

December 31, 2010

RECEIVED
JAN 11 2011
BY: *B...*

International Joint Commission
2401 Pennsylvania Avenue N.W.
4th Floor
Washington, D.C. 20440

RE: Proposal to consider raising the level of Lake Michigan

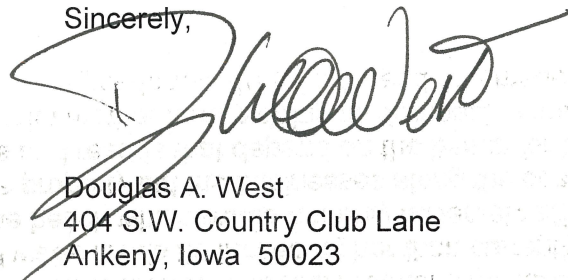
To Whom It May Concern:

It is my understanding that the International Joint Commission plans to request that the Upper Great Lakes Study Board suggest things that could be done to raise the level of Lake Michigan and Lake Huron by perhaps as much as 20 inches because of requests received from Georgian Bay residents asking them to consider it. I remember back to the high water levels of 1986 which resulted in significant erosion and damage to the bluff on which my home is located and the washout of the main highway to our south which has to this day yet to be repaired and has reduced access to my property, creating a possible serious safety issue if a road section to the north were also to wash out due to rising lake water levels. The recreational aspects of the area with the availability of beach is critical and water levels 20 inches higher than currently would totally inundate, destroy and eliminate the beach which would not only adversely affect my enjoyment and my family's enjoyment of the property but the businesses along the coast in my area such as bed and breakfasts and hotels and resorts that depend on the beach for their livelihood. We have enough trouble putting up with mother nature doing its damndest to make life challenging on the coast with high winds and severe storms. We don't need manmade disasters compounding the challenges.

Please reconsider any plan to raise the level of Lake Michigan in consideration of the significant damage that will be done to the value of properties along the coast. For your information, although I am an Iowa resident, my Michigan property is located at 2879 Lakeshore Road in Fennville, Michigan, just south of the town of Saugatuck where the Kalamazoo River enters Lake Michigan.

Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,



Douglas A. West
404 S.W. Country Club Lane
Ankeny, Iowa 50023