

RESOLUTION No. 2001 - 3
OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF
LAPORTE COUNTY

WHEREAS, individuals and businesses in LaPorte County are dependent on Federal reimbursement for health care and there are ever expanding economic and social funding decisions, and

WHEREAS, the Office of Management and Budgetary Affairs (OMB) has new standards and with the 2000 census data, LaPorte County, which has a population of 109,000, would be classified as a micropolitan area and

WHEREAS, under the same OMB standards Newton County, a rural county of only 14,000 people would be added to the Lake and Porter Core Based Statistical Area (CBSA) Metropolitan Division, which would classify Newton County as a metropolitan community, and

WHEREAS, LaPorte County with a population nearly eight times larger than Newton County would be designated as a micropolitan community and excluded from 78% of the nation's population located in metropolitan areas.

WHEREAS, the highways of LaPorte County provide a vital artery from the Eastern United States to the Chicagoland metropolitan area for autos and trucks, and

WHEREAS, metropolitan status for the County of LaPorte would provide the necessary funding to maintain the highways and roads of the County that provide such a crucial link between the Eastern United States and the Chicagoland metropolitan area, and

WHEREAS, according to the 1990 figures of the OMB and the United States Census Bureau, 93% of counties with population over 100,000 are considered metropolitan areas, and

WHEREAS, the Chicagoland region which includes the Indiana counties of Lake, Porter, and the neighboring county of LaPorte County, is part of the third largest region in the United States, and

WHEREAS, the citizens of LaPorte County depend primarily on the four (4) major television networks, countless radio stations and newspapers in the

Chicagoland area for their primary source of news, entertainment, and weather, and

WHEREAS, the fact that LaPorte County residents for decades have used the South Shore Railroad to commute from LaPorte County to the metropolitan area of Chicago for work, entertainment, travel demonstrates a close link between LaPorte County, the City of Chicago and its neighbors, and

WHEREAS, in recent decades, Chicagoland residents have made LaPorte County as a primary and/or secondary home illustrates the close connection between LaPorte County and the Chicagoland area, and

WHEREAS, conversely many LaPorte County residents have chosen Chicagoland as a place to work or relocate further exemplifies the ties LaPorte County residents have elected to have with the Chicagoland area.

WHEREAS, LaPorte County is the only county which is not being considered as a metropolitan area extending across a four (4) state radius surrounding the Southern Lake Michigan, and

WHEREAS, according to the above figures LaPorte County should be considered as a metropolitan area, and

WHEREAS, it is the judgement of this Board, such an exclusion of LaPorte County as a metropolitan area would have adverse consequences on business development and investment, economic activity of the cities and towns of LaPorte County; safety issues; wages and salaries; consumer expenditures; labor market comparisons; quality of life rankings; health care reimbursements; Federal transportation funding and consideration as a primary population center in the United States, and

WHEREAS, a broad coalition of governmental units, businesses and concerned citizens support the classification of LaPorte County as a metropolitan area, and

NOW THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED BY the Board of Commissioners of LaPorte County that we hereby declare that we are fully and firmly opposed to the proposed classification by the OMB and the United States Census Bureau as a micropolitan area, and

FURTHERMORE, we strongly urge the OMB and the United States Census Bureau to consider classifying LaPorte County as a metropolitan area.

In our judgement, metropolitan status is the correct and appropriate classification to be given to LaPorte County, in light of the above considerations.

Continued micropolitan status would, in all likelihood, result in further lost revenues, for healthcare facilities as well as numerous other economic and social organizations, which would have been received if LaPorte County was correctly identified as a metropolitan area.

The impact of not receiving metropolitan status cannot even be gauged for LaPorte County to be competitive in the 21st Century.

In sum, as representatives of the people of LaPorte County we believe we must take a very strong stand in any attempt by the OMB and the United States Census Department to classify LaPorte County anything other than metropolitan area, that we believe will have a tremendous impact on our citizens. Dated this 30th of January 2001.

BOARD OF
COMMISSIONERS
OF LAPORTE COUNTY

Michael A. Turner

Clay Turner

William H. Hoge

Attest:

James D. Hight