

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 60

Senator McBroom offered the following resolution:

1 A resolution to urge the Natural Resources Commission to hold
2 a formal, full meeting on the proposed changes to deer baiting and
3 feeding policies in the affected area of the Upper Peninsula before
4 any decisions are made to change the regulations.

5 Whereas, The Natural Resources Commission has instituted a
6 deer feeding and baiting ban in the Lower Peninsula in response to
7 the identification of chronic wasting disease in deer in several
8 counties in Michigan; and

9 Whereas, The Department of Natural Resources has proposed a
10 deer baiting and feeding ban in approximately 600 square miles of
11 the Upper Peninsula in response to the positive identification of a
12 deer with chronic wasting disease in Dickinson County. Although the
13 department held several public meetings in the Upper Peninsula, the

1 commission has not scheduled a full commission meeting in the Upper
2 Peninsula to discuss the proposed ban. This is especially important
3 as it seems that some within the department seem to desire a full
4 ban on baiting and feeding across the Upper Peninsula despite just
5 one deer being found to have chronic wasting disease after enhanced
6 and significant testing efforts. The Natural Resources Commission
7 is poised to decide on baiting and feeding regulations at their
8 next meeting more than 400 miles and eight hours away from the
9 affected area; and

10 Whereas, The deer herds in the Upper Peninsula experience a
11 different environment and habitat than deer in the Lower Peninsula.
12 In the event of a hard winter in the Upper Peninsula, deer can
13 experience a high rate of death. Supplemental winter feeding can be
14 the difference between herd survival or tremendous loss come
15 spring; and

16 Whereas, Special consideration for economic impacts is also
17 warranted for the Upper Peninsula. Product used for bait and feed
18 come from Michigan producers, and the baiting market offers growers
19 an economical outlet for lower-quality fruits and vegetables or
20 specific items grown for that purpose with crops already planted
21 this season; and

22 Whereas, Hunters in the Upper Peninsula want to work with the
23 Natural Resources Commission and the Department of Natural
24 Resources. The Upper Peninsula deer herd needs to be managed by the
25 commission and Upper Peninsula residents working together as
26 partners. Holding a full commission meeting in the Upper Peninsula
27 will enhance the conversation among Upper Peninsula residents and
28 the commission and department; now, therefore, be it

29 Resolved by the Senate, That we urge the Natural Resources

1 Commission to hold a formal, full meeting on the proposed changes
2 to deer baiting and feeding policies in the affected area of the
3 Upper Peninsula before any decisions are made to change the
4 regulations; and be it further

5 Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the
6 members of the Natural Resources Commission, the Director of the
7 Department of Natural Resources, and the Governor.