



# Citizens for Access to the Lakeshore

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Web Site: [www.citizensforaccesstothelakeshore.com](http://www.citizensforaccesstothelakeshore.com)

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November 11, 2008

The Honorable Carl Levin  
U.S. Senate  
ATTN: Mr. Harold Chase  
107 Cass Street, Suite E  
Traverse City MI 49684

The Honorable Debbie Stabenow  
U.S. Senate  
ATTN: Mr. Brandon Fewins  
3335 South Airport Rd. W., # 6B  
Traverse City, MI 49684

The Honorable Pete Hoekstra  
U.S. House of Representatives  
ATTN: Mr. Jon DeWitte  
184 South River Ave.  
Holland MI 49423  
ATTN: Mr. Justin Woormeester  
In care of Mr. Jon DeWitte

The Honorable Dave Camp  
U.S. House of Representatives  
ATTN: Mr. Eric Friedman  
135 Ashman Street  
Midland MI 48640  
ATTN: Mr. Brian Sutter  
In care of Mr. Eric Friedman

RE: Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore

Dear Senator Levin, Senator Stabenow, Congressman Hoekstra and Congressman Camp:

We thank you heartily for your encouragement that enabled the Park Service to hold the most extensive public input process ever conducted by the Park Service for a General Management Plan. Now that the Park Service and the many involved volunteers and public have spent so much time and effort to get to this happy stage, we look forward with anticipation for the introduction and co-sponsorship by all of you of the necessary federal legislation to allow the Park Service to replace the flawed 1981 wilderness study with the new Wilderness Study. The Park Service has informed us that their legislative data package will be completed around the end of December, so all will be ready for you all to complete this immense, multi-year effort. We respectfully hope that duplicate co-sponsored bills in the House and Senate can be introduced early in 2009 and that final passage and signature into law can occur in 2009.

We believe that the esteem of your offices, and your representation of your districts, will be enough to secure ready support from your colleagues in the Senate and House. However, CAL stands ready to provide letters of support to your colleagues in other states, if you deem it desirable. One of our Board members, Dr. Ron Liesemer, Ph.D., will be paying a courtesy call on each of your Washington, DC, offices in January. His purpose will be to provide whatever support you feel may be helpful, and to ascertain your Office's determination of the legislation's timing and movement.

As you know, our organization, plus over 70 percent of the hundreds of participants in the multi-year process, has voiced support for the new Wilderness Study. Back in 2006 when the new GMP was first restarted, our organization had deep reservations about wilderness in general. Since then, however, all our major concerns have been addressed by the Park Service team, and our Board unanimously endorsed the Preferred Alternative and the new Wilderness Study.

CAL has spoken in defense of our conclusion on numerous occasions in both Benzie and Leelanau Counties in recent months. To back up our belief that CAL's conclusions are concurrent with the vast majority of local citizens concerned with the Park, we are enclosing documentation to that effect that may or may not appear in the Park Service's official records due to NPS comment deadline procedures. Thank you in advance for your participation in this final and crucial phase, that of Congressional passage of the needed legislation. (See next page for list of enclosures.)

Sincerely,

Jeannette Feeheley, President, Board of Directors

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cc: NPS Director Mary Bomar  
NPS Midwest Regional Director Ernie Quintana  
Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore Superintendent Dusty Shultz  
Members and Friends

Enclosed: Minutes, 8.19.08, Meeting of **Benzie County Board of Commissioners**  
(see pages 4 - 5 for motion to support replacement of 1981 wilderness study with new one)  
Minutes, 10.21.08, Meeting of **Benzie County Board of Commissioners**  
(see pages 4 – 6 for rejection of motion to oppose Preferred Alternative);  
Minutes, 7.23.08 Meeting of **Benzie County Road Commission**  
(see page 152 for motion to send letter supporting NPS Preferred Alternative);  
Resolution of 6.10.08, **Benzie County Chamber of Commerce;**  
Resolution of 7.23.08, **Benzie County Convention & Visitors Bureau;**  
Minutes, 5.20.08, **Glen Arbor Township**  
(see page 3 for motion supporting Preferred Alternative);  
Minutes, 10.15.08, **Leelanau County Parks and Recreation Commission**  
(see page 1 for motion to enthusiastically support replacement of 1981 wilderness boundaries with new boundaries per the new Wilderness Study);  
Communication to CAL, 8.26.08 from **Leelanau County Road Commission** and  
Minutes of their 5.6.08 meeting;  
Comments 6.15.08 by **Manitou Islands Memorial Society** (supporting Preferred Alternative provided that historical preservation be clarified).

(Actual enclosures sent only to Senators and Congressmen in order to save copying/postage costs.)

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