
From: Jeff Puffer
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/28/2013 4:23:44 PM
Subject: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

The Federal Government (EPA) is undertaking a suitable course of action by requiring the operators of the SS Badger to curtail its discharge of coal ash into Lake Michigan. It is also reasonable that the small, privately owned company be given some latitude to come into compliance. The investment required to make the conversion puts a great strain on the company's narrow margins -- its earning capabilities. Furthermore, given the facts a) the Badger represents a portion of U.S. Highway 10, b) contributes significantly to the economies of two port cities, and c) provides untold educational, historic and recreational opportunities, the EPA must be careful not to drive this small business *out* of business. Keep LMC accountable, but don't create a hardship for owners and consumers by being coercive. If LMC cannot resolve the technical problem by the start of operations in 2015, please be prepared to offer another extension if you determine their research and development is proceeding in good faith.

--

Jeff Puffer

██████████
Marion, Iowa ██████████

From: Grismer, Brenda
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/28/2013 5:03:44 PM
Subject: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Please approve the Consent Decree for the SS Badger. Our family takes the Badger every year from Wisconsin to Michigan for our summer vacation to Luddington. It saves us time in the car with young kids and offers a fabulous and relaxing voyage in a vintage historical ferry. It would be very sad to be on the beach in Luddington and not see the Badger go in and out of the harbor every evening. It is always a highlight of our memories of family time.

Brenda Grismer

████████████████████
Minneapolis, MN ██████████

From: Larry Bogus
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/28/2013 5:02:32 PM
Subject: SS BADGER

Hi my name is Larry Bogus. I was born and raised in Ludington and only 5 blocks from the docks of our ship. I am currently serving in the military and also on deployment. To hear that the Badger will still be running when I return to my home town it brings joy to me. That ship has made an impact on my life and all through my families! The history and stories it brings to Ludington is amazing and home isn't home with out it! I am again very happy to hear of this agreement. Thank you

Sincerely,
LCPL Bogus, Larry

From: Rob Neilson
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/28/2013 5:07:41 PM
Subject: Reference Case Number: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Assistant Attorney General
U.S. DOJ - ENRD
P.O. Box 7611
Washington, DC 20044-7611

Re: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

To whom it may concern:

The SS Badger is a vital tool for Michigan, Wisconsin, and of the upper mid-west. Please support it as they make their way toward compliance.

Thanks you in advance,
Rob Neilson

Rob Neilson

Associate Professor and Frederick R. Layton Professor of Art
Lawrence University
Department of Art & Art History
711 E. Boldt Way
Appleton, WI 54911

██████████
██████████
"Vision is not enough; it must be combined with venture." - Vaclav Havel

From: Elisabeth Hunt
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/28/2013 5:04:49 PM
Subject: Case Number: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771
Attachments: image001.jpg

To: Ignacia Moreno, Assistant Attorney General, Environment and Natural Resources Division

Re: Case Number: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771, United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

Dear Ms. Moreno,

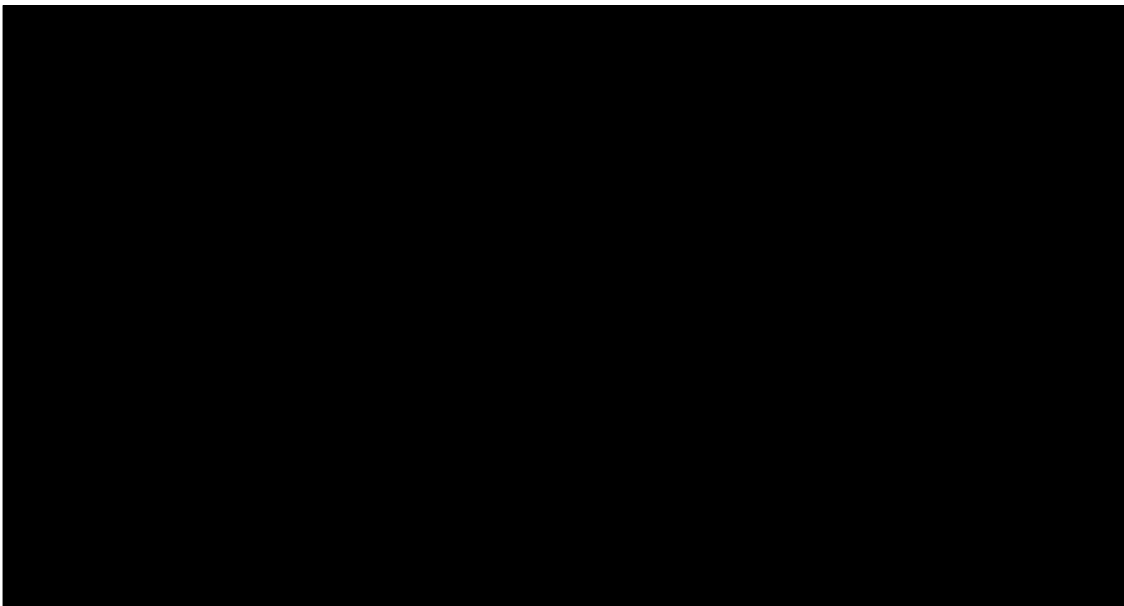
I want to urge that the consent decree in this case be approved. While I am a staunch conservationist, and have a deep concern for wildlife and the environment, I do feel that the historical significance of this one “surviving” ship somewhat mitigates the environmental impact. Personally, I have been riding the “big ship” across the big lake since I was a little kid, and I now enjoy making the trip with my son. It will be a sad, sad day for my family when the SS Badger can no longer make the voyage. Please do consider approving the consent decree!

Best,
Elisabeth B. Hunt

[REDACTED]
Minneapolis, MN [REDACTED]
- and in the summer -

[REDACTED]
Pilgrim, MI [REDACTED]

Elisabeth Hunt



From: Pat Schmatz
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/28/2013 5:06:21 PM
Subject: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Dear Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division:

I am writing in regard to *United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger*.

Please approve the consent decree. I live in Wisconsin and work in Michigan in the summer, which involves at least two trips back and forth across the lake. The ferry is by far the best option for me in terms of gas usage, driving time, and overall stress. I limit the miles I drive an individual car as much as possible, and always choose public transportation options when available. The Badger keeps me off the roads, reduces traffic and congestion around Chicago, and is an excellent service. I believe that with fuel innovations, it will be far better for the environment than having me and everyone else drive around the lake.

Thank you.
Pat Schmatz

From: John Fitzpatrick
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/28/2013 5:08:57 PM
Subject: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

<META HTTP-EQUIV="Content-Type" CONTENT="text/html; charset=us-ascii">
<div dir="ltr">The SS Badger should not receive an additional two years to pollute Lake Michigan. They should be required to convert to Diesel Engines immediately or at least at the end of this sailing season.<div style="">John Fitzpatrick</div>
</div>

From: betsy david
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/28/2013 5:11:23 PM
Subject: D.J. Ref # 90-5-1-1-10771 Lake Michigan Car Ferry SS Badger

We are glad you have arrived at a consent decree and hope it will be adopted.

