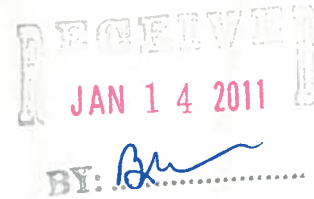


Lee M. Woodruff III
18215 Spindle Drive
Grand Haven, MI 49417

December 30, 2010

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



Re: Lake Michigan Water Levels

To Whom It May Concern:

My wife and I live in a home located on the shores of Lake Michigan that has been in my family since the 1940's. It was originally built in the 1920's in another Grand Haven location on Lake Michigan and relocated to its current location during the Great Depression due to the rising level of Lake Michigan. It then occupied its current location without any threat from Lake Michigan until 1986 when the lake levels began to rise dramatically and the steep bank that leads to the cottage was at risk. Located 100 steps up from the beach and only set back from the bluff about three feet, the fight for the cottage's existence had to be fought at the bottom of the bluff. At that time it was owned by my maternal grandmother and she did not have the financial means or the will to save it from the impending threat.

So with no other family members in the area, my wife and I purchased the cottage from her and spent the next five years and a considerable amount of money saving it from being devoured by the Lake. While we originally purchased it with the intent to make it our home, we were forced to borrow a very significant sum of money to install a protective double seawall system only to see the Lake continue to rise and watching it destroy the outer wall during one large storm. We had to go back to the bank and borrowed more money to replace the outer seawall. When the Lake level was at its peak the water at the bottom of our stairs was five feet deep. This was a very difficult time for us and we were forced to put a significant amount of debt on the property to protect our initial investment and needed to rent the property to help cover the expenses.

Also during this time, we helped our neighbors fight the Lake to save their homes - placing whatever salvaged materials could be found to help buffer their homes from the fury of the Lake. Not all these efforts were successful and we witnessed several cottages and homes in our area fall into Lake Michigan. During this time, my wife and children would not sleep at the cottage for fear of a storm undermining it while we were asleep.

It was not until November of 1999, after several years of lower Lake water levels that we chose to make the cottage our home. We have spent a considerable amount of time and money renovating and improving the cottage and have now enjoy the magnificence of living on Lake Michigan on a daily basis. We find comfort and security in the current width of beach we now enjoy. But although the Lake Michigan levels have been much lower during this time, we have not forgotten the fear of the high Lake levels and the fury of Lake Michigan.

I have also owned a sailboat which draws 6.5 feet and a condominium boat slip on Muskegon Lake for my sailboat for the past 30 years. During this time, I have regularly

used this boat for family vacations to ports and lakes along both shores of Lake Michigan and into Lake Huron and the North Channel. Consequently, I have also been very aware of the fluctuations in lake levels from the perspective of recreational boating and this has never been a problem for knowledgeable and experienced boaters.

I have recently been informed that despite the recommendations of the Upper Great Lakes Study Board, the IJC has requested that the Board consider various scenarios for raising lake levels. If lake levels are raised it will threaten or destroy a significant amount of taxable private property throughout the lake regions and bring renewed stress to my family and my investment.

PLEASE DO NOT ALLOW THE LEVELS OF LAKE MICHIGAN TO BE RAISED.

Sincerely,

Lee M. Woodruff III