



nature.org/michigan
nature.org/greatlakes

Main Office
101 E. César E. Chávez Ave.
Lansing, MI 48906
(517) 316-0300

Upper Peninsula Office
220 W. Washington St., Ste. 330
Marquette, MI 49855
(906) 225-0399

Detroit Office
4219 Woodward Ave., Ste. 302
Detroit, MI 48201
(517) 316-2271

November 24, 2025

Save Sibley Prairie Coalition
c/o Michigan Land Conservancy
10325 Cherry Hill Rd.
Superior Township, MI 48198

Dear Save Sibley Prairie Coalition,

On behalf of The Nature Conservancy – Michigan, I write to express our full support for the Save Sibley Prairie Coalition in its effort to protect the 440-acre Fritz Enterprises Inc. tract. Sibley Road Prairie is, by far, the largest remnant of lakeplain prairie in Michigan, and the Fritz tract is the most important parcel within that remnant. The Nature Conservancy has recognized the importance of the Sibley Road Prairie for more than three decades, and this collaborative effort to protect the Fritz tract represents the best opportunity in all that time.

As the Save Sibley Prairie Coalition has noted, lakeplain prairies once covered roughly 300,000 acres in southeast Michigan and the Saginaw Bay area, and less than one percent remains in restorable condition. While this ecosystem has been mostly converted to residential or agricultural land uses, the remaining natural portions harbor disproportionately important biodiversity including rare plants and insects and grasslands with extremely high floristic quality. They also serve important functions, including water storage and purification (many lakeplain prairies are seasonal or permanent wetlands), and air quality improvement, and the Sibley Road Prairie also offers the opportunity for the people of Brownstown Township and all of Michigan to enjoy a unique and beautiful natural area through planned public access.

At a landscape scale, these lakeplain prairie remnants are among the most important stopover sites for migrating landbirds. Inland of the Detroit River corridor, Sibley Road Prairie is the largest block of high quality landbird stopover habitat in all of Wayne County. Further, Sibley Road Prairie is a reservoir of native species that have become increasingly rare elsewhere, and with improved management these species can thrive and provide propagules for natural dispersal to other, smaller remnant and restored grasslands.

The Nature Conservancy's mission is to conserve the lands and waters on which all life depends, with a vision to create a world in which people and nature thrive. Protecting the Sibley Road Prairie will ensure that a unique and critical component of the nature of Southeast Michigan will continue to thrive and benefit people throughout Michigan.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Helen Taylor". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Helen" being more prominent than the last name "Taylor".

Helen Taylor
State Director