



**LA PORTE COUNTY  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
555 Michigan Avenue, Suite 202  
La Porte, IN 46350-3400  
(219) 326-6808 ext. 2229

**Dr. Vidya Kora,  
President**

**Sheila Brillson Matias,  
Vice President**

**Richard Mrozinski,  
Member**

**RESOLUTION 2019-9**

**THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF  
LA PORTE COUNTY, INDIANA IN OPPOSITION TO  
SENATE BILL 581**

**WHEREAS**, the U.S. Supreme Court, in rejecting an appeal by certain homeowners in the *Gunderson* case, has allowed a La Porte Superior Court No. 2 ruling regarding the ‘public trust doctrine’ to remain intact and preserve the right of the general public to access the beaches along Lake Michigan, and

**WHEREAS**, a bill has been introduced in the Indiana Senate (SB 581) that would re-define the boundaries of the beach and could impair or impede the public’s right, use and enjoyment of the shores of Lake Michigan, and

**WHEREAS**, it appears to the undersigned that SB 581 could limit or impair the right of any lakefront community to regulate construction on and adjacent to their beaches and would give to state agencies such as the Department of Natural Resources the right or ability to override local regulatory authority on such beaches, and

**WHEREAS**, the clear intent of such legislation appears to be an attack on the long-standing notion of “Home Rule” which has steadily been eroded in recent years, much to the alarm and consternation of local officials throughout Indiana, and

**WHEREAS**, the Town Council of Long Beach has gone on record in opposition to SB 581 because of the concerns expressed above and has been joined in that effort by both the City of Michigan City and City of Gary, Indiana, and

**WHEREAS**, we stand resolute with these other governmental bodies in seeking to protect “Home Rule” and to ensure that our public beaches remain ‘in trust’ for perpetuity for the enjoyment and convenience of our fellow citizens,

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF LA PORTE COUNTY, INDIANA THAT WE OPPOSE SB 581 NOW PENDING IN THE CURRENT SESSION OF THE INDIANA GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND RESPECTFULLY REQUEST OUR LEGISLATORS VOTE AGAINST ADOPTION OF THIS PROPOSED LEGISLATION.**

**All of which is resolved and adopted this 20<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2019**

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

*Vidya Kora*

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*John Peter Matus*

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*Richard J. Manjushak*

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**Attest:**

*Patricia Winslow*

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