

Clean Wisconsin

(Founded as Wisconsin's Environmental Decade)

Your environmental voice since 1970.

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Rotten Smell at Milwaukee Lakefront Demands Action Clean Wisconsin Calls on Milwaukee County to Enhance Beach Cleanup Activities

Milwaukee, WI -- In response to rising complaints about the rotten smell along Milwaukee's lakefront, today Clean Wisconsin called on Milwaukee County officials to immediately expand efforts to remove piles of rotting algae that have washed up on its beaches. In a letter to the Milwaukee County Executive Scott Walker and the Milwaukee County Board, Clean Wisconsin called for Milwaukee County to:

- Immediately expand efforts to remove rotting algae at Bradford Beach and other impacted beaches for the rest of the 2005 swimming season;
- Fully fund mechanical beach combing and algae removal activities at all beaches in the 2006 Milwaukee County budget to reduce beach closing bacteria; and,
- Provide funds in the 2006 Milwaukee County budget to plan and engineer a solution to address polluted storm runoff from Milwaukee County's storm sewer outfalls at Bradford Beach.

"Clean beaches and healthy Great Lakes are critical to tourism in Milwaukee County. It could be a blow to Milwaukee's economy if exciting events like this weekend's MUSA Bradford Beach Jam can't return next year due to the rotten smell, polluted water and unhealthy conditions of Lake Michigan.," stated Derek Scheer, Water Policy Director for Clean Wisconsin.

"The action we're asking the county board to take addresses the symptoms of our unhealthy beaches. In the long run, we need to find permanent solutions. A regional effort created the Great Lakes Responsibility and Restoration Agreements containing practicable, thoughtful and doable solutions," said Scheer. As part of this Agreement, the DNR is hosting a hearing on August 22nd in Milwaukee, to take comments.

This year, trash and algae are being removed and beaches are getting cleaned every weekday during the swimming session. These efforts have made a difference. Tourist and beachgoers are returning to the lakefront to enjoy the beaches and the special places along the shore.

"Funding for important beach cleaning activities need to be continued next year. This short-sighted budget savings will cause long-term effects on Milwaukee's economy, tourism, special places, and way of life," stated Scheer.

Clean Wisconsin encourages Milwaukee residents and beach enthusiasts to urge the Milwaukee County Executive to keep Milwaukee beaches safe and clean.

Further details on the Great Lakes Agreement is located on Clean Wisconsin's website at www.cleanwisconsin.org.

Clean Wisconsin, an environmental advocacy organization founded as Wisconsin's Environmental Decade, protects Wisconsin's clean water and air and advocates for clean energy by being an effective voice in the state legislature and by holding elected officials and corporations accountable. Phone: 608-251-7020, Fax: 608-251-1655, Email: info@cleanwisconsin.org, Website: www.cleanwisconsin.org.

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