



49651 Shenandoah Circle  
Canton, MI 48187

April 23, 2019

Senator Ed McBroom  
Chair, Natural Resources Committee  
Michigan Senate

*Hand Delivered; and via email to Jackie Mosher, Committee Clerk,  
[OfcSMCC@senate.michigan.gov](mailto:OfcSMCC@senate.michigan.gov) and [jmosher@senate.michigan.gov](mailto:jmosher@senate.michigan.gov)*

**Re: Opposition to SR 0030, Senate Natural Resources Committee Meeting, April 24, 2019**

Dear Sen. McBroom and Committee Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide information to the committee. Attorneys for Animals, Inc. (AFA) is a Michigan non-profit and 501(c)(3) organization of legal professionals and animal advocates. The organization's Board of Directors voted to oppose SR 0030.

Sandhill cranes have been protected in Michigan for 103 years under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, during which time their numbers have rebounded from near extinction. Authorizing a hunting season should not be the go-to response to a successful conservation effort to save these birds.

And yet, that is what SR 0030 would do. The reasons to support this resolution have been distilled down, even from those given in support of a similar measure that was introduced in the Senate last session<sup>i</sup> to the following:

- “A hunting season will benefit hunters, and the growing Sandhill crane population” – but what is evidence that the Sandhill crane population will benefit
- Implication that only by instituting a hunting season will the state be required to track population, “States with hunting seasons are required to ... track the Sandhill crane population” -- but the DNR can do that under existing authority (and certainly is doing this with regard to the gray wolf)

In September 2014, Russ Mason, the MDNR's wildlife division chief said of the possibility of a Sandhill crane season: “should it ever become a burning issue, rest assured that all interests will have an equal seat at the table and a strong voice.”<sup>ii</sup>

Cranes are considered the oldest bird species and Michigan's largest. The birds and their habitats are of great value to birders and other outdoor enthusiasts, thousands of whom gather each fall for

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CraneFest in Bellevue, MI, with this year marking the festival's 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary. These non-consumptive users are among the interests being ignored by this resolution.

Attorneys for Animals asks this Committee to give opponents to Sandhill crane hunting "an equal seat and a strong voice," and to not report SR 0030 out of Committee.

Very Truly Yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Beatrice M. Friedlander". The ink is dark and the signature is centered on the page.

Beatrice M. Friedlander, JD  
President

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<sup>i</sup> HR 154 <http://legislature.mi.gov/doc.aspx?2017-HR-0154>

<sup>ii</sup> <https://howardmeyerson.com/2014/09/19/sandhill-cranes-rebound-in-michigan-opens-hunt-possibilities/> This appears in the Jackpine Warbler, the magazine of [Michigan Audubon](#) (last visited April 23, 2019).