Guarding the Environment & Great Lakes

Stewarding our natural resources is etched in the DNA of every Michiganian. We know we are blessed to call these lands and waters home.

Ours is a rich heritage of forests and sand dunes, lakes and rivers, fish and birds and wildlife all providing us with abundant beauty, recreation and livelihood.

From Copper Harbor to Port Austin to New Buffalo, we are uniquely positioned at the center of the world’s largest fresh water system. The Great Lakes define our border, enhance our economy and enrich our way of life.

Michiganders spend a combined 357 million days per year engaged in outdoor and wildlife-related activities. Meanwhile, Michigan’s natural resources industries generate 7 percent of all jobs, more than $32 billion in gross domestic product and more than $400 billion in sales annually.

“Michigan’s waters are our crown jewels and we must do everything we can to protect them for current and future use.”
The Bill Schuette Record

- **Fought against a Great Lakes Asian carp invasion** by prosecuting traffickers of invasive species and aggressively suing the Army Corps of Engineers all the way to the Supreme Court to force permanent protections.

- **Investigated the safety of “Line 5,”** the Enbridge oil pipeline under the Straits of Mackinac, **negotiated a ban on heavy crude and tar sands** being transported through the straits, and **sued** when a shipping company dangerously dragged an anchor over Line 5.

- **Won over $75 million from Enbridge** for the Talmadge Creek oil spill.

- **Defended the Natural Resources Trust Fund** from being raided for unconstitutional purposes.

- **Secured stronger standards** for ballast water releases in the Great Lakes.

- **Opposed the Waukesha, Wisconsin Great Lakes Basin water diversion.**

- **Brought fifty-one criminal charges against fifteen state and local officials in the Flint Water Crisis,** resulting in multiple criminal convictions.

The Bill Schuette Plan

As governor, I’ll continue this fight to safeguard our water and other natural resources.

My Great Lakes Platform will balance science, technology and common sense to drive a definite, **specific decommissioning timeline for “Line 5”** while maintaining critical propane supplies and energy jobs for Michigan residents. We must fully explore the feasibility of an underground tunnel to serve as a utility corridor between our two peninsulas. This concept holds great potential to create infrastructure and construction jobs, provide reliable affordable energy services between the upper and lower peninsulas, allow for continuous visual inspection, and ensure the long-term protection of our Great Lakes.

I’ll also continue to fight for safe drinking water in every Michigan community. The **Flint Water Crisis** was a human tragedy involving lead poisoning and Legionnaires disease. Even today, families are struggling with the most basic aspects of every day life, having to use bottled water for bathing and food preparation. I am committed to seeing the ongoing pipe-replacement program through to completion.

Similarly, we must work to remove chemicals like **per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS)** from our drinking water sources across the state. As governor, I’ll work with the legislature, partners in the health, environment and business sectors, and the federal government to implement state clean-up efforts, resolve this problem, and ensure safe drinking water in our homes and communities.

Michigan residents not only have a tradition of enjoying our abundant natural resources as part of our heritage and lifestyle, but we greatly depend on both the **tourism and sport-fishing industries for economic activity and jobs.** The Paycheck Agenda focuses on creating an environment for job growth, so we must **fight invasive species** by limiting ballast water discharge and continuing to lobby the federal government to **stop the Asian carp** from invading our Great Lakes, rivers and streams, which would destroy billions in economic activity.

Protecting and enhancing the use of our natural resources, **especially in an increasingly thirsty world,** will be a key priority in the Schuette administration.