

NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION

KEITH J. CHARTERS, Chair
 JERRY C. BARTNIK
 NANCY A. DOUGLAS
 L. THORNTON EDWARDS, JR.
 PAUL EISELE
 BOB GARNER
 WILLIAM U. PARFET



JOHN ENGLER, Governor

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

STEVENS T MASON BUILDING, PO BOX 30028, LANSING MI 48909-7528

WEBSITE: www.dnr.state.mi.us

K. L. COOL, Director

January 24, 2000

Mr. Wilfred Swiecki, President
 Platte Lake Improvement Association
 28991 Glenbrook
 Farmington Hills, Michigan 48831

Dear Mr. Swiecki:

As you know, the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and the Platte Lake Improvement Association (PLIA) have been involved in a dispute related to the operations of the Platte River State Fish Hatchery and its impact on Big Platte Lake since the 1970s. As we now approach a settlement of this dispute, I believe it is appropriate to take time to reflect back on this matter.

The Platte River State Fish Hatchery was a significant contributor of phosphorus to Big Platte Lake in the 1970s and 1980s. Although I was not in my present position during this period, it appears to me and our current Fisheries staff that the Department should have been more proactive at that time in dealing with the effluents and reducing phosphorus at the hatchery.

This settlement will ensure that the DNR will be a part of the long-term solution, rather than a contributing factor, to the phosphorus problem. Upon reflecting on the history of the relationships between the DNR and the PLIA, it is also evident that every representative of this Department should have at all times treated people with respect and dignity. Only by working with committed and caring citizens, such as those in PLIA, can we be successful in reaching what are often mutual goals and objectives. We are hopeful that the settlement of this dispute will improve communications between our organizations, and that the Platte River watershed will be the ultimate beneficiary of our mutual efforts.

On behalf of our Department, I apologize for any mistakes of the past. In the future, I am hopeful that our relationship with your organization will be one of mutual respect and cooperation, recognizing that, like your organization, we also want to do what's right for the resources and be good partners in conservation.

Should you have any additional questions or comments on this matter, please do not hesitate to contact Gary Whelan at 517-373-6948, or me.

Sincerely,

K. L. Cool
 Director

cc: Mr. Keith Charters, NRC
 Dr. Kelley Smith, DNR
 Mr. Gary Whelan, DNR