

From: [Daniel Stricof](#)
To: [Patricia Soutas-Little](#); [Debra Rushton](#); [Will Bunek](#); twessel@leelanau.gov; [Gwenne Allgaier](#); [Melinda Lautner](#); [Clerk](#); [Rick Robbins](#)
Subject: Regarding Formation of a Lake Board
Date: Monday, July 12, 2021 10:05:35 PM

Dear Leelanau County Commissioners,

My wife and I live on the shores of Lake Leelanau.

While we strongly support determining an effective way to fund the recurring costs of treating Eurasian Milfoil and other invasive species, we are very concerned about the development of the Lake Board currently under consideration.

We believe any just solution would not only involve funding by lakefront property owners but should also include funding by the county (and hopefully also the state of Michigan). Furthermore, the lack of accountability of such a lake board under the current Michigan law is unacceptable unless there is absolutely no other mechanism available.

Previous special assessment districts have, in our opinion, unfairly burdened the lakefront owners. For example, about ten years ago when the Leland dam needed to be re-built the special assessment district charged each lakefront parcel owner by linear foot of lake frontage without regard to whether or not the land was developed. This unfairly cost us more than we think fair as not only do we own a single lakefront home but we also own a separate larger undeveloped parcel. We are very concerned a similar funding proposal might arise from the lake board under consideration, and over which we will have no vote once it has been formed. Without knowing how a newly formed lake board would tax us, how can we reasonably be expected to blindly support its formation? In turn, as our elected representatives, without this information we believe you and your fellow commissioners should not approve such a board's formation.

We also strongly believe any solution that only taxes lakefront owners without requiring matching or other funds from the entire county would fail to recognize the fact that many non-lakefront owners of property and/or businesses in Leelanau County also derive significant financial and recreational benefits from the waters of Lake Leelanau.

If, in fact, no other mechanism to achieve adequate funding can be achieved, then perhaps a lake board might be needed, but we feel this process is moving too fast and critically without any understanding at this time how its assessments will be determined. Please do not approve the formation of the lake board until: a) other alternatives are fully considered, and, b) its funding procedures are clearly published and vetted. Without these additional steps occurring, we strongly believe you as our elected representatives should not approve the formation of the lake board.

Sincerely,

Daniel and Debra Stricof