

TOWN OF GIBSON RESOLUTION No. 2017 – 4

Resolution concerning proposed National Marine Sanctuary on the Western Shores of Wisconsin

Be it resolved, that the undersigned members of the Wisconsin Towns Association submit the following concerns with respect to the proposed National Marine Sanctuary along the Western Shore of Lake Michigan from Ozaukee County to Manitowoc County:

Whereas the strength of our Republic is in local governance and the respect for individual property rights;

Whereas, the federal government through the National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) would remove local control of 1,260 square miles of Lake Michigan from Ozaukee County to Manitowoc County;

Whereas, the scope of the Marine Sanctuary would include the high water mark of Lake Michigan, which would impose restrictions on lakeshore property owners and the use of beaches (metal detectors, removal of driftwood etc.);

Whereas, NOAA's possession of the 1,260 square miles of Lake Michigan is irreversible;

Whereas, there are current laws that protect shipwrecks;

Whereas, NOAA has expanded sanctuaries in other locations and may do the same into Kewaunee and Door Counties;

(Note: Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary in Lake Huron began in October 2000 with 448 square miles and in 2012, was expanded to 4,300 square miles);

Whereas, once the Marine Sanctuary is established and under federal control (NOAA), restrictions can be imposed on commercial and sport fishing;



Whereas, tourism and promotion efforts surrounding shipwrecks and the use of Lake Michigan can be coordinated via state, regional and local agencies;


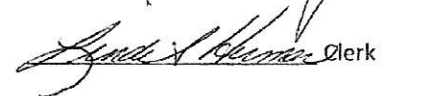
Whereas, NOAA may implement permit and fee structures to enjoy activities that there are no current charges;

Whereas, the federal government is already trillions of dollars in debt and should not expand into areas now under local control and take on additional debt with costs of operating research ships, federal enforcement agents and vehicles.

Therefore; be it resolved, that the undersigned are on record as being opposed to NOAA creating a National Marine Sanctuary on the Western Shore of Lake Michigan and request that the Governor and other elected officials do the same and keep jurisdiction of Lake Michigan at the state level.

Adopted this 4th day of October, 2017 by the Town Board of the Town of Gibson, Manitowoc County, Wisconsin.

  
Supervisor  
  
Chairman

  
Supervisor  
  
Clerk