We use the ferry several times each summer. It saves, gas, congestion in Chicago, and time in addition to providing a very pleasant ride.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth and Martin David

Elizabeth David

[REDACTED]
Oberlin, OH [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: Ken Rock
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/28/2013 5:01:25 PM
Subject: US v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc. - D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

To whom it may concern and the docket for D. J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771:

I write in support of the continued operation of the USS Badger in transiting Lake Michigan. This historic vessel provides a great service both to locals in both Wisconsin and Michigan and to visitors to our region both from a tourism and commodity transport perspective. I fully support the intent of the consent decree to extend the use of coal as a fuel for the next two shipping seasons and trust that accommodation can be made for some form of fuel or propulsion conversion which will more closely meet the intentions of environmental protection as we continue into the future. Please register my support for the continued operation of the USS Badger in the docket for this action.

Sincerely,

Kenneth A. Rock

[REDACTED]
Sturgeon Bay, WI [REDACTED]

From: Mark Mox
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/28/2013 5:13:51 PM
Subject: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771 Michigan Carferry Service

Address to:
Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division

Reference Case Number: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Case Name: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

To Whom it May Concern:

It is with please and concern that I am writing to tell you that I am in favor of allowing the Lake Michigan Carferry Service and the SS Badger to continue to operate on Lake Michigan. As a rider on the SS Badger and a Michigan resident, I believe that the people of Michigan and Wisconsin, along with non-residents who are traveling between our great states, are well served by this historic ship and its staff.

I would like to add my name to the list of supporters of this Consent Decree.

Thank you,

Mark Mox

██████████
St Johns, MI ██████████

From: Jack Mitchell
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
CC: info@ssbadger.com
Sent: 3/28/2013 5:14:12 PM
Subject: 90-5-1-1-10771

Case Name: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

I reluctantly support approval of the consent decree regarding the SS Badger.

The Badger provides a valuable service that my family and I have used and enjoyed several times. This unique service is highly important to the economies and tourism in the two states I call home. I would hate to see the service disappear.

On the other hand, I find it unforgivable that the company has continued dumping ash in the lake for all the years we have known the practice endangers the health of the lake (and the tourism industry of which the Badger is a part.)

I see the consent decree as a very generous concession by the EPA to this company that has behaved irresponsibly. Under no circumstances should the deadline established by this agreement be extended by even one day.

Again, I sincerely hope the service can continue, but not at the expense of the lake's health. Grant them two more years and absolutely no more.

Jack Mitchell
[REDACTED]

Madison WI [REDACTED]

From: Mike Lanski
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/28/2013 5:14:21 PM
Subject: SS Badger - D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

My name is Mike Lanski and I live in St. Paul, MN. I am sending this email in SUPPORT of the SS Badger re; United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger. I have ridden the car ferries for over 30 years and have come to appreciate its immense value, both sentimental and economic and what it means to both Ludington and Manitowoc. The loss of this ship, along with the jobs it provides in both communities, would be tremendously devastating as well as the loss of being able to enjoy a peaceful 4 hour trip across the beautiful Lake Michigan.

I also believe that the coal ash discharge, which is at the heart of this matter, is NOT harming the lake in any way whatsoever and also that the competitor to the Badger, Lake Express, as well as other individuals, have been involved in a heinous campaign to shut this beloved ferry down. I sincerely hope that the decree will be approved and know that the Badger will do everything in its power to sail cleanly to everyone's satisfaction. I thank you for your time in reading this email.

Thank you,

Mike Lanski

From: Richard Finn
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/28/2013 5:14:37 PM
Subject: US v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut DJ Ref No 90-5-1-1-10771

March 28, 2013

Dear Madam/Sir: This is to respectfully submit my support of the consent decree in the case involving involving US v. Lake Michigan Car ferry. I believe that the parties have come to a reasonable settlement of this environmental issue and that it's in everyone's interest to accept the Consent Decree and comply with its provisions.

Richard M. Finn
USA Citizen



From: Jonathan Petersen
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/28/2013 5:14:51 PM
Subject: Reference Case Number: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-10771

Assistant Attorney General
Environmental and Natural Resources Division

Case Name: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

Please approve the Consent Decree that will allow the SS Badger to continue to operate. It is vital to the economic stability of Ludington, MI as well as all of Western Michigan and Eastern Wisconsin.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Jonathan Petersen, MBA, CeM

- Strategic IMC: Reputation Management | Internet/Social Media Marketing | Voice Talent
- Adjunct Professor, Spring Arbor University & Cornerstone University

WEBSITE: <http://JonathanPetersen.com>

TWITTER: <http://twitter.com/jonpetersen>

(featured on <http://twitterati.alltop.com>, <http://marketing.alltop.com>, <http://socialmedia.alltop.com>, & <http://www.socialbrandindex.com/twitter/executives>)

- Somersault Group: Social Media/WOM/Publicity Evangelist

WEBSITE: <http://somersau.lt>

TWITTER: <http://twitter.com/smersault>

BLOG: <http://Somersault.Posterous.com>

DASHBOARD: <http://netvibes.com/somersault>

Grand Rapids, MI (ET)

Home: 616.285.6182

Cell: 616.322.1712

Email: jonathan.petersen@comcast.net

Skype: jonathan.petersen2

LinkedIn: <http://linkedin.com/in/jonathanpetersen>

Facebook: <http://facebook.com/jonathanpetersen>

Slideshare: <http://slideshare.net/jonathanpetersen>

Google+: <http://gplus.is/jonathanpetersen>

re.vu: <http://re.vu/jonathanpetersen>

From: Russ Hill
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/28/2013 5:17:55 PM
Subject: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

To whom it may concern:

The Badger Ferry is wonderful asset for Lake Michigan, the state of Michigan and Wisconsin. I am writing to state my full support for the proposed coal ash discharge consent decree. It will help protect Lake Michigan and preserve the wonderful heritage of the S.S. Badger.

Best regards,

Russ Hill

President

ULTIMATE LEAD...*your lead management department!*

p: 440.826.1908

c: 440-724-4475

w: ultimatelead.com

From: Harbeck, William H.
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/28/2013 5:16:52 PM
Subject: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger- D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

As someone who is both pro-environment and pro-job growth, the proposed Consent Decree strikes a very fair balance, and I strongly endorse it.

Thank you for considering my comment.

Bill Harbeck
[REDACTED]

Grafton WI [REDACTED]

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From: Joseph Chaput
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/28/2013 5:19:12 PM
Subject: Reference Case Number:D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Dear EPA,

Please accept this as favoring the continuing of the Badger Service across Lake Michigan. We have a cottage in the area and make use of the great crossing service.

Reference Case Number:
D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Respectfully,

Joseph and Patricia Chaput

[REDACTED]
Des Plaines, IL [REDACTED]

From: Jacquie Sewell
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/28/2013 5:20:56 PM
Subject: Lake Michigan Car Ferry

Please approve the Consent Decree to allow the Badger to continue operating. This ferry service is a boon to both Michigan and Wisconsin. You've received all the statistics regarding jobs created, gallons of gas saved, car and truck emissions eliminated . . . Hopefully that will be enough to convince you that the Badger is a vital part of the Michigan-Wisconsin economy and a major contributor in offering efficient and energy saving transportation options.

But if you need more convincing let me advocate from the perspective of history - the Badger, or her sisters, have been plying the waters of Lake Michigan since the early 1900s. My grandparents took a Lake Michigan ferry on their honeymoon trip in 1904. I have photos of every generation of my family traveling on the Fun Ship. The Badger offers a fun, affordable option for folks (and truckers) traveling between Wisconsin and Michigan. It saves hours of driving and reduces congestion in and around Chicago (a nightmare at any given hour). We've already lost so many forms of public transportation. Please don't let the Badger join the extinction list.

