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Michigan House of Representatives
61

Committees
Energy Committee
Health Committee

Christine Morse

Governor Gretchen Whitmer
P.O. Box 30013
Lansing, Michigan 48909

Dear Governor Whitmer,

As has occurred in much of our state over the last few years, Texas Township in Kalamazoo County has suffered greatly from flooding. This flooding is due to high groundwater, higher than average rainfall, numerous inland lakes without natural outlets, along with other environmental factors. The flooding has caused severe damage to local roadways and hundreds of homes in the area, along with the closure of the DNR boat launch on Eagle Lake. The flooding has caused harm to our community, and as the problem has been persistent for more than three years, we know that a permanent solution is required to alleviate further damage to our community.

As you may know, the Texas Township community came together to create a short-term solution to the over three years of flooding on Crooked, Eagle, and Pine Lakes and surrounding neighborhoods. This was a \$1 million dollar project which required an EGLE permit, easements from nearby landowners, and constant monitoring of downstream water levels. This short-term pumping project has been successful in returning water levels to a manageable level.

The township has engaged with engineers and the county drain commissioner's office to design a long-term solution that would prevent future flooding and the associated damages and cost to clean up. If we are able to efficiently and swiftly institute this project, Eagle and Crooked Lakes, which are bowl lakes and no longer have natural outlets, will have permanent outlets, thereby limiting the possibility of future flooding of the surrounding areas. Our offices acknowledge that EGLE has only recently received the permit request. We understand there are statutory time mandates for the permit to be completed and reviewed. As the state legislators representing Texas Township, we ask EGLE and the administration to provide any support or assistance possible during this process and afterwards, in order to ensure the success of the project.

We look forward to EGLE working through the permit process with both speed and diligence. We urge that the permitting process take place as quickly as is possible, as the residents affected by the flooding are no longer able to pump excess water and anxiously await a solution. Additionally, we are grateful to the office of Governor Whitmer, as well as all of the staff working on this project at EGLE, for all of the effort and assistance that they have, and will, put into this vital project.

Please feel free to call on our offices for any support we may be able to provide and thank you again for taking the time and attention to consider Kalamazoo County's permit proposal for the flood mitigation long-term pumping project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Christine Morse', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Representative Christine Morse
61st District

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sean McCann', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Senator Sean McCann
20th District

CC:

Julie Vanderwiere, Texas Township Superintendent

Liesl Eichler Clark, EGLE

Kyle Alexander, EGLE

Derek Haroldson, EGLE

Dale Shugars, Kalamazoo County Commissioner, District 9

Jason Wiersma, Kalamazoo County Drain Commissioner