

From: [Linda Fisher-Williams](#)
To: [Rick Robbins](#); [Debra Rushton](#); [Will Bunek](#); twessel@leelanau.gov; [Patricia Soutas-Little](#); [Gwenne Allgaier](#); [Melinda Lautner](#); [Clerk](#)
Subject: Funding for the protection of Lake Leelanau against invasive species
Date: Friday, July 9, 2021 12:15:35 PM

Ladies and Gentlemen,

As owners of frontage on Lake Leelanau for almost 40 years, we recognize the serious threat of Eurasian Water Milfoil to the esthetic, recreational and economic value of this lake. We have observed the increase in visitors using the lake and the resultant increase in the risk of invasive species being unknowingly introduced by watercraft from other areas. There is an urgent need to find an equitable solution to this contamination of the lake. Lakefront residents are not the major source, as our boats primarily remain in Lake Leelanau. Everyone in the county benefits from the pristine character of the lake, so why should an estimated 6% of the population be forced to pay for 100% of the damage?

What are the limits of or are there any guidelines for the proposed assessments? It appears to be taxation with no input from those being taxed. It is not practical or fair to demand that a small per centage of users pay the entire tab. It makes fiscal sense to spread the cost to include all those who benefit from a healthy Lake Leelanau, as well as those contributing the most to the problem, such as instituting some type of user fees.

We absolutely endorse a comprehensive plan to protect the lake and want to contribute our fair share to the cost. We are very concerned about the open-ended powers of this proposed unelected board and its far-reaching ability to levy taxes. We need a fair and transparent plan to deal with our common enemy threatening Lake Leelanau and the benefits it brings to ALL of us.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely, Linda Fisher-Williams and Brian C. Williams