

INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY



January 15, 2020

Senator Karen Tallian
Minority Caucus Chair
200 West Washington Street
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204
(317) 232-9847
S4@iga.in.gov

Representative Pat Boy
200 West Washington Street
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204
(317) 233-5248
H9@iga.in.gov

Dear Senator Tallian and Representative Boy:

Thank you for your January 6, 2020 letter regarding the ongoing sand erosion along the Lake Michigan shoreline in Porter and LaPorte counties. Governor Holcomb asked me to look into the situation and respond to you. A disaster or emergency declaration will not provide any additional state or federal resources or relief at this time.

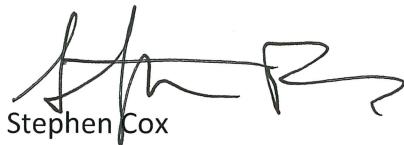
The Indiana Department of Homeland Security has been in contact with the Federal Emergency Management Agency about the potential to access federal emergency funds; however, no such funds would be available under the provisions of the Stafford Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 through 5207) and the regulations governing federal disaster assistance located at 44 CFR 206. To date, we are unaware of any loss of infrastructure (i.e. roads, bridges, public utilities, etc.) which would qualify for public assistance funding from federal or state disaster relief programs.

As you correctly stated, our office, along with several other state agencies, have been monitoring this situation for some time and have been in touch with local, state, and federal elected officials and federal agencies. Similar shoreline erosion issues exist in Michigan, which also has not issued a state disaster declaration or requested a declaration from FEMA at this time.

We will remain in contact with local and federal officials and agencies about funding and resources available for preventative measures which may provide some short-term relief from the erosion, but also more permanent, long-term mitigation projects.

Thank you both for your letter and for keeping our office apprised of the issues facing our lakeshore in northern Indiana.

Sincerely,



Stephen Cox
Executive Director
Indiana Department of Homeland Security

Cc:

Senator Todd Young
Senator Mike Braun
Representative Pete Visclosky
Representative Andre Carson
State Representative Chuck Moseley
Commissioner Jeff Good, Porter County
Commissioner Laura Shurr Blaney, Porter County
Commissioner Jim Biggs, Porter County
Mayor Sue Lynch, City of Portage
President of the Town Council, Ogden Dunes
President of the Town Council, Beverly Shores
President of the Town Council, Long Beach
President of the Town Council, Dune Acres