

RESOLUTION ICDP 2023-2

Reference Category

<input type="checkbox"/> Local Issues	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Economy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Human Rights/Social Welfare
<input type="checkbox"/> Party Issue	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cities, Counties & State
<input type="checkbox"/> State Platform	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public Protection	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Natural Resource & Energy
<input type="checkbox"/> Testimonial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Foreign Policy & Defense
<input type="checkbox"/> Administrative Action		<input type="checkbox"/> Other

TITLE OF RESOLUTION: Clean Water Protection – Uniform State Standards and Regulation of Septic Tank Systems

Drafted by: Dixon Dudderar

Adopted and Submitted by the Iosco County Democratic Party in Partnership with the Michigan Democratic Party Rural Caucus: 224 Newman St, East Tawas, MI 48730
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WHEREAS: The abundance of clean, available, and naturally pristine fresh water in the Great Lakes, inland lakes, aquifers, streams and rivers defines Michigan in ways unlike any other state and is integral to the identity, prosperity, past and future of Michigan residents, and

WHEREAS: Michigan's waters are cherished and historically essential to indigenous people and their culture, and

WHEREAS: Michigan's waters are valued for recreational use, interstate (commerce), tourism and manufacturing industries and are fundamental to Michigan's economic security, and

WHEREAS: The ponds, wetlands, streams, rivers, lakes and underground aquifers supply and directly affect the quality and drinking water and water for sanitation, and

WHEREAS: As the "Great Lake State" Michigan's water resources are essential for Michigan's industrial and tourism industries, coveted by these industries in other states, and attract millions of visitors supporting tourism revenue as the backbone of local economies in coastal and inland rural counties through tax revenues, business development and employment, and

WHEREAS: Michigan has between 1.3 and 1.4 million onsite septic systems and 35 percent of Michigan residents rely on septic systems for personal, home or business sanitation, and

WHEREAS: Recent evidence indicates that up to 10 percent of Michigan's septic systems may be leaking into all categories of open or aquifer fresh water, (Refs. 1, 2), and

WHEREAS: Proven and suspected leakage from randomly regulated septic tanks pose known and verifiable threats to the state's critical aquifers waterways, and, therefore to the public's health, and economic security, and

WHEREAS: Regulation of septic systems in Michigan is patchwork, varied and without uniform functional or sanitary standards, because Michigan is the only state without a statewide sanitary code for septic systems, leaving regulation, monitoring and surveillance to the discretion of counties or townships to randomly set standards. (Ref 2), and

WHEREAS: Michigan's lack of uniform septic system regulations is an unnecessary risk for the state's lakes, ponds, aquifers and streams (Ref 3).

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That legislation is passed to establish uniform standards for septic system function and sanitary security that would address septic system failure threats. Such legislation should delegate regulation and inspection of septic systems to Michigan's Department of Environment, Great Lakes & Energy (EGLE).

Ref 1 <https://www.michigan.gov/egle>

https://www.mlive.com/environment/2013/05/thousands_of_failed_septic_tan.html

Ref 2 <https://mymlsa.org/government-and-legal-issues/ordinances/septic-system-ordinances/>

Ref 3 <https://www.michiganradio.org/environment-climate-change/2022-05-04/michigans-lack-of-septic-system-regulations-is-causing-problems-for-some-of-its-most-pristine-Appropriate>

<https://www.wemu.org/issues-of-the-environment/2021-07-28/issues-of-the-environment-does-michigan-need-a-statewide-code-for-septic-systems>

TARGET LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEES:

Michigan Senate

<https://committees.senate.michigan.gov/details?com=ENGENV&sessionId=15>

Michigan House

<https://www.house.mi.gov/Committee/HNATU>

SIGNATURE OF CHAIRPERSON: _____

Carole Bleau

DATE