Sincerely,
Jacquie Sewell

██████████
Laingsburg MI ██████████

Jacquie

"This is the day that the Lord has made. I will rejoice and be glad in it."

From: Bert & Gary Valentine
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
CC: 'Lake Michigan Carferry Service'
Sent: 3/28/2013 5:20:44 PM
Subject: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

Sirs;

Although I agree that we in the United States should do everything we can to eliminate pollution in the US and the world, I would like to see the SS Badger continue service. I surely believe that there are some Federal grants that would preserve the landmark and allow our future generations to enjoy it. I have enjoyed the SS Badger and would like to think that I will be able to take future voyages on her.

My wife and I have travel extensively in the US and we see many business that have domestic and foreign ownership that have received grants to renovate an existing business or start a new business and most if not all have nothing to do with history or public usefulness. It would be an extreme disservice to future generations to let this landmark go by the wayside while supporting business that have no contribution to any part of American history.

We as a population should do everything we can to continue the service of the SS Badger.

Sincerely
Gary Valentine
[REDACTED]

From: Margaret Erickson
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
CC: info@ssbadger.com
Sent: 3/28/2013 5:21:26 PM
Subject: Reference Case Number: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Case Name: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

Dear Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division,

I understand that the Lake Michigan Car ferry has signed a Consent Decree agreement with the Department of Justice and EPA that will require the SS Badger to end the ash discharge within two years. And that this agreement is the product of many months of them working closely with the EPA.

I am writing to say that I think this Consent Decree is the best possible option under the circumstances. Environmentally, I think it is extremely important that they will no longer be allowed to dump the ash. I also believe that they should be allowed to continue the public service they have provided as long as they meet these stipulations. The SS Badger service has been used many times by my family as well as thousands of other people. In addition they provide financial support through jobs and incomes to the cities of Manitowac, WI and Ludington, MI.

I am writing to ask the court to approve the decree and support this agreement as it is in the public's best interest. I appreciate your willingness to accept public comments on this matter.

Sincerely Yours,

Margaret Erickson

From: michelle Walker
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/28/2013 5:22:08 PM
Subject: 90-5-1-1-10771

the badger provides a service of taking cars off of the roads reducing the car exhaust and gas consumption and you are worried about a little ash when coal has been used through history and has been considered a clean fuel. How about the homes that still heat with coal and the power plants that use tons of coal a year. how about the boats that use oil and gasoline that is being left in the lake. Let's keep the cars and semi trucks off of the roads and use one source of transportation, the Badger.

From: Mark Reilly
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/28/2013 5:22:55 PM
Subject: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Case Name: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

I would like to submit my comment that I feel the Consent Decree should be approved, and that the SS Badger should be allowed to continue operations until it finishes its work to end the discharge of coal ash within the stipulated time frame.

The Badger has been a fixture in our family for many years, as we travel back and forth between Michigan and Wisconsin to visit each other and vacation. The Badger offers a unique, quality travel experience at a reasonable price, with an historical significance as a functioning museum. The Badger also promotes and supports trade and tourism to an area of the country that has seen difficult times with respect to employment bases in a variety of manufacturing industries.

Sincerely,

Mark P. Reilly
Appleton, WI

From: Tom Wade
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/28/2013 5:24:19 PM
Subject: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771 Re: Lake Michigan Carferry SS Badger Consent Decree Agreement


Attn.: Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division

Regarding the Lake Michigan Carferry SS Badger Consent Decree Agreement D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771 United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger:

I am in agreement with the Decree. It's not only the people of Michigan and Wisconsin, there are many from around the nation who, like me, ride the ferry for convenience as well as enjoyment. Please keep the SS Badger running its schedules.

Thank you,

Thomas Wade


Talking Rock, GA 30175

From: Dave Biedenkopf
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
CC: info@ssbadger.com
Sent: 3/28/2013 5:25:04 PM
Subject: Case #90-5-1-1-10771

Case name United States V. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger.

To: Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division.

To whom it may concern, I am in favor of the Consent Decree concerning the abatement agreement between these parties. The ash problem caused by the burning of coal on the SS Badger is a minor problem in comparison to the pollution problem saved in the Chicago area by the traffic that is diverted due to it's lake crossings.

Thank you, David B. Biedenkopf

████████████████████
Indianapolis, IN ██████████

From: [REDACTED]
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/28/2013 5:25:07 PM
Subject: Reference number D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

RE: Case Name: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc. d/b/a/ Lake Michigan Car Ferry Service and SS Badget

To:
Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division

Sir/Madam:

I encourage you to approve the Consent Decree agreement between the Department of Justice and EPA and the Lake Michigan Car Ferry Service to allow it to continue ferry service across Lake Michigan. Having traveled across the lake with my car on the Badger, I found it to be wonderful experience that cannot easily be duplicated. The Badger is lone reminder of what used to be a rich ferry culture around the Great Lakes. The closest I have come is the ferry to Nantucket. It is a wonderful tourism experience and is a great way to avoid the highway congestion around the greater Chicago area when traveling between Michigan and Wisconsin.

Thank you for your support.

Laura Zuidema

[REDACTED]
Jenison, Michigan [REDACTED]

From: Tom and Carolyn Leege
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/28/2013 5:26:19 PM
Subject: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Dear Assistant Attorney General:

I agree with the Consent Decree that allows the Badger to continue emitting coal ash for another 2 years. However, I would rather that this ship be given a permanent exclusion from air quality regulations so that it can continue its long time tradition of lake transportation in the current way. There is some value in maintaining tradition if for no other reason than to remind us of how far we've come in cleaning up our air. One ship going across Lake Michigan is surely not going to make a measurable difference in the region's air quality.

Sincerely,
Tom Leege

From: Nyran Rose Rasche
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
CC: info@ssbadger.com
Sent: 3/28/2013 5:27:01 PM
Subject: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Assistant Attorney General
U.S. DOJ - ENRD
P.O. Box 7611
Washington, DC 20044-7611

Re: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

I am writing to express my support for the Consent Decree and the continued operation of the SS Badger ferry service. Over the years my family has used the service many times, since a divorce left some family members on the Michigan side of Lake Michigan while others moved the Illinois/Wisconsin side of the lake.

The ferry service has allowed me to see my siblings and father more frequently than I otherwise could have seen them, and I think it has dramatically improved the safety of our trips to see each other. Driving AROUND the lake leaves us tired and road-weary, and probably not in the best shape to drive by the end of the trip. When we take the SS Badger, however, we arrive on the other side of the lake refreshed and ready to finish the rest of the driving safely.

I understand the company that runs the Badger Boat has been working with the government to reduce its environmental impact. I am glad to hear this is happening, and support the Consent Decree that will keep this vital and unique service running -- for my family and all of the other Great Lakes families that have been helped (and even held together) by the ability to rest while crossing the lake, rather than make the exhausting drive around it.

Thanks for taking these comments into consideration.

Nyran Rose Rasche
[REDACTED]
Chicago, IL [REDACTED]

From: Hollis Krupa
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/28/2013 5:28:05 PM
Subject: S.S. Badger Reference Case Number D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Attention: Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division
Re: **Case Name:** United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

I am writing to express my support for the continued operation of the S.S. Badger. I am a senior citizen who drives across Michigan 4 hrs. to Ludington and then takes the ferry in order to see my grandchildren in Door County, WI. For the past 5 summers, this trip has been the highlight of each year for me. Without access to this service, the drive would be so long and difficult I don't know if I would ever see my family again. I cannot fly because I bring my dog and have no one to care for her at home in my absence if I did fly. While I am concerned about the environmental issue, I wonder about the impact of converting its power plant and whether that might use even more resources. Maybe I am over identifying with "the ol' gal"... But she's a lot more reliable than that young whippersnapper out of Muskegon that stays in port in iffy weather. So this old gal hopes you will allow THAT ol' gal to continue operation.

