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MICHIGAN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JIM ELLISON
STATE REPRESENTATIVE

October 14, 2019

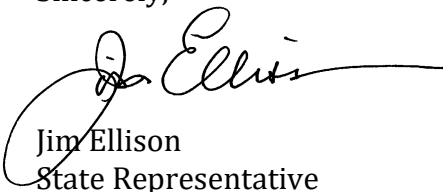
To whom it may concern,

I am writing to express my support for House Bill 4314, which was introduced by Rep. Julie Brixie and would designate the Black Swallowtail as the official State of Michigan Butterfly. The Black Swallowtail is an important pollinator for Michigan's agricultural crops and our state's most popular flowers. Pollinators serve an important role for our state ecology and are vital to the production of agricultural products. Therefore, the Black Swallowtail serves to be a valuable educational opportunity among students on the importance of pollinators and the preservation of the environment.

The black swallowtail does not migrate south for winter, which means that it is a full-time Michigan resident. The black swallowtail sips nectar and pollinates Michigan's crops and flowers—which is important for our state's ecology and economy. More than 1,200 crops rely on pollinators, as do many wild plant species. By recognizing the Black Swallowtail as our State's butterfly, we can draw attention to the importance of pollinators. Michigan is one of only three states that do not have an official state butterfly, but with HB 4314 Michigan can promote environmental responsibility and preservation, while valuing the presence and worth of the black swallowtail butterfly.

I believe in the recognition of the black swallowtail as Michigan's official state butterfly and hope that many of my colleagues will join me in supporting HB 4314.

Sincerely,



Jim Ellison
State Representative
House District 26