



**Benzie Conservation District**

280 S. Benzie Blvd., P.O. Box 408  
Beulah, MI 49617

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June 8, 2010

Wilfred Swiecki, Pres.  
Platte Lake Improvement Association  
P.O. Box 272  
Honor, MI 49640

Dear Mr. Swiecki:

As the administrator of the Benzie Conservation District, I am writing to let you and the Platte Lake Improvement Association know why the District is seeking a .10 mill (one-tenth of a mill) tax levy in the August 3<sup>rd</sup> election for operation and enhanced programs, and that we are respectfully seeking the PLIA's endorsement of this proposal. Given the vast amount of work the PLIA has done for the restoration of Platte Lake for the past 30 years and the remarkable success of this effort, your endorsement would be very beneficial to our effort.

As you are aware, the Conservation District has been around for over 65 years in Benzie County and has provided agricultural and natural resources stewardship throughout its history. In its heyday of adequate funding, the District had on staff foresters, groundwater technicians and outreach educators, all to help with landowner concerns and to advise on best practices to help protect our agricultural and natural resources heritage. In addition, the District has been able to leverage hundreds of thousands of dollars over the years through the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), money which would not have been available had the office not been here. We do not want to lose these services and dollars.

I realize that there have been disagreements in the past between the PLIA and personnel representing the Conservation District, with personal agendas conflicting with scientific evidence. Let me assure you that as administrator I intend to keep an open mind and let the science speak as we all try to determine the best course to protect Benzie's precious natural resources. I congratulate the PLIA for the 30 year effort on behalf of Platte Lake, making it the most highly studied and documented lake in the United States, perhaps the world. The outstanding documented results of your work and the appearance of this restored, beautiful lake deserve the thanks of all of us in Benzie and beyond.

Sincerely,

  
Tad Peacock, District Administrator

