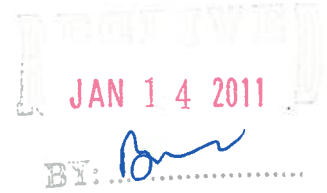


4 Crestwood Drive
Clayton, MO 63105
January 8, 2011

International Joint Commission
2401 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Fourth Floor
Washington, DC 20440



Re: LAKE MICHIGAN WATER LEVELS

Dear Commission Members:

I am writing as the owner of a family home on the shore of Lake Michigan, located at 4859 Rosabelle Beach Ave., Holland, Michigan. I have learned from the Great Lakes Coalition that the IJC will undertake a study to determine the effects of restoring Lake Michigan lake levels to certain prior high water marks: prior to dredging in the 1960's, prior to dredging in the 1930's, the level in the 1900's, and the level in the 1850's.

I am dismayed that the IJC would contemplate raising the Lake Michigan water level, effectively disregarding substantial investment interests along the shore. Homeowners and tourism businesses situated on the lake have invested in their properties based on the lake's present configuration. Surely few would have invested had they been told that the IJC would *deliberately* return the lake to much higher historical levels.

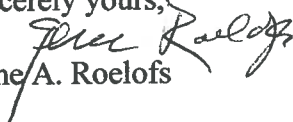
Many of the individual property owners have invested a lifetime of work and savings in their lakeside properties on Lake Michigan. It would be a cruel development for these properties that mean so much – financially and in family histories – to sink into the lake. In the 1986 high water period, we lost 25 feet of frontage in front of our cottage, including our well. We literally watched other cottages tumble down the bluff.

Additionally, Michigan is among the U.S.'s most economically depressed states. Tourism provides support to this struggling economy. Uncertainty about lake levels is ~~sure to deter development along the shore.~~ The need to put in expensive sea walls or jetties is sure to adversely impact those tourist facilities that already exist.

I urge the Commission in the strongest possible terms to respect and protect development along Lake Michigan's shore by keeping lake levels at their present status.

As part of its investigation of the effect of higher lake levels, I also urge the IJC to conduct a survey and/or by other means obtain public input from Lake Michigan riparians.. The IJC's study should involve not only scientists but also those most intimately affected by eventual study recommendations.

Sincerely yours,


Gene A. Roelofs