

Enter your address
City, State and Zip Code
Date

The Honorable (enter your state senator's first and last name)
State Senator
State Capitol
P.O. Box 30036
Lansing MI 48909-7536

Re: SB 298

Dear Senator (enter last name):

(Enter the name of your garden club or the word "I" if sending as an individual voter.) would appreciate your vote in support of **SB 298** making the **Black Swallowtail Butterfly** (*Papilio polyxenes*), the official State of Michigan Butterfly. Did you know that 47 of the 50 states have an official state butterfly, or official state insect, or both? Alas, Michigan does not. We believe Michigan should pass **SB 298** and join those states that celebrate the presence and value of butterflies with an official state butterfly.

SB 298 designating the **Black Swallowtail** (*Papilio polyxenes*) as the official State of Michigan Butterfly is an excellent choice for the following reasons:

- The Black Swallowtail (*Papilio polyxenes*) is a full-time Michigan resident. Many butterfly species are only part-time Michigan residents. They leave for warmer climates much of the year. But the Black Swallowtail overwinters in Michigan as a pupa. It is a full-time Michigan resident.
- The Black Swallowtail can be found throughout the State of Michigan. It is 3-4 inches in diameter making it fairly easy to be seen.
- Some butterflies reside in very tall trees, but the *Black Swallowtail* prefers flowering areas and natural areas filled with red clover, common milkweed, butterfly weed etc. This will also make it much easier to be seen and appreciated statewide.
- Each *Black Swallowtail* lives 2+ weeks with 2-3 generations per year. Further, as mentioned above, the *Black Swallowtail* overwinters as a pupa in Michigan. This makes it an excellent candidate for study by Michigan schoolchildren.
- Butterflies are pollinators—key partners in Michigan's agricultural and tourist industries.

Michigan Garden Clubs, Inc. has approximately 6,100 members statewide who would appreciate your support of this bill. In addition, we are prepared with letters of support from various related organizations and stakeholders. Please let me know as soon as possible if you will support **SB 298**. If you cannot support the bill, I would appreciate knowing your concerns and if you have suggestions to address them. If there are questions, or a need for additional information, perhaps we can help.

Your support of **SB 298** is very much appreciated.

Sincerely,

Marilyn McIntosh, President (Replace Marilyn's name and title with your name and club)
Michigan Garden Clubs, Inc.