Hollis Krupa
Grosse Pointe Park, MI

Sent from my iPhone

From: Jon Call
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/28/2013 5:30:49 PM
Subject: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771 Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division

To Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division,

Re: Case Name: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

We think the Consent Decree should be approved and hope you will recognize the usefulness of such a unique mode of transport that effects not only causal users like my wife and myself, but especially as your decision has impact upon the two communities involved as ports of entry.

There is something about the existence of the type of service (when properly retro fitted to EPA standards) that makes this area of Michigan special and a point of destination for those of us who live in the Detroit metropolitan area. It's part of the pride in and use of one of Michigan greatest assets- Lake Michigan!

Thank you for your consideration,

Jon & Karen Call

[REDACTED]
Northville, MI [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/28/2013 5:29:28 PM
Subject: Case No. DJ Ref No. 90-5-1-1-10771

I believe the case should be settled as agreed by the owner of the SS Badger and the EPA. I realize ash goes in the lake and the Badger owner has agreed to ameliorate the situation. In the meantime trucks and cars that ride on the Badger do not pollute the air and add to the awful traffic experienced on the highways traveling around the southern tip of Lake Michigan.

Mary Engdahl
Highland Park, IL

From: Bryan Much
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/28/2013 5:32:01 PM
Subject: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

I am expressing my strong support for the continued operation of the SS Badger on Lake Michigan. I understand that a consent decree authorizes two more years of service under the ship's existing configuration.

This ship is an important transportation asset for which there is no replacement available at this time. I am one of thousands that travels using the Badger as part of my trip.

It is also a historical landmark of sorts that allows many people to have a significant maritime experience they would otherwise not have. These ships plied the Great Lakes for many years.

In view of all of the circumstances, I believe it is in the best interest of the public to see the Badger continue to operate.

Bryan Much

[REDACTED]
Oconomowoc, WI [REDACTED]

From: JEFF HALICZER
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/28/2013 5:32:07 PM
Subject: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Dear, Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division

Reference Case Number: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Case Name: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

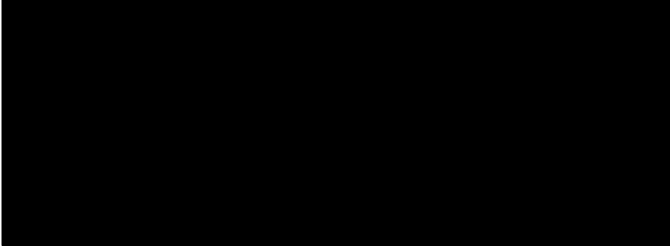
I have only been a passenger on the SS Badger once, and that was on a trip to honor my brother by scattering some of his ashes off the stern of the ship as we made our way across lake Michigan on one of the evening times. He was a veteran and 100 disabled and it was all service connected, adn he lived in Lansing and some of his fondest memories were on the beaches of Lake Michigan.

I understand the need to cut down on the emmissions that this craft may produce, but the number of times it crosses the oepn waters of Lake Michiagn is minimal compared to the sheer number of other vehicles that are on the nations highways.

I urge you to accept this additional time to implement the plans to reduce the pollution of the Badger, the history and charm of this form of travel, is similar to taking a diesel locomotive and the amount of ash they produce yet is allowed due to its historical significnace.

Thank you,
Jeff Haliczer
Reno, Nevada

From: McMullen, Rebecca (ENRD)
To: McMullen, Rebecca (ENRD)
Sent: 3/29/2013 9:09:54 AM
Subject: FW:



From: MORLEY BROWN [mailto:[\[REDACTED\]](#)]
Sent: Thursday, March 28, 2013 5:34 PM
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Subject:

Keep the Ferry running. I use it many time to cross the Lake. It is a pleasant part of my journey. Morley Brown,
Primrose, Ontario,, Canada

From: K. Lucier
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/28/2013 5:36:36 PM
Subject: Badger

Let the Badger run please. One of the last coolest ways to cross lake Michigan.

Thanks!

Joel Ciucci
Hobart, WI

From: Don(WIRELESS) Fuller
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/28/2013 5:36:34 PM
Subject: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Lets Keep that Badger on the Lake Michigan. I support that effort.

Donald R. Fuller
Mt. Pleasant, Michigan 48858

From: David Nickelson
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/28/2013 5:37:08 PM
Subject: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division

Reference Case Number:

D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Case Name: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

Comments:

I'm happy to see that the Badger will at least be required to capture the coal ash it was previously discharging into Lake Michigan. In addition to this, I feel that stronger measures must be taken with regard to the ash that currently flows freely up the Badger smoke stack. Scrubbers or precipitators similar to those used in coal-burning power plants should be installed because otherwise all of that soot and ash just goes straight up the stack and falls back into Lake Michigan.

The owners of the Badger have dragged their feet on this for far too long in hopes of getting the taxpayers to foot the bill.

Best regards,

David Nickelson

From: Dudley Stephen
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/28/2013 5:31:20 PM
Subject: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Greetings,

The Lake Michigan Car Ferry has been a part of our family for many years. We live in Minneapolis and visit my family in Michigan every summer. My sister lives in Ludington and was actually one of the volunteers that helped get the Badger sailing again many years ago. I believe every effort should be made to assist the Badger in continuing operations for as long as practically possible.

Sincerely,

Stephen Dudley
Eden Prairie, MN
[REDACTED]

From: William Yazbec
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/28/2013 5:39:47 PM
Subject: Reference Case Number: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

To: Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division

I support the consent decree and the efforts to keep the S.S. Badger sailing. I am a frequent visitor and supporter.

William Yazbec, Ph.D

██████████
Madison, WI
██████████

From: daniel terrien
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/28/2013 5:41:38 PM
Subject: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Dear Assistant Attorney General,

There is nothing in this world that is perfect, and there never will be. There are some things though that still inspire people - things that illustrate a time where excellence and ingenuity were highly valued. There are certain relics that are uniquely Midwest or uniquely Wisconsin that instill some pride in everyday folks who's individuality and souls are increasingly discarded as irrelevant.

The U.S.S. Badger is all of these things to many people. During this time when everything under the sun is regulated to death, I make this plea to you. Please do everything in your power to ensure the Badger continues to make that journey across the lake.

I respect the environment and thank God for the Great Lakes, but the end of the Badger doesn't solve any problems, it just stomps out a little more of what made this country great.

Sincerely,
Dan Terrien
Green Bay, WI

From: JOHN MC MILLIN
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/28/2013 5:42:44 PM
Subject: SS Badger

Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division

Reference Case Number:
D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Case Name: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

Dear Sir:

I have been a passenger of the SS Badger for many years when my wife and I go on vacation to the northwestern states west of Michigan. We love the fact that we can cut time off our driving and enjoy the crossing of beautiful Lake Michigan. I would really hate to see this service that is provided be banned because of the little bit of coal ash that may be deposited into the lake during the crossing. There are a lot of other things going on to the lake that I feel need much more attention than this and hope that the consent decree be approved for the SS Badger to continue providing the service. They are also providing a great service for the wind turbine companies that are transporting the equipment from Wisconsin to Michigan for construction and to me that is saving our roads from the heavy traffic of trucks that otherwise would have to do the job in whole.

