Petition for Effective Weed Control and Restoration of Long Lake

To: Long Lake Improvement Board, Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE), and Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR)

Subject: Request for the Reinstatement of Mechanical Weed Rolling and Harvesting and Other Effective Weed-Control Measures

Dear Members of the Long Lake Improvement Board, EGLE, and DNR:

We, the undersigned residents and property owners of Long Lake in Orleans, Michigan, respectfully submit this petition to request effective, practical, and sustainable weed-control measures to restore the usability, safety, and enjoyment of our lake.

We strongly oppose the current restrictions on mechanical weed rolling and harvesting and request that these methods be reconsidered for both individual property owners and the Long Lake Improvement Board, subject to appropriate environmental safeguards.

Concerns Regarding the Pugnose Shiner

We understand that concerns regarding the pugnose shiner, an endangered fish species, have been cited as a reason for restricting weed rolling and harvesting. However, residents have been informed that this species has increased in numbers in Long Lake despite the use of these weed-control methods in previous years.

These observations raise important questions about whether a blanket restriction is necessary or whether responsible, targeted weed management could protect the species while allowing residents to maintain usable portions of the lake. We request that the relevant scientific data, population trends, and potential impacts of mechanical weed control be reviewed to determine whether a balanced approach is possible.

We ask that decisions regarding weed management be based on sound scientific evidence and that effective control methods be permitted wherever they can be implemented without unacceptable harm to protected species or their habitat.

The Impact of Excessive Weed Growth

Since the restrictions on mechanical weed control, residents have become increasingly concerned about the extent of weed growth throughout Long Lake. In many areas, vegetation has become so dense that it significantly interferes with the lake's intended recreational uses.

The excessive weed growth presents several serious concerns:

- **Public safety and wildlife:** Dense vegetation can entangle fish, waterfowl, turtles, and other wildlife, potentially restricting their movement or causing injury.
- **Damage to boats and recreational equipment:** Weeds frequently become entangled in boat propellers, jet ski intakes, and other equipment, creating operational problems and potentially costly repairs.
- **Loss of recreational access:** Long Lake is an all-sports lake, yet excessive weed growth is making it increasingly difficult to enjoy boating, water skiing, wakeboarding, swimming, fishing, paddle sports, and other traditional lake activities.
- **Financial hardship for property owners:** Residents have experienced significant expenses associated with damaged boat engines, personal watercraft, and other equipment. We are prepared to provide repair and replacement invoices and other documentation demonstrating these costs.

These concerns represent only some of the problems residents are experiencing. We believe the current situation requires timely attention and a comprehensive response.

Requested Actions and Potential Solutions

We respectfully request that the Long Lake Improvement Board, EGLE, and DNR work together with residents to develop and implement an effective weed-management plan. Specifically, we ask that the agencies:

1. **Reconsider restrictions on mechanical weed rolling and harvesting** and establish a pathway for their responsible use by individual homeowners and the Long Lake Improvement Board, where legally and environmentally permissible.
2. **Evaluate alternative weed-control methods**, including grass carp where permitted and appropriate, and aquatic herbicide treatments such as fluridone, subject to applicable regulations, scientific review, and assessment of potential impacts on fish, wildlife, and water quality.
3. **Consider additional environmentally responsible approaches** that can reduce excessive vegetation while protecting native species and preserving the ecological health of Long Lake.
4. **Provide residents with clear information** regarding the scientific evidence supporting current restrictions, the specific protections required for the pugnose shiner, and the weed-management methods that may be approved.
5. **Establish a practical, long-term management plan** with measurable goals, regular monitoring, and meaningful opportunities for resident input.

We recognize the importance of protecting endangered species and maintaining a healthy lake ecosystem. At the same time, we believe that environmental protection and responsible recreational use should be pursued together whenever scientifically and legally feasible. We are willing to consider a range of solutions, provided they offer a realistic path toward controlling excessive weed growth and restoring access to our lake.

Our Request to Restore Long Lake

Long Lake has long been an important recreational resource for our families, property owners, and community. Residents should not have to accept the continuing loss of safe and enjoyable access to the lake without a thorough review of available solutions.

We respectfully request that the Long Lake Improvement Board, EGLE, and DNR give this petition serious consideration, review the concerns outlined above, and take timely action to develop an effective and sustainable weed-control strategy.

We, the residents and property owners of Long Lake, urge you to work with us to restore the recreational use of our all-sports lake while responsibly protecting its wildlife and natural resources.

Thank you for your time, attention, and consideration. We look forward to a constructive response and meaningful action.

Sincerely,

The Undersigned Residents and Property Owners of Long Lake
Orleans, Michigan

Please see the attached signatures and any supporting documentation.

