

URGENT: Please make the call to protect Michigan's SANDHILL CRANES from recreational hunting!

On October 18, 2017, the Michigan House of Representatives passed the non-binding House Resolution (HR) 154, which urges the Michigan Natural Resources Commission (NRC) to authorize an open season on sandhill cranes, with a "voice vote." There was no roll call taken, so please ask your state Representative how she or he voted on HR 154 and let us know at contact@songbirdprotection.com. The NRC is now considering this proposal.

Please act now!

- Contact (call, email, mail) the NRC and the individual commissioners and politely to ask them to continue the protection of the sandhill crane as a traditional non-game bird in Michigan, as it has been for 100 years. See talking points below and additional information at SongbirdProtection.com
- Attend NRC meetings in person and be the voice for Michigan's sandhill cranes.

Contact the NRC at nrc@michigan.gov or at 517-284-6237, or you can contact each member individually below:

Vicki J. Pontz, Chair
1014 Montevideo
Lansing, MI 48917
517-643-2295

Christine Crumbaugh
9224 N. Crapo Road
St. Louis, MI 48880
989-763-1814

Louise Klarr
1645 West Kimmel Road
Jackson, MI 49201
248-417-5782

John Walters
6269 Mt. Vernon Hills Dr.
Vanderbilt, MI 49795
231-313-0057

J. R. Richardson
36658 McGuire Road
Ontonagon, MI 49953
906-281-5835

Rex E. Schlaybaugh, Jr.
492 East Main Street
Harbor Springs, MI 49740
313-377-0152

Chris Tracy
P.O. Box 5
Richland, MI 49083
269-806-7380

Talking points:

- The recreational hunting of sandhill cranes will not "protect crops" and is not backed by sound science. Effective non-lethal methods and products already exist to protect certain crops planted near prime wetland habitat from coming into conflict with sandhill cranes, and Michigan farmers can obtain permits to lethally remove individual sandhill cranes when necessary.
- A recent USDA report acknowledged a lack of sound scientific evidence that recreational hunting or other lethal means of removing sandhill cranes from nesting habitats near certain crops actually works to reduce conflict.
- Sandhill cranes are a vulnerable and recovering species at the northernmost breeding range of the Eastern Population, and were nearly wiped out in Michigan by the mid-20th century due to hunting and loss of habitat. Because of sound, scientific non-game conservation policy, Michigan's breeding population of sandhill cranes has begun to stabilize and level out. Opening up sandhill cranes to recreational hunting again could jeopardize the stability and progress that took several decades to accomplish.
- Sandhill cranes are worth much more to Michiganders alive than dead. Birdwatching is a major economic driver across the state, and each year thousands of visitors flock to "CraneFest," a sandhill crane festival in southern Michigan, to view and enjoy this iconic species. What's more, a new survey by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service found that wildlife watchers now outspend hunters nationwide by nearly 3 to 1.



Thank you for making the call to protect Michigan's sandhill cranes!



Songbird Protection Coalition
PO Box 80095, Lansing, MI 48908 | 517.321.DOVE (3683)
SongbirdProtection.com | contact@songbirdprotection.com