

From: [Rick Cross](#)
To: [Laurel Evans](#)
Cc: clerk@co.leelanau.mi.us
Subject: Testimony for the County Board of Commissioners Meeting 8/18/2020. Please make a matter of public record
Date: Tuesday, August 18, 2020 1:08:24 PM

Members of the Board of Commissioners

Leelanau County has consistently been considered to be one of the most desirable places to visit in our country if not the world. This positive reputation is essential because we are largely dependent on tourism to fuel our economy. All this goodwill got thrown in the trash when Tom Eckerle made statements in public that were and are so offensive and outrageous that they made the news throughout the country and the world. You, as members of the County Board of Commissioners, had the responsibility to dispel any notion Mr. Eckerle's statements were a reflection of the people of our county. Rather than put the fire out you threw gas on it by making statements in public that are also offensive and outrageous and, in effect, support Mr. Eckerle's point of view.

We are already hurting because of Covid 19. Consider the impact your actions are having on the people, small businesses, orchards, farms and wineries of this county. Mr Eckerle's statements will be remembered and have a negative impact on the reputation of this county for a very long time. Your responsibility is to insure his statements are not a reflection on all of us. Do your job.

Rick and Karen Cross
Northport