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News from Save Our Shoreline, Inc.

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Ohio Shoreline Owners Sue to Determine Beach Ownership

BAY CITY, Michigan – June 1, 2004

Save Our Shoreline announces that an organization of Ohio shoreline owners, the Ohio Lakefront Group, has filed suit to clarify that shoreline ownership extends to the water's edge. The suit asserts that the State of Ohio has "abused its authority by willfully ignoring the boundary between private and public ownership fixed by Ohio law." It requests that the court determine for the approximately 15,500 shoreline owners that their land extends below the OHWM (Ordinary High Water Mark) and that shoreline owners be compensated for the temporary or permanent taking of their land by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources.

The move follows a bill in the Ohio legislature intended to clarify the principle of shoreline ownership to the water's edge. That bill had passed the Ohio House of Representatives, but recently stalled in the Senate.

"Over the past decade, there has been a slow, carefully crafted and coordinated plan by government agencies to take control of shoreline property in Michigan and Ohio," said SOS President Ernie Krygier. "Shoreline owners did not pick this fight, but this move once again shows that we will protect our property against government takeover." According to Krygier, Save Our Shoreline is considering a similar move. "It all depends on whether we can achieve our goals by other means," he said.

A copy of the suit can be found at <<http://www.ohiolakefrontgroup.com>>.

Founded in 2001, Save Our Shoreline is a nonprofit membership basis corporation of nearly 2000 households committed to the 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 <<http://www.saveourshoreline.org/>> or by calling (989) 667-2910. For more information about this press release, contact Ernie Krygier at (989) 793-3711.

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