

**THE HONORABLE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF BERRIEN COUNTY, MICHIGAN  
RECOMMENDS THE ADOPTION OF THE FOLLOWING:**

**RESOLUTION**

**WHEREAS**, record high water levels in the Great Lakes, as well as the bays and rivers connected to them, have contributed toward major erosion on beaches and shorelines all across the State of Michigan during high water levels and currently throughout 2019; and

**WHEREAS**, it is anticipated that the Michigan winter with ice flows and jams will continue to worsen the already bad situation throughout the Great Lakes; and

**WHEREAS**, the Great Lakes are Michigan's most vital and precious resource; and

**WHEREAS**, the County of Berrien recognizes the effects of storms, high water, and wind driven wave action that are causing severe erosion of the shoreline as well as related infrastructure damage; and

**WHEREAS**, the public trust doctrine states that the sovereign holds in trust, for the public use, the resources such as the shoreline regardless of private property ownership; and

**WHEREAS**, the 3,288 miles of shoreline in the State of Michigan must be protected as referred to in the Public Trust Doctrine; and

**WHEREAS**, the Great Lakes are the State of Michigan's economic and property value driver for the tax base along the shoreline and connecting tributaries; and

**WHEREAS**, the conditions of the Great Lakes shoreline affects businesses and the tourism industry by limited access to the beaches; the loss of property along the shoreline directly affects the local, county, and state tax base; and the effects on municipal water systems and the inland waters levels throughout the state are all affected.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED** that the Berrien County Board of Commissioners requests that the Governor of the State of Michigan along with the State Legislature give favorable consideration to the declaration of the shoreline in the State of Michigan as a disaster area, and seek assistance from Congress and the President of the United States for this devastating situation which has an impact statewide.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that nothing from this resolution shall require any action by the Berrien County Emergency Operations Center, the Berrien County Sheriff's Department, or any other County Department.

**Berrien County Board of Commissioners**

---

**Ezra A. Scott**  
**Yarbrough**

---

**R. McKinley Elliott**

---

**William J. Chickering**

---

**Mamie L.**

---

**Teri Sue Freehling**

---

**Robert P. Harrison**

---

**Don Meeks**

---

**Chris Heugel**

---

**Michael J. Majerek**  
**Curran**

---

**David Vollrath**

---

**Jon Hinkelman**

---

**Jim**