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PETITION OPPOSING THE PROPOSED HERMITAGE CAMPGROUND

WE, THE UNDERSIGNED, PIKE LAKE CHAIN PROPERTY OWNERS AND OTHER BAYFIELD COUNTY TAX PAYERS, HEREBY PETITION the Iron River Town Board and the Bayfield County Zoning Board to deny the conditional use permit being requested for development of the campground behind the Hermitage in the Town of Iron River, WI.

WE BELIEVE THE PROPOSED CAMPGROUND:

1. Poses a safety threat. Curves and hills on both sides of the proposed campground access pose serious safety problems. Increased vehicle traffic, large numbers of RVs, trailered ATVs and boats, and pedestrian crossing on County H raise the level of concern significantly. Additionally, the potential number of boats and Personal Water Crafts in the narrow channel of Buskey Bay puts boat and swimmer safety at risk.

2. Will cause an overwhelming increase in population density. With approximately 375 existing properties on the Pike Lake Chain, adding up to 125 campsites means a potential 33% increase in "residences". This will seriously impact the roads, water, air quality, noise levels, and shorelines. A density increase of this magnitude calls to question the future sustainability of these valuable and irreplaceable resources.

3. Contradicts the intent of zoning regulations. The intent of shoreline, setback, and back lot zoning regulations is to protect the environmental quality of the lakes and the social quality of lake communities. The result of these regulations has been increases in both property values and the regional tax base. The proposed campground undermines the regulations, diminishes the qualities of the lakes, and has great potential of decreasing property values and the tax base.

4. Increases the threat of invasive species on the Pike Lake Chain. Because the Hermitage has a private boat launch, there is no guarantee that boats will be properly treated to protect the water. The property owners on the Pike Lake Chain have a vested personal and financial interest in keeping the water clean and clear. Non-stakeholders will not likely share this concern.

5. May put undue burden on the taxpayers. The implications of a large campground present potential tax issues. The above items of insuring safety and controlling invasive species are just a start. Tax burdens could extend to the Town of Iron River in the form of such things as additional police and fire protection.

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