



CASE SPOTLIGHT

Maintaining Public Access to Indiana's Lake Michigan Beaches

Save the Dunes v. Ind. Dept. of Natural Resources (DNR), Town of Ogden Dunes

CLC represents Save the Dunes in a legal challenge to protect Hoosiers' public trust rights along the Ogden Dunes shoreline.

What's at Stake

Indiana's Public Trust Statute recognizes that Lake Michigan's beaches below the natural ordinary high water mark (OHWM) are held in trust by the State for the benefit of all Hoosiers. DNR approved a mile-long stone revetment in Ogden Dunes without first determining where Lake Michigan's natural OHWM is located, making it impossible to evaluate whether the proposed revetment would be built on public trust land, what impacts it could have, or whether the permit should have been denied.

CLC's Role

CLC filed a legal challenge on behalf of Save the Dunes to revoke DNR's approval of the revetment. CLC's advocacy helped stop the revetment's construction, but we remain concerned about the court's failure to determine the boundary between public and private land. CLC brought judicial review proceedings in Porter Superior Court and filed its opening brief in April 2026.

Why This Matters

Indiana's Lake Michigan shoreline belongs to the public. This case is about preventing flawed permitting decisions from eroding Hoosiers' public trust rights.

Learn More

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