

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE MICHIGAN HOUSE
NATURAL RESOURCES, TOURISM, AND OUTDOOR RECREATION COMMITTEE

June 5, 2012

Presented by:

Ernie Krygier, President
Save Our Shoreline

Testimony of Ernie Krygier

Good morning, Representatives. My name is Ernie Krygier. I am:

- 1) Owner of an appliance repair service in Saginaw;
A Bay County Commissioner in my second term;
I Live on Aplin Beach on Saginaw Bay; and
I am President of Save Our Shoreline, which we formed
in 2001 with 3,000 member families from along the
Great Lakes shore.
- 2) My organization has worked with Senator Casperson in
drafting SB 1052, and we support the bill.
- 3) As most people here know, we've been working on this
issue since 2001.
- 4) In the process, I've worked with three administrations
from both parties, including meeting personally with
three MDEQ directors.
- 5) Our goal has been to groom our beaches without filing
a lawsuit against the state.
- 6) Up to this point, the only solutions we've been able
to get have been temporary solutions.
- 7) This Bill is good opportunity to finally get a long-
term solution.
- 8) I think we've settled the fact that shoreline owners
should be allowed to groom their beaches. We did it
long before the 2003 legislation, and we've been doing
it since.
- 9) The goal of this bill is to allow us to do it without
making us get permits.
- 10) People should not have to get permits just to groom
the beach in front of their house or cottage.
- 11) What we've learned over the last nine years is that
most people don't get the permit—but they still want
to groom their beach—and do.
- 12) So if we don't fix this law, we are concerned that at
some point in the future, there will be an effort by

some to stop grooming by beach owners who just want to maintain their beach like they always have.

- 13) I would also like to talk about controlling *phragmites*. I have heard many people from the environmental community say that grooming only makes *phragmites* worse. I can tell you that is not true. I personally led an effort to restore several hundred feet of beach at the Bay City State Recreation Area in 2005. Before we started, the beach was loaded with *phragmites*. We've been grooming it ever since. Each year the job gets a little easier, and I can tell you from my personal experience that beach grooming is an effective way of controlling *phragmites*.
- 14) I would like to thank Director Wyant, Jamie Clover Adams, Maggie Cox, and Todd Losee at the MDEQ for their hard work, generous devotion of time, their willingness to listen to our concerns, and their patience in working out a bill that I think is a win/win for both shoreline owners and the environment.
- 15) I would also like to thank the Governor's legal advisors, Mike Gadola and Valerie Brader, for taking the time to meet with us and exchange ideas and concerns.
- 16) On behalf of our 3000 member shoreline owners, please pass this bill to support the thousands of families who just want to clean their beach.

Thank you.