

The Honorable Kenneth Horn

State Senator

State Capitol

P.O. Box 30036

Lansing, MI 48909-7536

Re: SB167

Dear Senator,

We would appreciate your vote in support of **SB167** making the **Black Swallowtail (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 **SB167** and join those states that celebrate the presence and value of butterflies with an official state butterfly.

SB167 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 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 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.

If you are in favor of this legislation to give Michigan a State Butterfly, we ask that you request a hearing from Senator Mike Shirkey, Chair of the Senate’s Governmental Operations Committee. So that he can set a hearing on this bill.

Michigan Garden Clubs, Inc. has approximately 6,100 members statewide who would appreciate your support of the bill. In addition, we are prepared with letters of support from various related organizations and stakeholders. The Saginaw Branch of Woman's National Farm & Garden Association, a like-minded organization, and a club of 98 members supports Michigan Garden Clubs in seeing the Black Swallowtail become our State butterfly! Please let me know as soon as possible if you will not support **SB167**. If you cannot support this bill, I would appreciate knowing your concerns and if you have suggestions to address them. If there are any questions, or a need for additional information, perhaps we can help.

Your support of SB167 is very much appreciated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Stella K. Thelen". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

Stella Thelen

President, The Saginaw Branch of Woman's National Farm & Garden Association