

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

January 5, 2011

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BY: *Blair*

Subject: Lake Michigan Water Levels

Dear IJC Commission:

I have lived in Southwest Michigan for over 40 years and have owned and do own property on and near Lake Michigan. Your "Mitigative Options" alarms me greatly because I have had properties that were impacted by higher than "normal" lake levels.

The area most affected is the lower 40% of the Eastern Shoreline (due to the high bluffs and prevailing Northwest winds across the open body of the lake. That is why you can see the distortion of the lake on the eastern shoreline where over the eons of time this aggressive erosion was most pronounced. Anyway, all you have to do is fly or cruise by the area and you can see the homes, roads and bluffs that have fallen into the lake during times of recent higher water.

Not only will your ill-conceived proposal to do financial harm and disruption to those living adjacent to the lake, it also causes the inland water table to rise and restrict drainage to the lake. This cause back-ups of field system, flooded basements and crawl spaces, pollutes ground wells and many other costly and negative scenarios, not to mention what it does for the devaluation of these properties. This impact the net worth and livelihood to the multitude of residents living in these areas.

I have had three properties in the past 30 years that were either on Lake Michigan or on an estuary that fed into the lake and all were at one time or other impacted in a negative manner. That being said, just imagine what purposefully raising the lake's level 20 inches will do. There also are many residential project that would be negatively impacted and this would stifle economic development along the lake.

I am asking you to do the right thing and keep man's hands off "Mother Nature's" natural cycles and move away from you harmful proposal. Why don't you have your meetings in areas that are most impacted by high lake levels? Say St. Joseph for example? Can you expect high attendance for your meetings when you have a drive of over an hour to attend?

I am asking you to reconsider this issue with the above in mind, not to mention the anxiety and stress you will cause numerous home owners as well. How would you like it if your life's savings were tied up in your home and property values were put in jeopardy? Do the right thing and let the natural forces prevail.

Sincerely,



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