

COVINGTON TOWNSHIP

April 13, 2011

Tom Casperson
State Senator 38th District

Matt Huuki
State Representative 110th District

Re: Campground closures in Baraga County

Covington Township supports the efforts of the legislator's to keep the State Forest Campgrounds in Baraga County open and available for local residents and tourists to utilize. Both units scheduled to close in Baraga County are not located within Covington Township, but are used by Township residents. The Big Lake campground is and has been for many years, a popular spot for citizens to enjoy the short lived summer season. In addition, with tourism being a viable industry in the State, it does not make sense to eliminate facilities that may attract business to the area. Budget concerns are real, local government has been dealing with the issues for years. The balance sheet for these small units may show a deficit, but the requirements to maintain them should be, or can be minimal. Covington Township is in favor of offering the units to the local units of government where they are located, and if no interest is shown there, the County would be the next logical step. If efforts fail there, the State should offer it to a private concern with the stipulation that it stays open to the public. The last thing we need is another parcel of State land in the area that is under utilized, and provides no or minimal revenue to the local units of government. Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

For the Board:

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