Please keep me updated on this important issue and Thank you for your time in this matter.

John E. McMillin

[REDACTED]
Rochester Hills, MI. [REDACTED]

From: Mike Casey
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/28/2013 5:45:11 PM
Subject: 9051110771

I'm writing to show my support for the Lake Michigan Car Ferry. As a former teacher that taught Environmental Science, I'm aware of the issues with dumping coal ash in our beautiful Lake. It should not be done. I believe the agreements reached will provide a reasonable solution to the problem. I've ridden the car ferry numerous times and have seen first hand the impact it has on travelers and our local business community. Please support the agreement.

Thank You,
Michael Casey

Two Rivers, WI, 54241

From: ccorleyjd@gmail.com on behalf of Corinne Corley
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/28/2013 5:45:40 PM
Subject: Public Comment -- Consent Judgment regarding the BADGER in Ludington, MI

Good afternoon:

It has come to my attention that comments are sought regarding a proposed consent decree pursuant to which the BADGER will be allowed to continue operating on Lake Michigan at Ludington. As I understand it, the consent decree will require the BADGER to cease emitting ash after its 2014 season but allow it to continue for the next two years.

I love the world as much as the next person. I think we need to treat Earth with kindness and consideration, and gratitude for the many riches that the Earth affords us.

That said, I have also stood on the Pier at Ludington, breath held, watching the wondrous majesty of the BADGER gong out to sea on a cool fall evening, with the gorgeousness of the setting sun surrounding the beautiful gush of its smoke. I have not yet ridden the BADGER, as I only two years ago married into the Ludington tradition. But I intend to do so this summer, and I will stand on its deck and think, *this is marvelous vehicle gives us something we cannot regain once it is lost: History, and wonder, and beauty.*

If I could devise a way to continue the operation of the BADGER while satisfying the desire to curtail whatever pollutants it has been decreed to emit, I would. But if this consent judgment offers the only way to continue the BADGER's course, for the children, parents, lovers, and retirees who recline in its sleeping rooms and sip cold drinks, idling away the hours in pleasant conversation, unhurried, relaxed, as they travel to and from Ludington, then please, adopt it. The BADGER is a timeless treasure that has given my husband and his families some cherished memories, and they are just a handful of the many people who enjoy its presence on the waters of Lake Michigan. Let us not sacrifice this treasure. Let us do what we can to prolong its life, so that all can partake of the experience, an experience which provides our children, and our grandchildren, and our grandchildren's children, a story of when they were young, and came to shore on the ponderous, steady, reliable decks of an old, venerable boat, the BADGER.

Sincerely,

Corinne Corley

--

M. Corinne Corley
CORLEY LAW FIRM
4010 Washington, Suite 100
Kansas City, MO 64111
Ph. [816-753-5556](tel:816-753-5556);
Fax #: [816-326-0834](tel:816-326-0834)
Web: www.corleylawfirm.com
Blogs:
<http://themissourimugwump.com>
<http://www.kcmodivorcelawblog.com>

We are proud to present JOURNEY ON: The Art of Anastacia Drake. Now showing through the end of of May. Our next art opening will be the First Friday in June, June 7, Artist TBA. All art provided by the VALA Gallery, Penny Thieme, managing director and founding artist.

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From: Carol Dwyer
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/28/2013 5:45:59 PM
Subject: Car ferry

To Whom it May Concern:

Please shut this ferry down. We need to take care of our planet. They have skirted this far too long. You should not have let them get away with this, again. Shame on you. You are making coal fired plants cut down on their emissions, why shouldn't Michigan Car ferry do the same.

Sincerely,
Carol Dwyer

From: Webb, John F MD
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/28/2013 5:46:35 PM
Subject: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Please approve the Consent Decree submitted by the Lake Michigan Carferry.

I have lived on or close to Lake Michigan for most of my 61 years. I absolutely support keeping this body of water, and ALL bodies of water, clean and unpolluted. But at the same time, one of my fondest uses of Lake Michigan has been the several crossings I've made on the S.S. Badger; and I would like to see that service continue. If the LMC can satisfy the requirements of the EPA in the two years allowed, hopefully the Badger can continue on.

Sincerely,

John F. Webb MD

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From: Raymond Thibeault
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/28/2013 5:48:12 PM
Subject: The Badger

The company should have already addressed this problem. I am in favor of the ferry service, but the company has been irresponsible and unnecessarily added tons of dangerous pollutants to Lake Michigan's beautiful waters.

Sincerely,

Raymond Thibeault

[REDACTED]

Lansing, MI 48912

From: K Marks
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/28/2013 5:50:58 PM
Subject: Reference Case Number: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Reference Case Number:

D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Case Name: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

Dear Assistant Attorney General

It is totally ridiculous to require the SS Badger to hold its coal ash and dispose of it on land. When 12 of these same ships crossed the Great Lakes more often in a day, dumping not 12 times today's amount, but MUCH more than that, the Great Lakes did not suffer. Coal ash is not hazardous and current studies support this. Not only should you leave the SS Badger alone to operate as it has for the past 60 years, you should commend the folks dedicated to preserving this last bit of Great Lakes history still above the water.

I support the Badger and find the DEQ a public menace in this case.

Thank you for considering public opinion.

Sincerely,

K. Marks

menace |'menəs|

noun

a person or thing that is likely to cause harm; a threat or danger : *a new initiative aimed at beating the menace of drugs* | *the snakes are a menace to farm animals.*

• a threatening quality, tone, or atmosphere : *he spoke the words with a hint of menace.*

From: Bob Siplon
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/28/2013 5:53:00 PM
Subject: Lake Michigan Car Ferry Case # D.J.Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division

Ref. case # D.J.Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

I am writing to voice my support for approval of the consent decree to allow the S.S. Badger to continue to operate on Lake Michigan. This decree addresses the Enviromental issues, while also allowing the affected communities to benifit from the Ferry,s continued operation.

Sincerely,

Robert J. Siplon



From: Dick Davie
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/28/2013 5:54:12 PM
Subject: Reference Case Number D.J. Fer.No.90-5-1-1-10771, Case Name :United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SSBadger

I have just been informed that the carferry has signed a Consent Decree with the Department of Justice to end ash discharge into Lake Michigan within two years. To my knowledge the carferry service is the only practical means of transporting larger RVs and Camping trailers across the lake, to shorten the trip from Wisconsin into Michigan. This is a major factor for many people traveling with RVs. The trip is also the closest means to enjoy a day of sailing on the lake with the family.

I have understood, from prior communications from the Carferry, that they are in the process of converting the vessel to another form of fuel. I thought I had also read that EPA or some other study has concluded that the discharge of ash into the lake really does no lasting damage and has no real impact on the quality of the lake.

We request that you approve the Consent Decree for these and many other reasons.

