

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 30

Senator Zorn offered the following resolution:

1 A resolution to encourage the Natural Resources Commission to
2 add Sandhill cranes to the game species list and seek U.S. Fish and
3 Wildlife Service approval to establish a Sandhill crane hunting
4 season.

5 Whereas, Michigan is home to an ever-increasing population of
6 Sandhill cranes. The 2016 Michigan Breeding Waterfowl Survey
7 estimates 48,900 spring breeding Sandhill cranes; and

8 Whereas, Sandhill cranes are already hunted in Minnesota,
9 Tennessee, and Kentucky when they migrate beyond Michigan's
10 borders. They are classified as a game species under the federal
11 Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1916; and

12 Whereas, Hunting seasons are strictly regulated by the
13 Mississippi Flyway Council and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

1 to ensure that the Sandhill crane population remains robust. Under
2 the *Eastern Population Crane Management Plan*, states may only
3 receive approval for a hunting season after submitting pertinent
4 information to the Mississippi Flyway Council, including an
5 estimate of the peak number of Sandhill cranes and time of
6 migration over a five-year period, proposed number of permits to be
7 issued, and proposed season dates. States with hunting seasons are
8 required to gather information from hunters and track the Sandhill
9 crane population; and

10 Whereas, A hunting season will benefit hunters and the growing
11 Sandhill crane population; now, therefore, be it

12 Resolved by the Senate, That we encourage the Natural
13 Resources Commission to add Sandhill cranes to the game species
14 list and seek U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service approval to establish
15 a Sandhill crane hunting season; and be it further

16 Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the
17 members of the Michigan Natural Resources Commission, the Director
18 of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, and the Governor
19 of Michigan.