



# The Committee to Restore the Dove Shooting Ban

P.O. Box 81183 • Lansing, MI 48908  
(517) 321-DOVE phone • (517) 651-6000 fax  
www.StopShootingDoves.org

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tuesday, August 30, 2005

**CONTACT:** Julie Baker 517/321-DOVE  
Stephen Serkaian/Brian Barthelmes 517/332-0001

### **SEPT. 1 MOURNING DOVE SHOOT BLOCKED** **Michigan Voters Can Restore Dove Shooting Ban Permanently by** **Voting “No” on Referendum in November 2006**

September 1 marks the suspension of mourning dove shooting season in Michigan, thanks to the Board of State Canvassers’ June 2, 2005 approval and certification of the more than 275,000 petition signatures presented by the Committee to Restore the Dove Shooting Ban to place the referendum on the November 2006 ballot.

“The suspension of the mourning dove shoot in 2005 and 2006 can be made permanent by Michigan citizens voting ‘no’ on the mourning dove referendum in November 2006,” said Julie Baker, Director of the Committee to Restore the Dove Shooting Ban. “Thanks to the support of thousands of Michigan voters, there will be no mourning dove shooting season in Michigan in 2005 and 2006, saving hundreds of thousands of mourning doves that would have been needlessly shot and killed.

“Shooting mourning doves doesn’t make sense, especially since they pose no danger to people or property, are not a viable food source, and are not overpopulated,” continued Baker.

A statewide EPIC-MRA poll released August 12 demonstrated overwhelming opposition to mourning dove shooting in Michigan when it found that if the November 2006 election were held today, 60 percent of Michigan voters would vote “NO” on the mourning dove referendum to prevent the shooting of mourning doves, while only 32 percent would vote “yes” to allow it.

Official state certification of the Committee’s petition signatures stops the shooting of mourning doves until the November 2006 election as stipulated by **Article II, Section 9 of the Michigan Constitution**, which states that, *“No law as to which the power of referendum properly has been invoked shall be effective thereafter unless approved by a majority of the electors voting thereon at the next general election.”*

The Committee to Restore the Dove Shooting Ban seeks to restore Michigan’s 100-year ban on the shooting of mourning doves by urging Michigan voters to vote ‘no’ on the mourning dove referendum in November 2006.

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#### Charter Members

Animal Law Section

Attorneys for Animals

Animal Protection Institute

American Society for the  
Prevention of Cruelty to  
Animals

Detroit Audubon Society

Doris Day Animal League

The Fund for Animals

Green Party of Michigan

The Humane Society of the  
United States

Kalamazoo Humane Society

Michigan Audubon Society

Michigan Federation of  
Humane Societies and Animal  
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Michigan Humane Society

National Humane Education  
Society

Former Gov. William G.  
Milliken

Society for Animal Protective  
Legislation

Songbird Protection Coalition

Sportsmen Against Dove  
Hunting

Whitefish Point Bird  
Observatory

The Committee submitted 73% more signatures than the 159,000 required by law for certification, illustrating the overwhelming support for the referendum campaign by the voters of Michigan. Committee members include the Michigan Audubon Society, the Detroit Audubon Society, the Michigan Humane Society and the Humane Society of the United States.

For more information and a complete list of organizations working to restore Michigan's dove shooting ban, visit the Committee to Restore the Dove Shooting Ban website at [www.StopShootingDoves.org](http://www.StopShootingDoves.org).

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