015; and

**BE IT FINALLY, RESOLVED**, that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to our area legislators, the Michigan Association of Counties, and the other 82 Michigan Counties.

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the Resolutions set forth above were adopted by the Board of Commissioners of Alger County at the time, date, and place specified above pursuant to the required statutory procedures.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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Mary Ann Froberg, County Clerk

Dated: August 15, 2016

