We are facing an emergency on our beautiful lake front. Record high-water levels and destructive storms have caused serious erosion damage and threaten to undermine Lake Front Drive.

The Town has exhausted its resources and needs help from county, state, and federal officials.

We have provided a sample letter and contact information for residents to use when contacting (writing/emailing/telephoning) officials. The letter emphasizes the following:

* **Public Safety Threat**. It is first and foremost a **public safety** problem as water and gas lines lie beneath Lake Front Drive. Homes on the lake front will be cut off from emergency services if the road is undermined;
* **Economic Impact.** It is an **economic** problem as visitors, who frequent area businesses, will not be able to access the Century of Progress homes and beaches along Lake Front Drive if the road is undermined;
* **Environmental Damage.** It is an **environmental** problem as a road collapse will damage the fragile dunes and release asphalt and debris into the lake;
* **Depleted Town Resources**. The Town of Beverly Shores has exhausted its resources and needs financial help immediately to fix the problem.

Please let your voices be heard on this critical issue.

PHONE SCRIPT/CONTACT INFO FOR BEVERLY SHORES EROSION EMERGENCY:

Hello, my name is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and I’m a resident/homeowner in Beverly Shores Indiana.

Please designate Beverly Shores an Indiana State Emergency and provide immediate aid for the catastrophic lakefront erosion destroying East Lake Front Drive.

Thank you!

Senator Todd Young: 202-224-5623 or 317-226-6700

Junior Senator Mike Braun: 202-226-6700 or 219-937-9850

IN Dist. 1 US Rep Pet Visclosky: 202-225-3915 or 219-795-1850

IN Governor Eric Holcomb: 317-232-4567

State Sen. Dist. 4: Karen Tallian: 219-764-0434 or 317-232-9404 (switchboard)

State Rep. Dist. 9 Pat Boy: 317-232-9600 (switchboard)

Porter County Board of Commissioners: 219-465-3440

President—Jeff Good, Laura Shurr Blaney, Jim Biggs

EMAIL ADDRESSES/INSTRUCTIONS FOR BEVERLY SHORES EROSION EMERGENCY

These politicians have form email addresses. Instructions follow.

Senior State Senator Todd Young: [www.young.senate.gov](http://www.young.senate.gov)

Junior Senator Mike Braun: [www.braun.senate.gov](http://www.braun.senate.gov)

Indiana Dist. 1 U.S. Senator Pete Visclosky: [www.visclosky.house.gov](http://www.visclosky.house.gov)

Indiana Governor Eric Holcomb: [www.state.in.us](http://www.state.in.us)

1. Click “Contact.”
2. Fill out the personal information portion of the form.
3. In “Message Subject” type STATE OF EMERGENCY FOR BEVERLY SHORES.
4. In “Message Topic” select “Environment.”
5. In “Message” type the following: Please declare a State of Emergency for Beverly Shores, Indiana, and provide emergency funding to prevent infrastructure and property disaster, protect public safety, and ensure shoreline access to East Lakefront Drive, the only lake access for the Indiana Dunes National Park. Thank you!”

These politicians have open email addresses. Instructions follow.

State Sen. Dist. 4 Karen Tallian: s4@iga.in.gov

State Rep. Dist. 9 Pat Boy: h9@iga.in.gov

1. Type the above “Message” text as the body of your email.
2. REMEMBER TO DESIGNATE THE RECIEVER (i.e. The Honorable State Senator Tallian, The Honorable State Rep. Ed Solliday in separate emails) AND CLOSE WITH YOUR NAME AND INDIANA ADDRESS.

Sample language for residents to use when writing to government officials about the emergency erosion problem.

To \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

I urge the State of Indiana to declare a disaster emergency due to the imminent threat of disaster caused by record-high levels of Lake Michigan, and provide funding to mitigate the effects of shoreline erosion in Beverly Shores, IN.  It is destroying the precious dunes and property in the new National Park; it is threatening our lakefront road, Lake Shore Drive; and it presents a serious threat to public safety.  Porter County, the Town of Beverly Shores, and nearby communities have declared a state of emergency. Similarly, cities and towns in other states along Lake Michigan and Lake Huron recently declared that shoreline erosion to be an emergency threat to person and property.

1. **Public Safety is at risk.**  Public utilities run under the Lake Front Drive, including NIPSCO gas lines and water lines.  If beach erosion is not mitigated and Lake Front Drive collapses the gas, electric, and drinking water infrastructure will be ruined.  The risk of a gas explosion or leak is real. If the road collapses, residents will lose access to their homes, Lake Michigan will be contaminated with asphalt and debris, and the homes themselves could collapse. The already record high lake levels are predicted rise by another foot this year.
2. **Economic harm.** Lake Front Drive is the only direct lake shore access available to the Indiana Dunes National Park and the Century of Progress Homes from the 1933 Chicago World’s Fair, important tourist destinations our Hoosier state.  If there is no beach, if the road collapses, it will be much more difficult to access the beach in the National Park.
3. **Local Resources have been depleted.** Since December of 2019, the Town of Beverly Shores spent all its discretionary money, approximately $350,000, to fix just one small section of shoreline to protect the road and utilities from the Lake. This was the price tag even with all the hours of service donated by willing and able residents. We are a small community of activists and doers who are ready and willing and able to raise some funds and roll up our sleeves, but we do not have the capacity to amass the funds needed to fix this emergency situation and pay for the needed materials and equipment.

This is a problem that is getting worse every day and with every wave that hits the unprotected areas of the beach. This area of Indiana is a jewel with its access to Lake Michigan, wildlife and recreation areas.

Lake Front Drive must be protected to prevent this imminent disaster. We are one storm away from a major catastrophe. Please take all necessary steps to declare a disaster emergency and authorize the use of emergency funds stop this imminent disaster before it happens.

Sincerely,

Your name and address