

Dear Editor

The Great Lakes and the groundwater, streams and lakes that feed them are globally spectacular freshwater seas. They are a tremendous public resource not unlike the Grand Canyon or the Florida Everglades. Our state's groundwater and streams are a critical aspect of our freshwater resource: the Great Lakes. Small streams, lakes, groundwater and our Great Lakes system are threatened by a gap in current policies.

Michigan Water Rights legislation seeks to keep all of our water resources – including lakes and streams -- secure and public as our water has always been. The bill keeps our water safe from irresponsible uses, withdrawals and exports from our watersheds and the Great Lakes Basin. Such a bill will ensure that all of the state's water users – farmers, manufacturers and residential property owners, riparian landowners, fishermen, boaters - will continue to use and enjoy our shared freshwater resource. Water sustains our economy and our lives. People in our state need to take action to protect our water rights and resources.

Contact both your State Senator and State Representative urging them to support the introduction and enactment of Michigan Water Rights Legislation that declares Michigan water a public trust, imposes a duty on the state and government, as the trustee, to protect water, and prohibits the government or anyone from violating the public trust principles. Public trust protects everyone's use of water against claims of ownership, control, or export by powerful outside special interests. Why would Michigan leave itself open for the rest of the world to press a finger on the map, buy land, and come here and ship the water somewhere else?