



Higgins Lake Property Owners AssociationSM

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The Higgins Lake Property Owners Association feels strongly that SB 662 is not in the best interest of the citizens of Michigan and particularly lakefront property owners.

This bill will allow municipalities (i.e. Roscommon County) to operate lake level control structures with a reduced level of responsibility to established court-ordered lake levels. It will eliminate many steps required for creating Special Assessment Districts for dam funding. Reducing rules for SAD creation allows shifting of the cost of dam repair and maintenance from the county to lakefront property owners.

The HLPOA hopes that this committee will reject SB 662.

The following are the reasons we feel strongly that this bill should fail.

- This bill was introduced after a recent unanimous decision by the MI Court of Appeals that found that the Roscommon County Board of Commissioners failed to maintain lake levels on Higgins Lake as required by law.
- This bill makes it easier for aquatic invasive species to spread from prop cuttings and also create damage to native vegetation.
- This bill could negatively impact water levels and adversely affect septic systems.
- This bill has been written without considering any input the many lake property owners in Michigan.
- This blanket approach reduces local government culpability/responsibility.
- This bill eliminates constitutional minimums that safeguard the citizens such as their right to protest and the mechanics of due process.
- This bill would allow mismanagement of lake levels without appropriate public recourse.
- This bill attempts to codify irresponsibility of local government, minimizing local oversight of dams and lake levels.
- This bill gives counties more leeway outside of current court orders and would allow for increased threats of flooding, shoreline erosion, and dam failure.
- Court ordered lake levels were mandated for a reason; to protect property owners from irresponsible municipal oversight.
- It has often been said that all lakes are unique. This bill would treat all lakes the same and would likely have detrimental effects. Anyone who uses an inland lake will potentially have diminished use of lakes and rivers if local control is overridden by a statewide law that allows municipalities to use relaxed oversight regarding lakes.
- This legislation gives local officials an exemption from doing proper oversight, which may adversely affect infrastructure and detrimentally impact property values.