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TO: The Honorable Detroit City Council

FROM: David Whitaker, Director   
Legislative Policy Division (LPD) Staff

DATE: February 7, 2019

RE: **Resolution supporting Governor Whitmer's reorganization of  
MDEQ**

On February 7, 2019, Council Member Benson directed the Legislative Policy Division (LPD) to draft a resolution supporting Governor Gretchen Whitmer's executive order reorganizing the State Department of Environmental Quality, to be known as the Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy. The draft resolution is attached.

If Council has any other questions or concerns regarding this subject, LPD will be happy to provide further research and analysis upon request.

**RESOLUTION SUPPORTING GOVERNOR WHITMER'S EXECUTIVE ORDER  
CREATING A NEW MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT, GREAT  
LAKES AND ENERGY FROM THE CURRENT MDEQ**

**By Council Member Scott Benson**

WHEREAS, Governor Gretchen Whitmer has issued an Executive Order that creates a new Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy from the current Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ). The renamed and restructured department would emphasize and pursue public policy directions that center on preserving and enhancing the State's natural resources, and especially on protecting safe drinking water; and

WHEREAS, Unfortunately, the Republican-dominated State House of Representatives subsequently passed a measure opposing the Governor's executive order, and the Republican-dominated State Senate can be expected very soon to do the same, based on an extensive history of Michigan GOP efforts to undermine environmental protections by attacking the integrity and competencies of the DEQ and its predecessor State Government departments; and

WHEREAS, In particular, the recent lame duck State Legislature passed inappropriate and ill-advised statutory restrictions on the DEQ that would subject environmental protection measures to onerous, unfair and result-oriented so-called environmental oversight panels that threaten Michigan's precious natural resources and public health by fiscally straitjacketing the DEQ and substituting the bottom line of corporate polluters' profits for sound environmental protection; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Detroit City Council strongly supports Governor Whitmer's Executive Order that creates a new Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy from the current MDEQ; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT copies of this resolution shall be delivered to the Governor, Detroit's State Legislative delegation, the City's Lansing lobbyist, the State's Congressional delegation, and media.