

**RESOLUTION**  
**OPPOSING THE FY 2025 GOVERNOR’S RECOMMENDED BUDGET REDUCING**  
**OPERATIONAL FUNDING FOR THE MICHIGAN CONSERVATION DISTRICTS AND THE**  
**ELIMINATION OF LOCAL ADMINISTRATION OF THE MICHIGAN AGRICULTURE**  
**ENVIRONMENTAL ASSURANCE PROGRAM (MAEAP)**  
**06132024 – CD-MAEAP**

**Whereas,** Governor Whitmer’s Executive Budget Recommendations for the fiscal year 2025 budget includes a \$1,000,000 budget reduction to Michigan Conservation Districts within the budget of the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development; and

**Whereas,** the FY 2025 budget recommendation also recommended the termination of local Conservation District Technicians who administer the Michigan Agriculture Environmental Assurance Program and replace them with 24 State employees; and

**Whereas,** this recommendation undermines the local conservation delivery system led by the local Conservation Districts covering all of Michigan’s 83 counties, using the voluntary, non-regulatory, educational approach used across the country to address natural resource concerns at the local level; and

**Whereas,** PA 297 of 1937 established Conservation District’s as local units of State Government to work with landowners in every county to address natural resource concerns. These districts are driven by a five member, publicly elected Board of Directors. These Boards establish conservation priorities based upon local needs and work voluntarily with landowners to address these critical natural resource concerns. This is the only organization that can do this on private land with the trust of the landowner; and

**Whereas,** Michigan Conservation Districts have been critically underfunded for decades leading to high employee turnover which undermines the success of programs and the ability to administer assistance to the public; and

**Whereas,** Michigan cannot effectively allocate federal funds from the Inflation Reduction Act and Title II of the Farm Bill due to the lack of funding provided by the State of Michigan. This leaves critical Federal dollars on the table that become reallocated to other States that can more effectively deliver Farm Bill dollars.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED,** The Crawford County Board of Commissioners requests that the FY 2025 budget maintain the operational budget for the Michigan Agriculture Environmental Assurance Program (MAEAP) at its current capacity with the local technicians employed by the Conservation Districts; and

**BE IT FUTURE RESOLVED,** That the Crawford County Board of Commissioners implores the Legislature of the State of Michigan to properly fund Michigan Conservation Districts and work with MDARD and the Michigan Association of Conservation Districts (MACD) to find or develop a restricted funding source to provide Conservation Districts with an annual allocation of \$13,000,000.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** that this resolution be forwarded to Governor Gretchen Whitmer, Senator Michele Hoytenga, Representative Ken Borton, the Michigan Association of Counties and all other 82 counties in the state of Michigan.

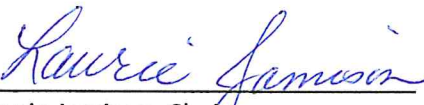
APPROVED AS TO FORM

Commissioner Jamison	Absent	Commissioner Kraycs	Yes
Commissioner Frederick	Yes	Commissioner Powers	absent
Commissioner Goscicki	Yes	Commissioner Moore	Yes
	Commissioner Lewis	Yes	

ADOPTED DATE: June 13, 2024

I, Jamie McClain, Clerk of the Crawford County Board of Commissioners and Clerk of the County of Crawford, do hereby certify that the above Resolution was duly adopted by the said Board on June 13, 2024.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of said County and Court at Grayling, Michigan, on this 13<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2024.

  
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Laurie Jamison, Chair  
Crawford County Board of Commissioners

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jamie L. McClain  
Clerk/ROD