

◆ Antrim Upper Chain of Lakes Association ◆ Elk-Skegemog Lakes Association ◆
◆ Friends of Clam Lake ◆ Intermediate Lake Association ◆
◆ Three Lakes Association ◆ Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council ◆
◆ Torch Lake Protection Alliance ◆

August 1, 2014

Antrim County Board of Commissioners
PO Box 520
Bellaire, MI 49615

Dear Commissioners,

We, the undersigned organizations, are writing to support Antrim County United Through Ecology (ACUTE), working to address the TCE plume contamination that continues to migrate toward Shanty Creek Resort's Schuss Village.

ACUTE has proposed a plan that includes a request for \$250,000 from Antrim County. When combined with money from the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and the Mancelona Area Water & Sewer Authority (MAWSA), this will provide funding for an immediate \$1.253 million project that is part of a longer-term, comprehensive plan to upgrade the public drinking water system to deal with the pollution.

We strongly urge the Antrim County Board of Commissioners to take advantage of this opportunity being offered in partnership with DEQ. The state has generously put forward \$750,000 to cover a majority of the costs related to this short-term solution. However, it is very important to note that this money could also be used to address over 200 other sites in the state, if Antrim County does not claim it.

As you know, this unfortunate situation was created by a private entity and abandoned, leaving clean-up duties to the rest of us. To help address this serious problem, the DEQ has already invested \$18 million provided by the State of Michigan taxpayers. DEQ has demonstrated their commitment to help the County with this wicked problem, for which we are grateful. They are committed to finding funding sources to help implement the rest of the long-term plan, and we take them at their word on this, given their already very large investment and past performance on this issue.

We also realize that many Shanty Creek property owners and other riparians supporting this solution are non-voting, non-homesteaders. However, non-homestead tax payer revenues make big contributions to local budgets. Protecting citizens and threatened property values in this region is good for the entire County. It sends a message that Antrim County takes private investment in the region seriously.

We believe that with Antrim County's \$250,000 pledge of support, the community will flourish with a viable short-term solution that protects our water resources, our economy, the public health of our citizens, and is a necessary step for moving to a long-term solution.

We thank you for your consideration of this matter, and respectfully request that you vote “yes”. If you have any questions, please contact Gary Knapp, Coordinator for ACUTE at 231.533.9056.

Sincerely,

James Schnackenberg
President
**Antrim Upper Chain of Lakes
Association**

Ruth Bay
President
Elk-Skegemog Lakes Association

Fred Sittel
President
Friends of Clam Lake

Scott Zimmerman
President
Intermediate Lake Association

Tina Norris Fields
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Three Lakes Association

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Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council

Greg Payne
President
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