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MICHIGAN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

**ERIC LEUTHEUSER**  
STATE REPRESENTATIVE

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September 6, 2017

Honorable Senator Arlan Meekhof  
Chair, Senate Government Operations Committee  
S-106 Capitol Building  
P.O. Box 30036  
Lansing, MI 48909-7536

Subject: Support for Senate Bill 298

Dear Chairman Meekhof,

I am writing to express my support for Senate Bill 298 sponsored by Senator Curtis Hertel, which was referred to the Senate Government Operations Committee on April 18, 2017.

This summer I had the opportunity to visit with a group of members from the Hillsdale Garden Club in my district. We discussed the important role that butterflies play in the overall health of our natural areas. Coincidentally, the club also shared with me their interest and support for SB 298 to make the Black Swallowtail Butterfly Michigan's official State Butterfly. I was happy to learn that the Senator had introduced the bill.

Pollinators are vital to our state's economy. In fact, it was one of the reasons I sponsored House Resolution 120 – a resolution to declare June 19 – 25, 2017 as Pollinator Week in the state of Michigan. As we look for a balanced, science-based approach to enhance habitat and strengthen their numbers, we should give special attention to native species, such as the Black Swallowtail Butterfly, which can be found throughout the entire state and is a permanent resident of Michigan. Senator Hertel's bill accomplishes this by recognizing the Black Swallowtail as Michigan's official state butterfly.

I appreciate your time and consideration of SB 298, and hope you will be open to holding a hearing on this bill.

Sincerely,

Eric Leutheuser  
State Representative, 58th District

Enclosure

CC: Senator Curtis Hertel, 23<sup>rd</sup> Senate District  
Mary Moore, Hillsdale Garden Club  
Susan Leahy, Michigan Garden Clubs, Inc.



# SENATE BILL No. 298

April 18, 2017, Introduced by Senators HERTEL, CONYERS, STAMAS, BIEDA, WARREN, YOUNG and PROOS and referred to the Committee on Government Operations.

A bill to designate the black swallowtail butterfly as the official butterfly of the state of Michigan.

**THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:**

1           Sec. 1. The black swallowtail butterfly (*Papilio polyxenes*) is  
2 designated as this state's official state butterfly.

3           Enacting section 1. This act takes effect 90 days after the  
4 date it is enacted into law.

Reps. Leutheuser, Chirkun, Cochran, Crawford, Ellison, Faris, Gay-Dagnogo, Geiss, Greig, Howrylak, Hughes, Jones, Kahle, Kelly, Kesto, Lauwers, Rabhi, Rendon, Singh, Sowerby, Wittenberg and Yanez offered the following resolution:

**House Resolution No. 120.**

A resolution to declare June 19-25, 2017, as Pollinator Week in the state of Michigan.

Whereas, Pollinating animals are essential parts of our ecosystem and a critical component to our planet's food security; and

Whereas, Farmers depend on pollinator species such as honey bees, butterflies, birds, and bats to successfully produce approximately one-third of all agricultural output in the United States and 50 percent of Michigan's agricultural output; and

Whereas; Pollinator loss poses a significant threat to United States agriculture and the ability of our farmers and rural gardeners to feed both themselves and a growing world population; and

Whereas, Urban and rural beekeepers play an important role in state and federal agricultural production and the preservation of honey bees which have seen their natural numbers decline to near crisis levels in recent years due to a combination of factors; and

Whereas, Michigan is a leader in honey production and many pollinator-dependent crops including apples, cranberries, blueberries, and cherries. Agriculture is a key driver of not just Michigan's economy, agritourism, and farm-to-table industries, but also rural economies across the United States; and

Whereas, The state of Michigan recognizes the serious threats posed by pollinator loss and the key role state stakeholders play in providing guidance on best apiary management and stewardship practices, proper use of pesticide products, and technical assistance to farmers and other private landowners; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives, That the members of this legislative body declare June 19-25, 2017, as Pollinator Week in the state of Michigan; and be it further

Resolved, That we encourage all citizens to build support for protecting and sustaining pollinators through increased awareness and the implementation of pollinator-friendly best practices that enhance their habitat and strengthen their numbers. We highlight the importance of pollinators, stress the negative ramifications of continued pollinator loss, and encourage the awareness and use of pollinator best practices.