

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

News from Save Our Shoreline, Inc.

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Citizen's Group Backs DNR Request to Maintain Beaches

BAY CITY, Michigan – May 10, 2002 - Save Our Shoreline, a citizen's group focused on protecting public and private beaches throughout Michigan, has announced support for the permit requested by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to allow cleaning and maintenance of a public beach in Caseville, Michigan. The announcement of support comes after the group learned that the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers issued "cease and desist" orders that prohibit maintenance and cleaning of two heavily used Huron County public beaches – Albert E. Sleeper State Park and the Caseville County Park Public Beach. Ernie Krygier, president of Save Our Shoreline made the announcement.

According to Krygier, the situation surrounding the Caseville beaches mirrors attempts by the Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) to control both public and private beaches in the Saginaw Bay Area.

"The Corps has spent the last several years implementing a plan that will destroy the beaches that all of us in the area have worked to create and maintain over many generations," said Krygier.

Because of the cease and desist order issued by the Corps, the DNR has had to apply for permission to clean and maintain 1,000 feet of beach at Sleeper State Park.

"Although we believe a permit should not be required, our 600 member households strongly support the request, and we'd like citizens from every part of the state to join us and write to the Corps in support of this request. If allowed to stand, the cease and desist orders will turn these two beaches into swamps," Krygier continued.

Citizens wishing to comment on the permit should write to Walter A. Gauthier, Chief, Permit Evaluation Branch B, Regulatory Office, Detroit District, Corps of Engineers, P.O. Box 1027, Detroit, MI 48231. Comments should be submitted in writing, postmarked not later than May 27, 2002. All responses must refer to file number 01-016-339-1/02-32-7.

Comments may also be e-mailed to Robert.D.Deroche@usace.army.mil but must include a name and mailing address, refer to file number 01-016-339-1/02-32-7, and be sent no later than May 27, 2002.

Details of the ACOE Public Notice for the requested permit for Albert E. Sleeper State Park can be viewed online at <http://www.lre.usace.army.mil/functions/rf/html/pncur.html>.

According to information published by Save Our Shoreline, the cease and desist orders are only the latest in a long line of actions by the Corps and MDEQ to take control of the beaches.

“Two of our members have actually been sued by the Corps, and hundreds of other members have received similar cease and desist orders to stop cleaning and maintenance of their beaches,” noted Krygier. “One of the best examples of what happens to a beach when the public loses control can be seen at the Bay City State Recreation Area. By order of the Corps and MDEQ it’s now an unusable swamp,” said Krygier.

Founded in 2001, Save Our Shoreline, Inc. is a nonprofit membership basis corporation comprised of 600 owners and residents of waterfront property. The group is committed to preservation of beaches and waterfront areas, and to the protection of rights to maintain beaches and waterfront areas. Those interested in Save Our Shoreline can find more information at www.saveourshoreline.org <<http://www.saveourshoreline.org>> or by calling 989-667-2910.

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