



TOWN OF
Ogden Dunes

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Ogden Dunes Statement in Response to Save the Dunes Challenging State Approval of an Armor Stone Revetment Along the Lake Michigan Shoreline for Violating the Public Trust

Over the last several decades, the Town of Ogden Dunes has suffered extensive damage to its shoreline due to ongoing and unnatural erosion caused by manmade structures built to the east of town and along the south shore of Lake Michigan. These structures block the movement or littoral flow of sand along the shoreline which, in turn, starves the beach and surrounding dunes from naturally occurring nourishment. Nature has been disturbed in such a way that there is no natural accumulation of sand along the shoreline, which is not only destroying the town's beach and surrounding dunes but also compromising the unique biodiversity, beauty, and precious resources that makes the Indiana Dunes special.

To make matters worse, the severity of erosion has also put homes and critical town infrastructure in jeopardy. If protective measures are not taken, homes, septic systems, roads, power lines, public water systems, and other debris will eventually be consumed by the lake and may cause an environmental disaster with far reaching consequences. Because of this, the town has no other choice than to proceed with the armor stone revetment currently being discussed. It certainly does not have the resources or means to fix a problem that it did not create, which would entail replacing nearly 10,000,000 cubic yards of sand that has been blocked by the structures since they were first built in 1966 or the estimated 194,000 cubic yards per year needed on an ongoing basis. (Reference: *Sediment Budget for the Indiana Shore from Michigan City Harbor to Burns Waterway Harbor*; USACE, August 2012).

The bottom line is that this problem is not new and has been discussed at length for many years. However, a solution to fix the underlying issue remains elusive.

Regarding Save the Dunes appeal of Indiana DNR's approval of a permit for work, the Town of Ogden Dunes is deeply concerned that this effort will slow or block necessary work. This is not a simple matter of letting nature take its course nor does the town have a feasible alternative solution. Instead, it is protecting the shoreline, beach, and environment as well as homes, infrastructure, and the safety of its residents. To put it simply, the risk of inaction is far too great and not in the best interest of the public at large.

The town continues to collaborate with key stakeholders at USACE, IDNR, IDEM, and NPS regarding areas of mutual interest on this matter and others and appreciates their engagement and support. It is also worth noting that the town's residents have been and continue to be some of the biggest supporters of Save the Dunes. However, on this matter, there is a strong difference of opinion about the appropriate course of action.

Sincerely,

Scott Kingan
President, Town Council
Town of Ogden Dunes