



53RD DISTRICT  
STATE CAPITOL  
P.O. BOX 30014  
LANSING, MI 48909-7514  
PHONE: (517) 373-2577  
FAX: (517) 373-5808  
E-MAIL: [yousefrabhi@house.mi.gov](mailto:yousefrabhi@house.mi.gov)

MICHIGAN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

**YUSEF RABHI**  
DEMOCRATIC FLOOR LEADER

May 16, 2019

To whom it may concern,

I am honored to support House Bill 4314, which was introduced by Rep. Julie Brixie to name the black swallowtail butterfly as the official State Butterfly of Michigan. This wonderful butterfly can be found throughout our state and is often seen in gardens, forests, and parks. Unlike many butterflies, the black swallowtail does not migrate; it is a proud Michigan resident year-round. Because the black swallowtail completes its entire life cycle in our state, it provides an excellent educational opportunity for Michigan students to study insect development and ecology.

The black swallowtail sips nectar from and pollinates some of our state's most vibrant and popular flowers. Pollinators like the black swallowtail serve a vital and under-recognized role in our state's ecology and economy. More than 1,200 crops rely on pollinators, as do countless wild plant species. Unfortunately, many pollinator species are threatened by loss of habitat and pesticide misuse. By supporting a state butterfly, legislators can draw attention to the importance of protecting pollinators.

I hope many of my colleagues will join me in supporting HB 4314 so that we can give the black swallowtail the credit it is due. Michigan is one of just three U.S. states that has yet to name a state insect or butterfly. Now is the perfect time to honor the black swallowtail and recognize the importance of insect life to our state.

Sincerely,

Yousef Rabhi