Richard Davie
[REDACTED]

Eagle, WI 53119
[REDACTED]

dd@proequipment.com

From: steve acerbi
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/28/2013 5:57:11 PM
Subject: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

to whom it concerns,

please allow this company to continue its ferry service.
it provides a valuable transportation alternative at a reasonable price.
the experience alone is worth the price.

two years seems like a reasonable amount of time to conform considering the amount of work required to retool the vessel.

thank you,

steve

jacks are us

[REDACTED]
kenosha, wi 53143

[REDACTED]
262-656-1990 off

[REDACTED] cell

From: Robert Maust
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/28/2013 6:16:24 PM
Subject: 90-5-1-1-10771

The agreement reached in this case between both parties should be approved as presented by the court. Thank you . Robert Maust

Sent from my iPad


From: David Weiss
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/28/2013 6:02:22 PM
Subject: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771; S.S. Badger- Consent Decree

Dear Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division,

Please sign the Consent Decree for the S.S. Badger car ferry per the subject referenced case number, which gives the car ferry two years to stop the coal ash from being emitted. I love this ship and wish for it to be around for many more years to come. Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

David Weiss


Lake Geneva, WI 53147

From: Jerry or Ruth
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/28/2013 6:07:51 PM
Subject: Save the Badger

We travel across Lake Michigan on the Badger at least once a year and love it. Takes 4 hours of off our travel time and we avoid driving through Chicago on our way to Wisconsin.

What I don't understand is how you can badger the Badger when it's an obvious plus for commerce to the cities around it, decrease damage to the highways with use of semi' s going into Wisc, use less gas and most and foremost screaming about the coal ash and damage to the water when all tests come out clean.

This is becoming less of a democracy and more about who can scream the loudest and/or has the most money.

People use this ferry. Our neighbors travel quite a bit on the ferry, for the fun of it. People rely on it. The Badger is a historical feature, it should be left alone and left as is.

If you want to do anything at all, help to keep this historical ferry sailing across the lake.

Sincerely,
Ruth Goetz

Sent from Yahoo! Mail on Android

From: Bill and Clella STEINKE
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/28/2013 6:07:36 PM
Subject: Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division

Reference Case Number:

D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Case Name: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

Lake Michigan Carferry has signed a Consent Decree agreement with the Department of Justice and EPA that will require the SS Badger to end the ash discharge within two years. This agreement is the product of many months of working closely with the EPA. We think that this Consent Decree is the best result under the circumstances. We will continue on our path to ending the discharge of coal ash while still serving the public and local communities.

The Consent Decree has been filed in federal court in Grand Rapids by the Department of Justice. There will now be a 30 day period for the public to submit comments to the Department of Justice. After that, the court will approve the decree if it is in the public interest.

It is well within the public interest to continue to support the important duties of the Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger. Untold numbers of important wind turbines have been ferried. Untold numbers of business and private families and organizations continue to seek the services. The cities of Ludington and Manitowoc have expressed the importance of the amount of business the SS Badger provides to their local economies.

Please support this Consent Decree agreement and allow the SS Badger to begin the process of retrofitting to reduce the ash discharge within two years.

Respectfully Submitted,

Clella Steinke, Satisfied Customer

Idaho Falls, Idaho

"The farther one gets into the wilderness,
the greater is the attraction of its lonely freedom."

~Theodore Roosevelt



From: Michael W. Binsfeld
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/28/2013 6:08:18 PM
Subject: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Subject: Case Name: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

I support the two-year extension of the SS Badger coal ash dumping in Lake Michigan. Please allow this ferry service to continue.

-Mike Binsfeld
Burdickville, MI

From: [REDACTED]
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/28/2013 6:10:47 PM
Subject: Ref.Case.NO.:D.J.Ref.No.90-5-1-1-10771

I have enjoyed frequent passages aboard the Badger Ferry.

But I have been frequently disappointed at the methods LMC have used to 'badger' the US government into accepting their schedule of ash waste cleanup. This has been going on for years, too many years, and nothing has ever been accomplished to date. I bet if a real threat of closing down was ever made to LMC, they would get it done.

Al Kozleski
Lake Orion

From: Harold
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/28/2013 6:13:47 PM
Subject: Reference Case Number: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Address to:

Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division

Reference Case Number:

D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Case Name: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

I think it's about time we quit looking for things to slice away at Michigan's economy. One ferry disposing of ash is not likely to be the downfall of civilization in this state or any other. Start with the consent decree and then drop it. Let some people make some money and keep their jobs.

Harold Morgan

From: Hugh Hornstein
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/28/2013 6:14:08 PM
Subject: SS Badger should continue to ron

Reference Case Number: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

While the SS Badger may deposit limited amount of fly ash into Lake Michigan, the material has been identified as being "inert" and therefore is not a hazard to the lake, to fish or waterfowl.

While at the same time, the SS Badger is a historic treasure - the last of its kind. We are often so quick to dispose of the past and its artifacts and then find we have lost forever something which truly has a value.

The people, the Congress and the Federal and state governments (Michigan and Wisconsin) should work together to help preserve this national treasure!!

To turn our back on the Badger is to turn our back on our own history. In the case of the Badger it is a history that dates back well over a century. The first Great Lakes railroad car ferries began sailing in the late 1800s. They played a significant role in the transportation facilities - first railroad and later cars and trucks.

During 2012 the Badger moved a number of semi tractor trailers with wind turbine components. In that the Badger served double duty. On the one hand it kept these enormous loads off our already crowded highways and on the other it helped prevent the further destruction of these highways due to their weight.

Further the operation of the Badger facilitated the movement of cars and trucks east and west without having to deal with the already overcrowded highways in and around the Chicago metropolitan area.

Hugh A. Hornstein (hornsth@frontier.net)

██████████
Muskegon MI 49441-5867
██████████

From: Gregory Fischer
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/28/2013 6:15:41 PM
Subject: 90-5-1-1-10771 S.S. Badger

Please allow this historic ferry to continue to operate.
It's an important route across Lake Michigan, and a part of history we need to preserve.
Gregory Fischer M.D.
Winona, MN

Sent from my iPad

From: James McInnis
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/28/2013 6:18:33 PM
Subject: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771.

To Whom it may concern,

I stand in support of allowing the S.S. Badger continue to sail for the next two years. Historical significance is important, the local economic value is important, but over and above that the EPA has continued to infringe upon the rights of our citizens beyond their assignment and needs to be blocked in this case. The case in question is United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771.

Thank you

Jim McInnis

From: James McInnis
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/28/2013 6:21:02 PM
Subject: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771.

To Whom it may concern,

I stand in support of allowing the S.S. Badger continue to sail for the next two years. Historical significance is important, the local economic value is important, but over and above that the EPA has continued to infringe upon the rights of our citizens beyond their assignment and needs to be blocked in this case. The case in question is United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771.

Thank you

Terri McInnis

From: joe kolb
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/28/2013 6:22:14 PM
Subject: keep the Badger

Address to:

Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division

Reference Case Number: (Must be included in subject line)

D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Case Name: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

I would suppose , that multiple ferries like the SS Badger, sailing continuously might cause some air quality concerns.

BUT, one boat of this class making only one or two trips daily! The number of vehicles it carries, that do not have to burn fossil fuels, while making the longer trip "around" the lake should be enough reason to keep this Historic Boat Afloat.

The positive economic impact of tourism alone for both port cities would also suffer.

Joe Kolb

██████████
Conroe, Texas 77301

From: Lee Belfield
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/28/2013 6:26:13 PM
Subject: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Dear Sir or Madam:

As a regular passenger on the S.S. Badger, I urge you to approve the Consent Decree in order to continue this vital service. I find it both helpful, reducing the time and gasoline I spend in and on the car, as well as a most worthwhile experience.

