EMEAC applauds ruling on DNR changes

Democrats and environmental groups including the Birminghum-based East Michigan Environmental Actual Council were existic that a judge declared unconstitutional Gov. John Engler's reorganization of the state Department of Natural Be

sources. Engler will ask the Court of Appeals to reverse the decision of Ingham Circuit Judge Peter Houk. His executive order abolishing 19

Appeals court sends Diamond Mortgage head back to prison

Convicted mortgoge scam artist-lighten Greenberg may find hunself back to priore rather than its an Ponti-sc halfway house after a state Court of Appeal beviation. Attorney General Frank Kelley parised the appealist rulung, revers-ing an Oakland Circuit Court devi-sion ordering the Department of Corrections to transfer Greenberg to a balfway house. a haifway house.

a bailway horse. In November, 1950, Kelley pro-trand the Corrections Department transfer plan, When Greenberg re-turned to circuit court to challenge the authority of the attorney gener-dication of Circuit Joint Paloe Harry Hyward declared the attorney gener-transfer to the attorney generation of the attorney

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boards and commissions within the DNI and giving more authority to the DNI director was due to take ef-fect trèn 15 "We'll see how this goes on ap-peal," said Elizabeth Harris, execu-tive director of EMIAC. "But I would not want to be the attorney going to court against language as strong as Judge How's " EMEAC Joined four other groups in praising How "for a decision that

recognizes fundamental rights of private citizens to know what their government is doing and to have their voides heard by decision mak-ers." They added, "By ramming his down the throats of the public, the governor left us no choice" but to

"WE'RE VERY ELATED." Harris WETHE VERY ELATED," Harris said "Wery saying there needs to be some changes (in the DNR). We did nut want to go to court, but the gov-ernor's office left us no choice. "What the judge has stated ad-dresses the concerns of environmen-tal groups and reaches the right re-sult."

Sald House Speaker Lewis Dodak, D Birch Run, a plaintiff with four

other lawmakers "For the second time, Gov. Engler has been turned away by the courts in his attempt to usurp the powers and responsibilities of the Legislature. Not only does the executive order violate the constitu-tion, it shuist the public out of envi-ronmental policy in Michigan." Michigan United Conservation Clubs filed a third sult. Hock ruled all had standing to sue and consoli-dated the cases.

HOUK'S 12-PAGE opinion said the governor lacked constitutional autionity to create a new DNR, to reassign responsibilities and to re-move public hearings functions from water and air pollution boards. Houk's answers to key legal minist.

commissions whose function is to hold public hearings. The Water Hessource Commission and Air Pol-lution Control Commission are but two examples of where eithers can express concerns over individual and policy decision." But the judge found "no violation of Open Meetings, Freedom' of Information and Revised Judicature Acts." • The constitution "doesn't ex-pressly authorize the governor to create new departments." Engler's order "does violence in the extreme" to the separation of legislative and executive powers. • "The governor may not desig-lature empowered the commission" to letter. • "The governor may not dele-

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ate power to persons not authorized by statute to exercise it " Engler's origination of the state of the state of the state power to issue permits. • Engler's ouder allowerd ar-prived persons to "seek direct re-commission "While this is aceming, by benign, it has not been authorized out the constitution or the Legisla-ture, and potentially creates an ee-ture, and potentially creates an ee-ture, and potentially creates an ee-ture, and potentially creates an en-ture, and potentially creates an en-ture of the order has budgetary in-

ment." • The order has budgetary im-plications for the department and for the courts, which should be de-cided in the Legislature, not the ex-cutive branch." Staff writers Tim Richard and Judith: Berne contributed to this

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