

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 33

Senator Cherry offered the following resolution:

1 A resolution to commemorate Ronald Olson upon his retirement
2 from his role as the Chief of Parks and Recreation at the Michigan
3 Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

4 Whereas, Ronald Olson has made outstanding contributions and
5 shown unwavering dedication to the state, serving as a model to
6 which we all should aspire; and

7 Whereas, He dedicated two decades of his career to the DNR,
8 playing a pivotal role in enhancing Michigan's state parks,
9 recreation system, and trail development. His relentless efforts
10 led to the development and implementation of policies and programs
11 that propelled Michigan's parks to national acclaim; and

12 Whereas, Under his leadership, initiatives focused on
13 conservation, public engagement, and infrastructure improvements
14 quickly transformed the state's natural spaces, establishing them

1 as some of the best in the country; and

2 Whereas, Ronald Olson has been crucial in expanding Michigan's
3 state parks and forging strong partnerships. His notable
4 achievements include the development of Flint State Park with the
5 Mott Foundation and the Menominee River State Recreation Area,
6 Wisconsin's first collaborative park management effort. He also
7 oversaw the management and revitalization of Belle Isle Park and
8 played a key role in the Iron Belle Trail, which includes hiking
9 and biking routes that expand from Detroit to the western tip of
10 the Upper Peninsula; and

11 Whereas, He is recognized with multiple awards throughout his
12 career with the DNR, including the Gold Medal Award from the
13 National Recreation and Park Association. Ronald Olson has
14 significantly contributed to Michigan's natural resources and
15 recreational opportunities for all Michiganders; now, therefore, be
16 it

17 Resolved by the Senate, That the members of this legislative
18 body commemorate Ronald Olson upon his retirement from his role as
19 the Chief of Parks and Recreation at the Michigan Department of
20 Natural Resources (DNR). May we honor Ronald Olson for his
21 exceptional service and contributions to the state as well as his
22 well-deserved retirement.