



# State of Indiana

# General Assembly

Senator Karen Tallian  
Minority Caucus Chair  
200 West Washington Street  
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204  
(317) 232-9847  
[kt4@iga.in.gov](mailto:kt4@iga.in.gov)

Representative Pat Boy  
200 West Washington Street  
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204  
(317) 233-5248  
[H96@iga.in.gov](mailto:H96@iga.in.gov)

January 6, 2020

Eric Holcomb  
Governor, State of Indiana  
Indiana State Capitol  
200 W. Washington St.  
Indianapolis, IN 46204

Dear Governor Holcomb:

This letter, hand delivered to your office, requests an official Declaration of Emergency for the Lake Michigan shoreline in Porter and LaPorte counties.

As your office is aware from prior conversations and correspondence, the Lake Michigan shoreline is suffering from severe beach erosion. The erosion extends from the Lake/Porter county line near Ogden Dunes, east to the Lakefront Park at the Portage/National Lakeshore Park; it continues at Beverly Shores where the town is currently taking steps to protect Shore Drive; it continues at Long Beach, in LaPorte County. It may also affect other communities and property along the lakefront.

The erosion of the Lake Michigan shoreline is threatening both private property and public infrastructure. From homes in Ogden Dunes, Dune Acres, and Long Beach with failing sea walls, to the lakefront pavilion at Portage beach, to the water lines and gas lines that run under Lakeshore Dr. in Beverly Shores, there is imminent danger of substantial property loss to our State's citizens.

Various local communities have already taken the step of declaring an emergency: the City of Portage, the Towns of Ogden Dunes, Beverly Shores, and Long Beach, as well as Porter County. The town of Dune Acres will be considering an emergency declaration at their next Town Council meeting. On behalf of these communities, all of which are in our legislative districts, we plead with you to declare a State emergency now. It is our understanding that such a declaration by your office would make available federal emergency dollars through FEMA to help with our needed emergency actions.

We know you appreciate the importance of tourism to our state. Our Indiana Dunes State Park and the Indiana Dunes National Park are some of the most visited parks in Indiana. The threat of

Governor Eric Holcomb

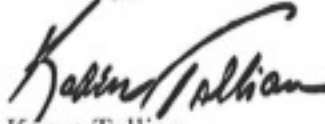
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seawalls, roads, and even homes falling into Lake Michigan is certainly not conducive to a thriving tourism industry. These people need your help.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Karen Tallian  
Indiana State Senator  
Senate District 4



Pat Boy  
Indiana State Representative  
House District 9

Cc:

Senator Todd Young

Senator Mike Braun

Representative Pete Visclosky

Representative Andre Carson

State Representative Chuck Moseley

Commissioner Jeff Good, Porter County

Commissioner Laura Shurr Blaney, Porter County

Commissioner Jim Biggs, Porter County

Mayor Sue Lynch, City of Portage

President of the Town Council, Ogden Dunes

President of the Town Council, Beverly Shores

President of the Town Council, Long Beach

President of the Town Council, Dune Acres