



Michigan B.A.S.S. Nation

Dedicated to Youth, Conservation and Bass Anglers of Michigan

Web Site: <http://www.michiganbass.net>



Paul Sacks, President

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Mr. Joel Brielmaier
Ontwa Township Supervisor
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Mr. Brielmaier, Mr. Marbach, Members of the Ontwa Township Planning Commission Board,

The primary goal of the Michigan B.A.S.S. Nation Federation is to preserve the sport of bass fishing. As Michigan's official state affiliate to the largest bass fishing organization in the world, the Bass Anglers Sportsman Society (B.A.S.S.), Michigan B.A.S.S. Nation adheres to B.A.S.S.'s founding principles which spell out the broader range of fishing, conservation and youth activities important to our goal. Supporting more and better public access is key to this end in many ways. The availability of public access has been recognized as a major component in getting and keeping people involved in the sport of fishing.

We are asking for your support and approval of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources' (MDNR) public access site acquisition plan for the Eagle Lake property. Eagle Lake is a popular lake for a wide range of boating and outdoor activities, being a big public lake for Cass County without reasonable and fair public access. These properties are very attractive considering there are no alternative properties that can provide quality, safe, clean public access to four popular public Michigan fishing and boating lakes while being outside of more heavily residential areas.

This site acquisition is a fantastic opportunity to the warm water and ice anglers, boaters, kayakers locally, and from surrounding communities. Considering how critically important our natural resource economy is to the State of Michigan, providing reasonable and fair public access to highly desirable public lakes such as Eagle Lake is a good idea for Ontwa Township, Edwardsburg and the State of Michigan.

We have reviewed the draft plan from the MDNR and feel that it provides much needed, missing public access for a variety of outdoors persons. Quality access sites are significant drivers for bringing visitors into local areas for fishing, shore fishing, ice fishing, small fishing events, boating, kayaking, outdoor photography – visitors who benefit the local economy by buying food, gear, gas, hotel/motel/resort accommodations and all the positive economic impacts that make up a recognized, important part of Michigan's tourism economy. While adding to your local economy, the new public access site also equally provides better access to local anglers and boaters, including better access for safety and resource management activities necessary to maintain and improve the quality outdoor and water experience provided by Eagle, Christiana, Juno and Painter Lakes.

Please join us in supporting fair, safe, quality public access for all to the public waters of Eagle, Christiana, Juno and Painter Lakes by supporting and approving the Michigan Department of Natural Resources site acquisition.

Thank you,

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