Very truly yours,

Lee Belfield

R Lee Belfield, General Manager
The Hotel at Kirkwood Center
7725 Kirkwood Blvd SW
Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52404
319-848-8701
www.TheHotelatKirkwood.com

I will enable the hotel staff to perform their professional tasks more effortlessly so that both the operation and the programs will improve.

Yes is the answer. What is the question?

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From: Peter Todd
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/28/2013 6:30:02 PM
Subject: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771
Attachments: image001.png; image002.gif

Please keep the SS Badger in service, eliminate the 2 year end dste.

Peter Todd

(: (414)791-0019

www.toddgus.com

 **Todd-Gustafson**
& Associates, LLC



From: Martin L. Green
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
CC: info@ssbadger.com
Sent: 3/28/2013 6:34:07 PM
Subject: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Assistant Attorney General
Environmental and Natural Resources Division

Re Case: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc.

Dear sirs:

This note is to encourage you to approve the Consent Decree in the above named case.

My wife and I used the S.S. Badger in the summer of 2011 on our car trip from Rochester, N.Y. to Appleton, WI and back. It saved us a significant amount of time on the trip and caused us to spend less on gasoline and to *use* less fuel. Ditto, no doubt, for the other cars aboard.

On both our outbound and return trips across Lake Michigan the S.S. Badger also was used to transport large sections of towers to be used in raising windmills for electricity production. This undoubtedly saved the transporters untold time and money versus going around the southern end of Lake Michigan through Chicago. Those towers could not have crossed the lake by any other means.

This ship, the S.S. Badger, is a national treasure, both historically and currently. Every effort should be made to preserve its use.

Speaking as a citizen, I cannot believe that whatever exhaust the ship produces is so damaging that it should be retired for that reason, especially as this Consent Decree can come into force soon and as Lake Michigan Carferry is also investigating the ship's potential conversion to propulsion by natural gas.

As an aside, I also took a Lake Michigan ferry in 1948 as a child from Wisconsin to Michigan on a family vacation. There were many ferries in use in those days. Somehow the lake and its environs managed to survive those voyages without measurable damage. Many decades from now that will also undoubtedly be true about the Lake Michigan Carferry of today.

Very truly yours,

Martin L. Green
Carolyn J. Green

From: [REDACTED]
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/28/2013 6:35:04 PM
Subject: Reference Case Number: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Reference Case Number: (Must be included in subject line)
D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Please approve the consent agreement for the above referenced case . The SS Badger is a fabulous asset for the areas served and should be given as much time as needed to comply with the requirements to eliminate the ash disposal. We have taken the Badger on different occasions and would really hate to see such a magnificent ship discontinue its fine service

Jack

Jack St.Germain / Thomas Otis

[REDACTED]
Blaine Minnesota 55449

From: adrian denhaan
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/28/2013 6:35:41 PM
Subject: Badger

Please allow the Badger to operate as the last and ONLY coal burning ship in the great lakes system.

The Badger provides jobs , tech training, and an ongoing history lesson concerning our great lakes.

There was a time when 1000's of ships burned coal, hard to believe the last one is the biggest problem our great lakes have!

Adrian

From: David Case
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/28/2013 6:36:01 PM
Subject: Reference Case Number D.J Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

To Whom It May Concern:

I am corresponding to you today in reference to the Lake Michigan Car Ferry Services and the SS Badger. My understanding is the current administration and the EPA is trying to cease ferry operations in the next 2 years due to coal ash.

I have used the services of the SS Badger in the past year to cross from Wisconsin to Michigan. The history behind the SS Badger is remarkable and having a coal fired ship still in existence on the Great Lakes is nothing less than magical for the many families who plan their vacation each year to include steaming across Lake Michigan on the SS Badger.

I feel this action facilitated by the EPA and being brought to Federal Court by the Justice Department is a travesty toward one of the great ships of our time. I would think if the EPA was worried about coal dust, they could make an exception to burn low sulfur content coal to further reduce coal emission for the SS Badger.

Sincerely,
David M. Case

David M. Case
Vice President and Division Manager
Unit Drilling Company
7887 East Belleview Avenue
Suite 1100
Englewood, Colorado 80111
Phone: (303) 228-1692
Fax: (303) 228-1694
Cell: (303) 916-6695
E-mail: david.case@unitcorp.com

From: John and Susan Brauer
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/28/2013 6:37:25 PM
Subject: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Dear Assistant Attorney General,

We wish to express our support for the consent decree between the US Government and Lake Michigan Car Ferry Service. The SS Badger is one of only two ways to cross Lake Michigan, saving hundreds of miles of driving by thousands of automobiles and trucks every month. Thus the SS Badger significantly reduces automotive emissions in the Lake Michigan region during the summertime when air pollution is of greatest concern.

Thanks, John and Susan Brauer

From: Jane Hansen
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/28/2013 6:38:58 PM
Subject: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division

Reference Case Number:

D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Case Name: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

Dear Sir/Madame,

We use the Lake Michigan Carferry services every year to get from WI to Michigan. It is fun to do, but it also reduces our travel time and the miles that we put on our car significantly. We live about 4 hours west of Manitowoc and for us to reach Ludington by car is a daunting trip of nearly 600 miles. We can go north around Lake MI or south around Lake MI and the trip is exactly the same distance. Our drive to Manitowoc is 215 miles, the ferry ride is comfortable and relaxing and we arrive rested.

In Manitowoc we join a large group of other passengers who are also reducing their eco footprint by riding together with us on the ferry. It is a neat fact that Hwy. 10 continues across Lake Michigan on the SS Badger. I am pleased that the SS Badger is working to reduce their environmental impact by proceeding on a path to end the discharge of coal ash into Lake Michigan.

Though we live in a sparsely populated area of the state where public transportation options are slim, we are strong proponents of public transportation and make use of it wherever we can. When we travel overseas, we use trains and buses to get around the countries we visit. When we go to large urban areas in the US, such as Chicago, we make use of the Metra trains and CTA trains and buses to get anywhere we can't reach on foot. Our nation needs to increase, not decrease the public transportation options that are available to our citizenry.

Please allow the SS Badger to continue providing this valuable ferry service to our region.

Sincerely,

Jane Hansen
[REDACTED]

Prentice, WI 54556
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: Michael Tejchma
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/28/2013 6:40:14 PM
Subject: Reference Case Number, Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Case Name United States V. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Short Cut, Inc . d/b/a Lake Michigan Careferry Services and S.S. Badger.

This is a vital part of our economy, I thought the government was trying to keep jobs not eliminate them. The ship should be left alone.

From: mary sayles
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/28/2013 6:41:24 PM
Subject: D.J.Ref.No.90-5-1-1-10771

My wife and I have traveled on the Bagger many times over the years. We like it better than the Lake Express. It takes you back when the World moved slower, and everything was not so rushed. SO LET IT SAIL! Thank You Timothy Sayles.

