

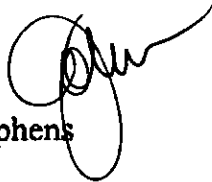
December 8, 2000

To Supporters of Hamlin Lake:

Happy holidays to everyone!

The enclosed mini-packet will bring you up to date on the current status of the effort to obtain state funds for repairing the Hamlin Dam. Senator Schulte has championed our cause before the DNR - as recently as yesterday he met with the head of the DNR. I am hopeful the funds will be appropriated in 2001.

Best wishes for a healthy and prosperous new year.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Stephens', with a large, stylized initial 'J' and a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

John Stephens

JOHN L. STEPHENS
620 Berry Court
Naperville, Illinois 60540

December 8, 2000

Senator Bill Schuette
P.O. Box 30036
Lansing, Michigan 48909-7536

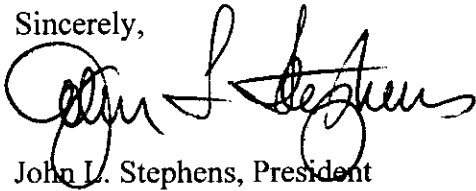
Dear Senator Schuette:

I appreciate receiving your letter of November 30, and the calls from your staff, regarding the efforts you are making to secure the state funding needed for the repair of the Hamlin Dam.

Your actions to date are most encouraging and demonstrate the active support you are giving to your constituents in the Hamlin Lake area. The members of the Hamlin Lake Association, the Hamlin Lake Preservation Society and the Hamlin Lake Improvement Board, as well as the residents of Hamlin Township, have invested thousands of private dollars in programs to preserve Hamlin Lake. The integrity of the Hamlin Dam is critical to our ongoing efforts.

I applaud your commitment to serving our needs and offer my help if needed.

Sincerely,



John L. Stephens, President
Hamlin Lake Association

c: Representative David Mead
Directors of the Hamlin Lake Association
Directors of the Hamlin Lake Preservation Society
David P. Mahannah, Chairman, Hamlin Lake Improvement Board
Kathryn C. Griffith, Supervisor, Hamlin Township
Ludington Daily News

THE SENATE
LANSING, MICHIGAN



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BILL SCHUETTE

November 30, 2000

Mr. John Stephens
620 Berry Court
Naperville, Illinois 60540

Dear John:

Thank you for your letter of November 15, 2000 regarding the Hamlin Lake Dam. I appreciate you making me aware of your concerns.

My letter of October 15, 2000 was intended to inform you of options under consideration by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR). I have not endorsed any of these options. The point of my letter was to share with you the views of the DNR executive office.

Since contacting our office in May of this year, my staff has discussed this issue with DNR officials on four different occasions. The first contact with the DNR came June 1, 2000 - within a week of receiving your letter.

The DNR has indicated it is prepared to make a funding recommendation to the Legislature in early 2001, which was also reflected in my earlier letter to you. It is my hope to work with the Department to achieve a favorable result.

The correspondence and letters you sent to me have been forwarded to Governor John Engler's Office and to the office of K.L. Cool, the Director of the DNR. I expect more meetings and more dialogue regarding this issue in the weeks ahead.

Again, thank you for contacting me regarding this matter. If I can be of further assistance, please call me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Bill Schuette".

Bill Schuette
State Senator

WDS/pdg

JOHN L. STEPHENS
620 Berry Court
Naperville, Illinois 60540

November 15, 2000

Senator William Schuette
P. O. Box 30036
Lansing, Michigan 48909-7536

Dear Senator Schuette:

You must be pleased that you did not face a re-election campaign in 2000. It seemed that most local elections were overshadowed by the national race which absorbed the majority of available airtime. It is time now to return to the business at hand.

On October 13, 2000, you responded to my earlier inquiry regarding the progress you had made in securing funding for the repair of the Hamlin Dam. In that letter you referenced one possible funding source being "an assessment applied against Hamlin Lake Property owners." That is a most disturbing response!

In 1935, the Department of Conservation and the State of Michigan freely accepted ownership and full responsibility for the dam in perpetuity. That indenture states in subparagraph (a) "That the parties of the second part agree to maintain and/or repair the structure..." The language is unambiguous. The nominal purchase price of \$1.00 relieved the property owners of any and all further responsibility for the dam. For 65 years, the State of Michigan has been the owner/operator of the Hamlin Dam.

We are pleased that the engineering study is completed, particularly since the original dam inspection report listed the hazard potential as HIGH. Now, the repairs need to be completed before costs escalate or further damage weakens the dam.

