



September 14, 2023

Honorable Sue Shink  
P.O. Box 30036  
Lansing, MI 48909-7536



Black Swallowtail Butterfly  
Photo by Lynn Shaughnessy

Dear Senator Shink,

I am writing to encourage HB4159 to be placed on the Senate Natural Resources and Agriculture Committee hearing schedule *as soon as possible*. I am concerned that if HB4159 does not move on to the Senate very soon, the current session may close before the bill can be read and voted on by the Senate.

As you may recall from previous communications, many Michigan citizens feel that the Black Swallowtail is the perfect choice as the state butterfly for the following reasons:

- It spends its entire life cycle in Michigan, wintering over as a pupa. This is unlike all other butterflies that are transient visitors to our state.
- Its habitat covers the entire state of Michigan.
- It is beautiful and nonthreatening, making it an excellent teaching tool about pollinators.
- The Black Swallowtail lives at garden level making it easily visible and identifiable. Again, making this butterfly an excellent teaching tool.

It is a must that Michigan promotes the importance of pollinators. Our state is a breadbasket with a huge variety of crops, most of which depend on pollinators. Our major crops of blueberries, apples, and cherries all depend on pollinators. We must not forget that two out of every three bites of food depend on pollinators.

Your consideration of giving HB4159 a hearing with the Natural Resources and Agriculture Committee in the very near future is greatly appreciated.

Best regards,