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News from Save Our Shoreline, Inc.

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Michigan Supreme Court to Consider Shoreline Question

BAY CITY, Michigan – October 29, 2004

Save Our Shoreline learned today that the Michigan Supreme Court has agreed to consider an appeal involving the question of ownership of a Great Lakes beach. The court has agreed to review the Court of Appeals' decision in Glass v Goeckel, which held that a Great Lakes riparian owner has exclusive use of the shore above the water's edge. The decision also had confusing language regarding who owned the shore, at one point suggesting it was owned by the riparian, and in other language stating the state owns the shoreline up to a so-called "ordinary high water mark." Save Our Shoreline had filed an amicus brief asking the court to review the decision and clarify that the riparian, and not the state, owns to the water's edge. Similar requests were made in amicus briefs filed on behalf of the Michigan Chamber of Commerce, the National Federation of Independent Business Legal Foundation, Michigan Bankers Association, Michigan Hotel, Motel & Resort Association, and the Defenders of Property Rights, a Washington D.C. property rights advocacy group.

"This is wonderful news for the shoreline community and the entire state as well," said SOS President Ernie Krygier. "There are 3,288 miles of valuable shoreline property in this state, and the newly created confusion regarding its title serves no one. Property owners not only in Michigan, but in all the Great Lakes states, need to follow this case very carefully," he said.

Founded in 2001, Save Our Shoreline is a nonprofit membership basis corporation of over 2000 households committed to the preservation of beaches and waterfront areas, and to the protection of rights to maintain beaches and waterfront areas. Those interested in Save Our Shoreline can find more information at <<http://www.saveourshoreline.org/>> or by calling (989) 667-2910. For more information about this press release, contact Ernie Krygier at (989) 793-3711.

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