

U. S. Commission on Ocean Policy  
1120 20th Street, NW, Suite 200 North  
Washington, DC 20036  
www.oceancommission.gov  
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## **PUBLIC COMMENT FOR THE RECORD**

The Lake Michigan Interleague Group is composed of members of local Leagues of Women Voters in the states within the Lake Michigan watershed: Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana and Michigan. We take positions and make public statements only after we have studied an issue and have come to member consensus.

We are extremely pleased the Commission has held a Great Lakes regional public meeting in Chicago to allow citizens here the opportunity to hear knowledgeable panelists discuss many of our own concerns.

We want to stress the importance of :

- Public Education – When people become aware of the effects their actions have on the waters of the world, they may be more likely to make land and water management decisions that are beneficial to those waters.
- Government and Scientific Communication - The increasing number of government agencies overseeing land and water management use has hampered effective decision-making. We urge coordination of functions -- a clearing-house where federal, state and local programs can be developed and the elimination of overlapping functions. Scientific research is often impaired by inadequate interdisciplinary communication.

Thank you.

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