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TO: Belle Isle Park Advisory Committee
FROM: Heather Good, Michigan Audubon Executive Director
RE: Opposition to car racing proposed at Belle Isle Park
DATE: September 19, 2017

On behalf of Michigan Audubon, the state's oldest conservation organization, I would like to submit a public statement for the record and for public sharing regarding our opposition to the expansion of car racing at Belle Isle Park for the Belle Isle Park Advisory Committee Meeting on September 21, 2017.

As strategic planning moves forward for Belle Isle, **Michigan Audubon strongly recommends prioritizing habitat conservation, land preservation, and environmental education at this important site.** Belle Isle serves a stopover habitat during migration, meaning innumerable species of birds depend on undisturbed habitats within Belle Isle Park during spring and fall migration for rest and sustenance. We believe places like Belle Isle -- particularly because it is poised as a lasting, powerful example of urban conservation and environmental education for the Detroit area -- should be protected, preserved, and shared. The existence and potential expansion of car racing to Belle Isle is a detriment to the historical and ecological integrity, environmental health, and value of Belle Isle Park.

Michigan Audubon is excited to join the collaborative outreach and voices of conservation groups further disruptive infrastructure of car racing from impeding the park's great value to our state, the Detroit area, wildlife, people, and North American migratory birds.

Sincerely,
Heather Good
Executive Director