

Governor Whitmer
George W. Romney Building
P.O. Box 30013
Lansing, MI 48909
info@gretchenwitmer.com

Subject: Restore Mid-Michigan Lakes

Dear Governor Whitmer:

Thank you for your leadership in delivering \$222.5 Million in grants to help rebuild the Mid-Michigan dams. We seek your help in securing additional grants from your friends in the Federal government.

We all recall where we were the day the dams failed on May 19, 2020. On that day both the Edenville and Sanford dams breached. There was property loss, but thanks to our first responders there was no loss of life. Immediately after the breach, both Secord and Smallwood dams, built at the same time about 100 years ago, were deemed unsafe by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) and subsequently drawn down. The 4 Lakes were gone in hours.

While the dams failed, as a community we continue to rebuild. Thanks to **\$222.5 Million of grants from the State of Michigan**, we are 3-1/2 years into rebuilding. We appreciate the leadership of the volunteer Four Lakes Task Force. As property owners, we pay an annual special assessment to help in this effort, and will continue to do so to support Operations, Maintenance and Repairs to help make sure another disaster does not occur. **We appreciate the \$20 Million in grant support provided by the Federal government.**

As we continue the construction phase to rebuild the 4 dams, cost estimates from just 3 years ago have doubled. The culprits are a market flush with projects due to Federal infrastructure spending causing upward pricing pressure, compounding annual double-digit inflation, and escalating interest rates.

Property owners along these lakes were not at fault for this disaster. The dam system, deemed Critical Infrastructure, was under FERC regulation for about three decades before the failure. We believe Federal regulators failed in their duties to keep these dams safe.

You have personal relationships at the Federal level. A phone call to your friend President Biden, his cabinet with close Michigan ties and our two US Senators will go a long way.

As we watch the evening news, we see the vast amount of money the Federal government allocates daily to help people. This includes aid to foreign countries, directly to individuals from other countries and personal loan forgiveness. We simply seek your help for our family, friends, and neighbors here in Michigan.

Federal grant(s) of \$200 Million to the Four Lakes Special Assessment District will help the State rebuild a lake system deemed a Michigan jewel for generations to come while allowing property owners to contribute in a sustainable manner.

Sincerely,

[YOUR NAME]

[PROPERTY ADDRESS]

[CITY, STATE, ZIP]