

Lois Ott
17583 North Shore Estates Rd.
Spring Lake, MI 49456

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International Joint Commission
2401 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Fourth Floor
Washington, DC 20440

Gentlemen:

I've just read in my Great Lakes Coalition newsletter that there are plans to raise the level of the Great Lakes 20 inches some time in the future.

This would be a great hard chip on me. My husband and I built our home in 1970 and twice have spent money on elaborate sea walls that are now buried under lake sand. Our home is on Lake Michigan. My husband stood at the front window in the 1970's when the lake level was up, and in a storm watched 30 foot chunks of our land go out to sea. It wasn't unusual to go to bed and dream of your bed floating out into the lake.

When we built, we had a beautiful beach, a dune in front of our house and land in front to spare. It's taken over 30 years to get that back and we can't risk loosing it all again. Since my husband passed away in 2008, life for me has been difficult, now I'm afraid of facing more difficult years battling this problem alone.

As you are aware, anything you do in the upper Great Lakes greatly affects Lake Michigan since it's 'at the bottom of the bathtub'. There's no place for water to go if you raise the upper lakes, except Lake Michigan, where it has to stay.

I'm asking that you reconsider the proposal of raising the lakes and consider the property owners who have already been through a great deal of stress with the unnatural regulation of our beautiful lake. When our property is taken from us by the lake, our property values don't go down, we pay the same property taxes and risk loosing the biggest investment of our life time, our homes.

Sincerely,

Lois Ott

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