

Date: _____

Honorable _____

State Representative

Capitol Building

P.O. Box 30014

Lansing MI 48909

Re: HB 4314

Dear Representative _____ ,

I would appreciate your vote in support of HB 4314 designating the Black Swallowtail Butterfly (Papilio Polyxenes) as 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? Michigan has neither. We believe Michigan should pass HB 4314 and join those states that celebrate the presence and value of butterflies with an official state butterfly.

The Black Swallowtail is the best choice to be named as a State symbol 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 and appreciated.
- 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 by all Michiganders.
- 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 6,000 members statewide who would appreciate your support of this bill. In addition, the Michigan Garden Clubs’ website lists those who have written letters of support including 3 of your colleagues.

Your support of HB 4314 is very much appreciated.

Sincerely,

*Be sure to include your address under your signature.