



PITTSFIELD CHARTER TOWNSHIP

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Christina Lirones
Township Clerk

Jan BenDor
Deputy Clerk

Kitty Higginbottom
Assistant to the Clerk

Office Of The Clerk

February 27, 2003

Water Docket---ATTN: Docket ID No. OW-2002-0050
Environmental Protection Agency
Mailcode 4101T
1200 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Washington DC 20460

FEB 27 2003

To Whom It May Concern:

Enclosed please find four copies of a Resolution unanimously adopted by the Trustees of Pittsfield Charter Township.

The Resolution states our firm opposition to the EPA's proposed changes in the Clean Water Act.

As a local government, we are close to the residents of our community, who have expressed in numerous ways that they want government to protect and clean our water resources.

We urge that the US Environmental Protection Agency and the US Army Corps of Engineers work to find ways to strengthen, not weaken, the language and the enforcement of the Clean Water Act.

Sincerely,

Christina L. Lirones
Pittsfield Township Clerk

C3-06-03 P02:46 IN

**PITTSFIELD CHARTER TOWNSHIP
WASHTENAW COUNTY, MICHIGAN
RESOLUTION #03-08
SCOPE OF THE CLEAN WATER ACT**

Minutes of a Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees for Pittsfield Charter Township, Washtenaw County, Michigan, held at the Township Administration Building, 6201 W. Michigan Avenue, Ann Arbor Michigan, on the 25th day of February, 2003 at 7:30 p.m.

Members Present: Brostrom, Burhop, Corner, Lirones, Marine, Skrobola, Walter
Members Absent: None

The following preamble and resolution were offered by Member Skrobola and supported by Member Brostrom.

WHEREAS, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Environmental Protection Agency have proposed changes in the scope of waters protected under Federal jurisdiction in the Clean Water Act and in other laws designed to protect the environment, and have requested public input regarding how "waters of the United States" shall be defined; and

WHEREAS, clean water is essential for drinking, for recreational, industrial, commercial, and agricultural uses, and for aquatic life and wildlife; and

WHEREAS, for 30 years, the Clean Water Act has played an essential role in protecting and restoring our nation's waterways, resulting in significant improvement in water quality, progress which would not have been possible if the Act had not applied to all our nation's waters; and

WHEREAS, a narrow definition of the waters subject to the Clean Water Act would be detrimental to the health, safety, and welfare of Pittsfield Charter Township residents, for the following reasons:

- A. Scientific studies repeatedly show the interconnectedness of surface waters, wetlands, and groundwater. Therefore, adequate protection of navigable waters relies on protection of non-navigable tributaries and adjacent wetlands;
- B. Isolated wetlands provide essential groundwater recharge. In recent years, Southeastern Michigan aquifer levels have been declining, negatively affecting the amount of water available for residential, commercial and industrial use;
- C. Smaller, isolated wetlands have been shown, in a study of the Huron River Watershed, to provide as many ecological benefits as larger wetlands contiguous to the river;
- D. Flood control is dependent on proper management of the entire watershed draining to a river, and

WHEREAS, enforcement of water protection for isolated, ephemeral, non-navigable or adjacent waterbodies at the state level, without federal support under the Clean Water Act, would be inadequate because:

1. Enforcement by the state of Michigan of existing water protection programs is underfunded and regularly inadequate;
2. Without the leverage provided by Clean Water Act requirements, state compliance with water protection rules would be much less likely to occur;

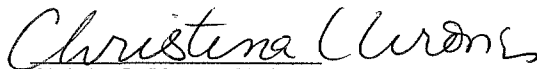
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of Pittsfield Charter Township opposes the proposed reduction of scope of protection under the Clean Water Act, and affirms that the definition of U.S. waters subject to the Clean Water Act should include, in addition to traditionally navigable waters, all non-navigable tributaries, intermittent and ephemeral streams, waters that pass through man-made conveyances, and all wetlands whether or not there is a visible connection to surface waters.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted immediately to the Environmental Protection Agency, for inclusion in the EPA Public Comment Water Docket, to our representatives in Congress and in the State Legislature, and to the Huron and River Raisin Watershed Councils.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

AYES: Brostrom, Burhop, Corner, Lirones, Marine, Skrobola, Walter
NAYS: None
ABSENT: None
ABSTAIN: None

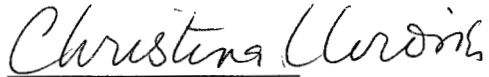
RESOLUTION DECLARED ADOPTED.


Christina L. Lirones, Clerk
Pittsfield Charter Township

DATED: February 25, 2003

CERTIFICATE

I, Christina L. Lirones, hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and complete copy of a resolution adopted by the Board of Trustees, Pittsfield Charter Township, County of Washtenaw, State of Michigan, at a Regular Meeting held on February 25, 2003, and that said meeting was conducted and public notice of said meeting was given pursuant to and in full compliance with the Open Meetings Act, being Act 267, Public Acts of Michigan, 1976, and that the minutes of said meeting were kept and will be or have been made available as required by said Act.



Christina L. Lirones, Clerk
Pittsfield Charter Township

DATED: February 25, 2003