Catalpa Drive Residents:

Gracie Whiting	2382 Catalpa Dr
Andrew Whiting	2383 Catalpa Dr
[illegible]	2383 CATALPA DR.
[illegible]	2256 Catalpa Dr.
[illegible]	2256 Catalpa Dr.
[illegible]	2070 Catalpa Dr
Anna Wilson	2256 Catalpa Dr.
[illegible] McKenna	2284 Catalpa Dr.
[illegible] McKenna	2284 Catalpa Dr.
[illegible]	2198 Catalpa DR
[illegible]	2198 Catalpa Dr.
[illegible]	2144 Catalpa Dr.
[illegible]	2184 Catalpa Dr
[illegible]	2194 CATALPA DR
Beck	2170 CATALPA DR
[illegible] Beck	2170 CATALPA DR
[illegible]	2157 Catalpa Dr.
[illegible]	2157 Catalpa Dr.
Kristin Valentine	2157 Catalpa Dr.
Jarrell Brickley	2212 Catalpa DR.
Stephanie Bennett	2242 Catalpa Drive
[illegible]	2242 Catalpa DR
Penny Setchfield	2434 Catalpa Dr.
Jack Wedderburn	2474 CATALPA DR.
Matt Mertz	2490 Catalpa Dr.
[illegible]	2584 Long Lake Rd
Margo McKendry	2448 Catalpa Dr.
Wm Wilson L.	2256 Catalpa Dr.
[illegible]	2339 CATALPA DR
Mandy McKendry	2458 CATALPA DR.

over →

Kim Oakes 2458 Catalpa Dr

Cottage Drive Residents

Ethan Hodges 2816 Cottage Dr
Thomas Hutchings 2826 Cottage Dr.
Rebecca Siddall 2708 Cottage Dr.
DENNIS HAMP 2714 COTTAGE DR.
Eric Strickling 2731 cottage dr.
MARK COATES 2743 Cottage Dr.
Shawn Ashley Sudder 2744 cottage Dr

Main Street Residents

Bettyjo Ferris 8250 main St Orleans, MI 48765
Norman Ferris " " "

Branch Road Residents:

Julie Johnson	8275 Branch
Greg Johnson	8275 Branch
Bill Watson	8283 "
Nancy Watson	8283 "
Lydia V. Simon	8314 Branch Rd
[illegible]	8314 Branch Rd
Margaret Kelly	8305 Branch Rd
[illegible]	8305 Branch Rd
David Beard	8284 Branch Rd
Peggy Beard	8284 Branch Rd
Matt Brownell	8207 Branch Rd.
Cara Brownell	8207 Branch Rd
Mike Akers	8206 Branch Rd
Nancy Clark	8221 Branch Rd
Ernest Clark	8221 Branch Rd
Sandra Ames	8227 Branch Rd
Jerry Jarvis	8241 BRANCH Rd
Carla Jarvis	8241 Branch Rd

Hidden Trail Road Residents

Ryckie Hall 8677 Hidden Trail
Kirk Estes 8663 Hidden Trail
Doreen Bergin 9059 " "
Patrick Sullivan 8575 HIDDEN TRL
Kevin L Kluge 8547 Hidden Trail
Rebecca J Young 8485 Hidden Trail
Chris Conrad 8485 Hidden Trail
Don Olson 8463 Hidden Trail
Jean Jackson 8463 Hidden Trail
Charles Dalrymple 8413 Hidden Trail

Ottawa Drive

2680 Ottawa DR 48865
2688 Ottawa Dr 48865
2740 Ottawa Dr 48865
Chris Allison 2750 Ottawa Dr. 48865

3rd Avenue Residents

3290 THIRD AVE
Doreen M. Cooper 3290 Third Ave
8289 3rd Ave
JACK OKERMAN 8295 Third Ave, Detroit

Lakeside Drive Residents

Miriam & Mike White 2287 Lakeside Dr
Elizabeth Smalley 2295 Lakeside Fenwick MI
[illegible] 2315 Lakeside Fenwick MI
Kristi Venetis 2319 Lakeside Fenwick, MI

Sunset Drive Residents

Amy Droste 855a Sunset Drive

Long Lake Road Residents:

Jeff Kurtz 2588 W. Long Lake Rd, Orleans, MI
Debra Kurtz 2588 W. Long Lake Rd Orleans, MI

Lakeview Drive Residents:

Diane Nelson 875 Lakeview Dr
Chris Ratliff 2980 W. Long Lake Rd
Kim Veenhuis 8720 Lakeview Dr.
Cathy Walsh 8770 Lakeview Dr
Ken Walsh 8770 Lakeview Dr

Bricker Road Residents:

Lisa Coe 2437 W. Bricker Rd Fenwick, MI
Jim Coe " " " "

Shore Drive Residents:

Al & Donna Choate 1860 Shore Dr. Orleans,
Al & Donna
Jamie Richardson 1876 Shore Dr
[illegible] 1876 Shore Dr.
Gloria Kast 1890 Shore dr.
[illegible] 1926 Shore Dr.

Burrows ~~Burroughs~~ Road Residents

Dan Burrows 8366 Burrows Dr
Roy Burrows 8366 Burrows DR.

Belding Avenue Residents:
Lynn Houser 2234 Belding Ave
Brian Houser 2234 Belding Ave

Morton Avenue Residents
Robert Terrill 2785 Morton Ave

Hall Street Residents;
Ewtbelt-2898 Hall St.