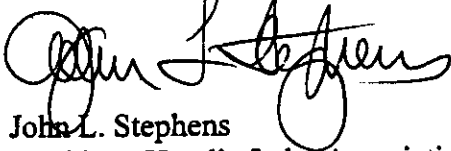
The Hamlin Lake Association does not endorse any solution that would place assessments on property owners for dam repairs. I urge you to work with the DNR to seek the necessary funding from the State of Michigan to complete the needed repairs as soon as possible.

I am enclosing copies of the following documents for your review: title conveyance indenture dated May 21, 1935; announcement letter of ownership transfer dated May 21, 1935; the coalition letter sent to you and

Representative Bobier in January 1998; two articles on the dam which appeared in the Hamlin Lake Currents and the May 31, 2000, letter sent to you and Representative Mead seeking State funding to repair the dam.

We need your help. I'll look forward to hearing from you so we can keep our members informed of the progress made on this most important project.

Thank you for caring.



John L. Stephens
President, Hamlin Lake Association

C: Representative David Mead
Susan Austin, President, Hamlin Lake Preservation Society
David P. Mahannah, Chairman, Hamlin Lake Development Board
Kathryn C. Griffith, Supervisor, Hamlin Township
Ludington Daily News

THE SENATE
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JUDICIARY
TECHNOLOGY AND ENERGY

BILL SCHUETTE

October 13, 2000

Mr. John Stephens
620 Berry Court
Naperville, Illinois 60540

Dear John:

I am writing in response to your letter concerning the condition of the Hamlin Lake Dam. I appreciate hearing from you on this matter.

Currently, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources is considering options for dam repair. DNR officials have not yet approached the Legislature for general fund appropriation to repair the dam. The options include a general fund appropriation or an assessment applied against Hamlin Lake property owners. The DNR intends to make a recommendation in early 2001.

Again, John, I appreciate hearing from you on this matter. If I may be of any assistance in the future, please contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bill Schuette".

Bill Schuette
State Senator

WDS/bjs

cc: Susan Austin, President, Hamlin Lake Preservation Society
David P. Mahannah, Chairman, Hamlin Lake Improvement Board
Kathryn C. Griffith, Supervisor, Hamlin Township

May 31, 2000

Senator Bill Schuette
Room 605, Farnam Building
Lansing, MI 48913

Representative David Mead
P.O. Box 30014
Lansing, MI 48909

The Hamlin Lake Dam needs your attention and leadership.

The coalition of Hamlin Lake advocates appreciates your support, which moved the state to commission a thorough and professional evaluation of the structural integrity of the dam and repairs needed to maintain it properly. Now we need your help to see the \$477,000 project through to completion.

Hamlin Dam impounds the largest artificial lake in the state. The Ludington State Park is one of the top 10 most visited parks in the state with over 800,000 paying patrons a year. The dam's importance is clear.

The economic impact of Hamlin Lake is critical to Mason County. Hamlin Township, which contains the lake, has the largest assessed valuation in the county. Some 40 businesses are sites on the lake, it is the best fishing lake in the area and it is the home of more than 400 residences, seasonal and year-round, with values of up to \$1 million each. The ferry and marina, on the one hand, and Hamlin Lake and the State Park on the other, are the anchors of the local economy.

The dam is the property of the state. It was conveyed to the state in 1935. The state agreed, in accepting the dam, to "...maintain and/or repair the structure..."

The unquestioned value of the park to the state, which would not be attractive without Hamlin Lake, and the clear responsibility of the state to maintain the dam make it incumbent on the state to complete the work. The enclosed executive summary of the engineering study outlines the required repairs and improvements.

What we ask is that you take the lead in proposing the necessary legislation and budget measures to see the task to completion. The management of this problem is cause for satisfaction so far. An alert was registered by an inspection report. You and your associates directed an engineering study to determine what was needed. The next step is to put the job out to bid with the necessary mandate to complete the repairs.

On behalf of the thousands of visitors to Hamlin Lake and from those of us who live here and have invested our savings to make the lake the jewel that it is, we thank you for your support. We look forward to hearing from you so we can keep our constituents informed.

Thank you for your attention to this important need in your district.

Susan Austin, President
Hamlin Lake Preservation Society
6036 Barnhart Road
Ludington, MI 49431

John L. Stephens, President
Hamlin Lake Association
620 Berry Court
Naperville, IL 60540

David P. Mahannah, Chairman
Hamlin Lake Improvement Board
4849 N. Lakeshore Drive
Ludington, MI 49431

Enc.