

ASK THE EXPERTS

If you have a question about water related issues, riparian rights, and/or lakes and streams, etc., let us know by email or snail mail.

*Email: swagner@mlswa.org
Mail: The Michigan Riparian
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Stanton, MI 48888*

Question: Is there any legislation pending in Michigan that could affect Michigan riparians?”

Answer: There are two bills currently pending in the Michigan Legislature that may be of interest to riparians. The first bill would preempt or preclude local governments from banning or even substantially regulating short term rentals, which would impact the renting of cottages, cabins and houses on lakes, streams and in rural areas. Short-term rentals typically involve renting to one family for only a weekend, four days, one week or a few weeks. In some cases, the intensity of use resembles a motel or a small resort. The legislation would effectively preclude cities, villages and townships from regulation of short-term rentals via a zoning ordinance or other local ordinances. The second bill would effectively preempt or preclude townships, cities and villages from regulating or prohibiting new or expanded mining operations. That would include the mining of sand, gravel, rocks and other aggregates. If enacted, that legislation could affect a significant number of properties near lakes, streams and rivers throughout Michigan.

If you feel strongly about these proposed bills (one way or the other), you may want to contact your Michigan Senator and/or Michigan Representative soon to let him or her know your opinions regarding these pieces of legislation. Constituent input does have an impact!

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Our experts include our riparian attorney, a biologist, a limnologist, an engineer, a college professor and a state agency official. They look forward to responding to your question.