



GREAT LAKES COALITION

Michigan/Lake Michigan Chapter for Shoreline Preservation

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August 31, 2020

By E-mail and by U.S. Mail

Senator Edward McBroom (Michigan, 38th District)

Chair, Committee on Natural Resources

Michigan Senate

P.O. Box 30036

Lansing, MI 48909-7536

Subject: Senate Bill 974, Introduced by Sen. Kim LaSata (Michigan 21st District) on 6/18/20

Dear Senator McBroom:

The Great Lakes Coalition for Shoreline Preservation (GLC) represents over 800 shoreline homeowners who predominantly reside in Michigan and who want to provide our strong support for Senate Bill 974 that will be reviewed by your committee. The GLC mission is to strive to keep Great Lakes water levels at a moderate level and to minimize shoreline erosion and loss of beaches. We work with like-minded organizations across the Great Lakes to achieve these goals.

As you know, the sand on Michigan beaches and the sand that is carried in the nearshore littoral drift are critical Michigan natural resources. In fact, when we think of “Pure Michigan” we first think of our beautiful, natural beaches! Many Michigan beaches and countless miles of commercial/residential shoreline have been ravaged by high energy waves and extreme high water levels resulting in severe erosion and sand loss.

The damage is even more extreme where manmade structures such as harbors and jetties block much of the natural littoral sand drift. And, erosion does occur even when water levels are lower. The sand has been moved offshore due to blockages created by harbors and during extreme weather events. Much of this sand does not return to shore via the normal littoral process and can be lost for good to deeper parts of the lake. When this occurs, supplemental sand is required to maintain a healthy beach and to create a more normal “equilibrium” state for the shoreline (beach).

Senator LaSata's bill provides a safe and environmentally sound method to restore shorelines and beaches. It is imperative that the State of Michigan does more to protect perhaps this second most (clean water is number 1!) critical natural resource. We need better and more efficient methods to provide sand nourishment. Nourishing via land-based sand is fundamental, however offshore dredging and streamlining the permitting process will be key to maintaining our critical sand resource.

We have staff available to discuss this with you further if you have any questions or need for data.

Respectfully,

Ron Wilson, President
Great Lakes Coalition
Michigan/Lake Michigan Chapter for Shoreline Preservation
www.greatlakescoalition.org

cc: Sen. Kim LaSata (21st District)

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