

# Governor Whitmer

[www.RestoreTheLakes.org](http://www.RestoreTheLakes.org)

The purpose of this guide is to provide contact information for key elected officials. While their email addresses are included, please also consider sending your written comments in a letter format via US Mail. There is something about a letter that helps emphasize your message.

You can do both, email your thoughts and then mail a letter to them as well. A stamp cost 55 cents and is a powerful means to be heard. A book of stamps is \$11 and enough to mail 20 letters.

To write your email / letter, start from a place in your heart, share a memory or a story. Then ask for their support to restore the lakes. We provide suggested key points for your letter to help you frame your thoughts. While we each think about “our lake”, **the government views this as the Tittabawassee water system (be sure to reference this into your request for restoration help). In the subject line please type: RESTORE THE MID MICHIGAN LAKES**

There is a sample email / letter available on page 2 for your review and consideration. You can revise it to make it your own.

Thanks for taking time to write and email / mail your letters. You can help restore the lakes; restore property values; restore the local economy and keep the lakes alive for generations to come.

To email the Governor: <https://sombgovweb.state.mi.us/GovRelations/ContactGovernor.aspx>

## GRETCHEN WHITMER

George W. Romney Building  
P.O. Box 30013  
Lansing, MI 48909  
517.373.3400  
517.335.7858 (Constituent Services)

- The May 2020 failure of the mid-Michigan dams was caused by the failure of federal regulators to hold a private dam owner in compliance.
- Is not fair to hold property owners, who did nothing wrong, with solely footing the bill to restore the lakes.
- State and Federal financial assistance is required to help restore the lakes. Mid-Michigan needs your help and leadership.
- Restoring the Lakes will restore the local economy, restore property values, keep the local tax base from collapse and create jobs for Michigan.
- **I seek your support for the bipartisan Michigan Bills focused on Dam Repair and Safety currently in Committee. The funding focused on dam safety and repair will help us rebuild and make sure this does not happen again to other families in Michigan.**
- The Four Lakes Task Force (FLTF) is finalizing a shovel ready \$300 million infrastructure project that will create high paying jobs.
- We support the FLTF plan to restore the lakes; but the investment is high and property owners should not be expected to shoulder the full burden.

[DATE]

Governor Whitmer  
George W. Romney Building  
P.O. Box 30013  
Lansing, MI 48909

SUBJECT: RESTORE THE MID MICHIGAN LAKES

Dear Governor Whitmer:

As our Governor, you are aware of the failures in May 2020 of the dams in mid-Michigan. Over 8,000 resident properties and countless businesses have been impacted.

**The purpose of my writing is to ask for your support for the bipartisan Michigan Bills focused on Dam Repair and Safety currently in Committee.** The passing of these bills is a critical step to help restore Sanford, Wixom, Smallwood, and Secord lakes; referred to as the Tittabawassee water system. These funds will also assist other Michigan high risk dams. Regarding dam safety, we need to make sure this tragic event never happens again to other Michigan families.

The Four Lakes Task Force (FLTF) is the Midland and Gladwin County delegated authority. They are developing environmental; engineering and detailed restoration plans for each lake. Securing funding is a prerequisite for the application of permits, contract bidding as well as other restoration work. A timely passing of the bills is a key to the FLTF moving to the next phase of restoration.

Our friends and neighbors who live, work, and have family vacation cottages in this area should not be solely responsible to pay for somebody else's neglect. Up to this point it appeared if the Lakes are to be restored, local property owners will need to solely foot the bill. This is both not fair and a financial impossibility for property owners.

We support the bipartisan effort to allocate \$500 Million to Michigan Dam Repair and Safety with **\$225 Million allocated to restore the 4 damaged or failed dams known as Sanford, Wixom, Smallwood, and Secord.**

Michigan needs these Lakes restored to their once vibrant Pure Michigan destinations. Your help and support will keep property values from further collapse while supporting the local tax base for schools and services. Your help will aid the local economy while creating good paying infrastructure jobs as the dams are restored.

We have confidence in the Four Lakes Task Force plan to restore the Tittabawassee water system with the bipartisan Michigan legislation being a cornerstone for success.

**We appreciate your support to restore the lakes with the timely approval for the bipartisan Bills in Committee as they move to the Floor and then to your desk for your signature.**

Sincerely,

[NAME]  
{ADDRESS}  
{CITY, STATE, ZIP}