



August 20, 1999

Dear Hamlin Lake Resident and Friend of Ludington State Park:

We can stop drilling for oil and gas under the Ludington State Park permanently, but we need your help.

Remember two years ago? During the summer lull, the Department of Natural Resources announced that leases for drilling under the Park would be advertised in the fall. We organized then and pointed out the irreparable harm that would come to the sensitive and unique Nordhouse Sands that underlie the area, to the resort businesses around the lake and to the property values of all of us. In addition to the danger of spills, more sour wells whose gas can be fatal, and collector stations running 24 hours a day powered by 1000 horsepower diesel generators, we would also have to pay for the damage to the roads caused by the heavy-duty equipment. The Hamlin Lake Preservation Society, Hamlin Lake Improvement Board, Hamlin Township and Epworth Heights enlisted the help of the Michigan Land Use Institute to fight this outrageous proposal. Within three weeks, the Governor announced that the Park had been withdrawn from the list.

That was two years ago. Now the DNR has stated that the decision was only temporary! But, in the closing days of the last legislature, Rep. Bobier introduced a measure that would enable citizens to petition for a permanent "reserve" that would keep designated state owned lands from ever being subject to drilling. The procedure is complicated and requires expert legal preparation and presentation. We worked over the winter and spring with the Michigan Land Use Institute and their attorneys to prepare our case. It is costly: just under \$20,000. The Hamlin Lake Preservation Society made an initial contribution of \$5,000 and received a generous donation from Hamlin Township plus four riparian owners made personal contributions of \$1,000 each. We are also asking Epworth Heights to join us again. Our initial presentation to the National Resources Commission was made June 9. If that Commission approves, the matter will go to the Legislature this fall. And we are forever protected from oil and gas development in and under the Park.

But we said that this effort was costly. We have raised more than \$12,000. We need an additional \$6,000 to cover all costs. We turn now for help from all riparian owners, resort businesses and others who are interested in preserving the Ludington State Park for future generations. Thus far we have received no opposition, even from the oil interests. On the other hand, the price of a barrel of oil has almost doubled to over \$20 since we started. We cannot delay. We must seize this opportunity to protect our investment in our homes and businesses while we save this fragile ecosystem.

So we ask that you make a generous tax deductible donation to the Hamlin Lake Preservation Society in the enclosed envelope. We suggest a minimum contribution of \$25. More, of course, would be most welcome. If you have questions, call me, Susan Austin at 843-4693, or John Stephens at 630-355-8112. We are convinced of the value of this reserve measure and I hope that you will be also. Thank you for caring.

Sincerely,

Susan Austin, President
Hamlin Lake Preservation Society

John Stephens, Director
Hamlin Lake Preservation Society