

APPENDIX B
Director's Letter Regarding
Consideration of the National Interest

STATE OF MICHIGAN



WILLIAM G. MILLIKEN, Governor

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

STEVENS T. MASON BUILDING, BOX 30028, LANSING, MICHIGAN 48909
HOWARD A. TANNER, Director

April 27, 1978

DIRECTOR'S LETTER

Letter No.: 17
Effective Date: May 8, 1978

TO: All Unit Supervisors and Conservation Officers
FROM: Howard A. Tanner, Director
SUBJECT: Consideration of the National Interest in Coastal Management

In the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972, as amended, the United States Congress offered to assist coastal states in the development and implementation of management programs to achieve wise use of the land and water resources of the coastal area. As part of this overall national commitment, Congress provided a unique arrangement between the states and the Federal Government. The act mandates that all federal agencies, in conducting activities or undertaking development projects in the coastal area must be consistent to the maximum extent practicable with policies of an approved state coastal management program. In Michigan these policies are based upon authorities such as state statutes, Executive Orders of the Governor, and Natural Resources Commission policies. In return Michigan is required by the federal act to assure adequate consideration of the national interest in planning and siting of facilities which are other than local in nature in Michigan's coastal area.

The purpose of this communication is to insure that Department programs continue to consider the national interest in their operation with respect to facility siting (e.g., energy, recreation, transportation) and resource protection (e.g., water, air, wetlands, erosion areas) in the conduct of regulatory responsibilities and resource management. It is important to note that the federal act requires adequate consideration of the national interest which does not mean that the national interest must be necessarily accommodated.

Thus, I hereby direct all Department Units, in carrying out statutory and programmatic responsibilities, including: (1) issuance of permits and licenses; (2) preparation of environmental impact statements pursuant to Executive Order 1974-4; and (3) through representation on various boards and committees, including the Standing Committee on Shorelands and Water Coordination, the Interdepartmental Environmental Review Committee and the Michigan Environmental Review Board; to consider the national interest involved in the planning for and siting of facilities which are necessary to meet other than local requirements, including the national interest in resource conservation. In carrying out these responsibilities, reference should be made to Chapter VI of the Michigan Coastal Management Program document. In addition, the Coastal Management Program Unit of the Division of Land Resource Programs is available for consultation and assistance.



Howard A. Tanner

Distribution C and Conservation Officers