From: beehappy2
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/28/2013 6:43:43 PM
Subject: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771 - LMC Carferr SS BADGER

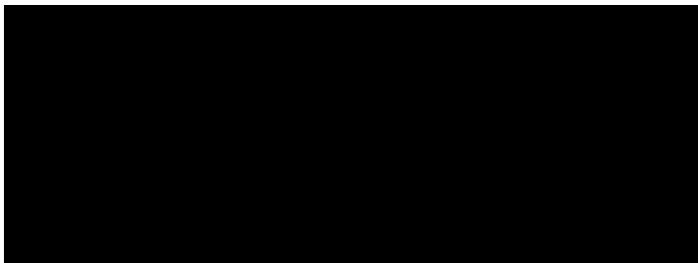
Assistant Attorney General
U.S. DOJ - ENRD
P.O. Box 7611
Washington, DC 20044-7611

Please do not destroy our carferry LMC BADGER. This historic vessel is vital to the Wisconsin & Michigan tourists, business & workers of the Great Lakes region. We have sailed on the Badger carferry over twenty trips in the last forty years. Boiler fly ash is non-hazardous and does no harm to the environment. Over-regulation by the U.S. government is driving American business to locate offshore in foreign countries. I firmly believe the 1 billion plus Chinese people will soon look to the North American continent for expansion, as the 350 million U.S. residents are certainly not fully utilizing the North American continent.

Our nations energy needs require us to be diverse and utilize all sources of power: oil, coal, gas, solar, nuclear, wind, tidal, hydrological, geothermal, bio, ect. Please leave the historic LMC Badger to continue operations as they have for the past fifty years. Thank you.

Chris Donjkowski
[REDACTED]
Milton, WI 53563

From: McMullen, Rebecca (ENRD)
To: McMullen, Rebecca (ENRD)
Sent: 3/29/2013 9:17:42 AM
Subject: FW:



From: joseph noll [mailto:]
Sent: Thursday, March 28, 2013 6:50 PM
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Subject:

Dear Madam or Sir: We have had the honor of riding the USS Badger at least 3 times in our lifetimes(so far): on our honeymoon, in 1961, and to visit twice in Wisconsin. Each time we enjoyed the trip over to WI. as much or more than the visit itself. We need the presence of this beautiful ship in our waterways, for travel as well as for the presence of an icon. We don't have that many left on this earth. Lets not contribute to the extinction of a species; problems can be dealt with and settled in one way or another. Thank you for the opportunity to voice our opinions,
Joseph and Kathleen Noll of Grand Haven, Michigan

From: Rick and Janet
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/28/2013 6:52:24 PM
Subject: Reference Case Number: (Must be included in subject line),,D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771,,

As life long residents of Michigan, My wife and I Richard Moore, and Janet Moore request that you keep the Lake Michigan Ferry in service. Please vote in favor of the Car Ferry and consider the ramifications of putting people out of work and losing tourist monies , and most of all losing a beautiful ship that has been around for a long time. It would be a shame to discontinue this ship. We appeal to you to Grand father this wonderful Ferry back into service and continue its life as a Ferry and passenger vessel. After all, I have to say, look at all the Road Salt that goes into the rivers and into Lake Michigan. I have seen this for years working for the City of Petoskey All the Catch Basins feed directly into the river and into the lake. So this ship is not doing anything, that our Cities along the Lake aren't doing. Please Save her. Thank You

Richard and Janet Moore
[REDACTED] Mi 49770

From: Mike Drengenberg
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
CC: Drengenberg, David
Sent: 3/28/2013 6:51:40 PM
Subject: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Assistant Attorney General
Environmental and Natural Resources Division

I'm writing in support of the S.S. Badger in the case of United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger. The Badger provides an invaluable service to the community and it should not be shut down. The overall environmental impact to Lake Michigan is minimal compared to the amount of gas burned by vehicles having to travel around the lake through gridlocked city traffic instead of across it. Please take into consideration the number of jobs the Badger creates, and the impact on the local economy versus the minority of environmentalists that oppose it.

Sincerely,

Michael Drengenberg
[REDACTED]
Evanston, IL 60201

From: Brian Westphal
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/28/2013 6:54:12 PM
Subject: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

I am writing to express my support for the consent decree filed in the referenced case. I feel that the S.S. Badger is a vital part of the economy for Ludington, MI and the surrounding areas. The decree provides a fair timeframe during which Lake Michigan Carferry can complete the process of end coal ash dumping. I feel strongly that the consent decree should be approved at the conclusion of the comment period.

Thank you.

--

Brian Westphal

[REDACTED]
Ypsilanti, MI 48197
[REDACTED]

From: David Meyer
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/28/2013 6:54:22 PM
Subject: 90-5-1-1-10771

My husband and I, as well as other family members, have enjoyed using the ferry. We are sick of driving around Chicago and love the rest and friendliness if the staff on the ferry. We hope to see it continue to serve.
Ellen Meyer

Sent from my iPhone

From: Larry M.
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/28/2013 7:00:05 PM
Subject: SS BADGER

In Reference to:

D J Reference no. 90-5-1-1-10771

Per the SS Badger being allowed to dump burnt coal ash into Lake Michigan.

Hooray-----I am glad the Badger is sailing Lake Michigan again. Karen and I have taken this ship across The Great Lake and the trip was fun and memorable.

The coal ash from the Badger is less harmful than a lot of pollutants that are dumped daily into the Great Lakes by some of these huge "big money" companies that surround these waters-----ie, in Chicago Saginaw Milwaukee, Greenbay and so on. The big boys aren't making any money off the small Badger Ship Business so as they say: " Let's get rid of it ". It is all about money.

Lawrence Murawa


Ionia Michigan 48846

From: Timothy Paulin
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/28/2013 7:00:33 PM
Subject: S.S Badger Support Letter D.J Ref. NO. 90-5-1-1-10771

To Whom It May Concern,

I'm writing to voice my support for the S.S Badger. The ship serves a vital transportation link and also maritime link to the history of Great Lakes transportation. Please extend them time in their effort to find a solution to this problem.

Tim Paulin
Westmont Illinois

From: Scott
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/28/2013 7:05:28 PM
Subject: Case number: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Many actions of the EPA look like the tail wagging the dog. For the EPA to waste its time on one historic vessel like the SS Badger is just one more example of Too Big Government wasting tax money. The emissions problem is not the ship but its cargo. Has it not occurred to anyone that the vehicles that the ferry is carrying would emit pollution if they were to drive around the lake? I'm not sure here if the problem you are addressing is CO2 or coal ash, but I am confident that if a little ash fell on Lake Michigan, it would survive.

Apparently the EPA has already twisted the arm of the Badger operators and they seem satisfied with the arrangement. If that is the case, I suggest the EPA go along with it and let one rather iconic American business in peace.

Scott Skipper
President, J.L. Mallard, Inc.
Retired

From: Ron Doughty
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/28/2013 7:06:40 PM
Subject: Reference Case Number: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

HELLO;

We think the Consent Decree should be approved. Badger keep up the good work.

RON & CATHY

[REDACTED]
Brighton, MI. 48114

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: Hans & Holle
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/28/2013 7:09:27 PM
Subject: Reference Case Number: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Attn.: Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division

We have been using the Lake Michigan Carferry SSBadger a few times and are very much in favour to keep it in operation, since there is no other alternative for larger vehicles (RV's) to short-cut across the lake. Driving around the lake is using way more fuel and create more pollution from the additional traffic in the summer. Not to mention the congestion on the roads and the subsequent required maintenance of them.

Thanks for listening.

H.J.Hahn

Westerose, Alberta, Canada

From: DONALD HOFF
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/28/2013 7:10:36 PM
Subject: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

I believe The "Badger" has had more than enough time to re-power or retro fit that boat to standards of non pollution type engines. They should not have any more extensions for correcting their problems!

Thank you,
Donald Hoff
Manitowoc

From: ALAN GEIST on behalf of Teri Wilson
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/28/2013 7:12:45 PM
Subject: SAVE OUR SHIP...PLEASE!

While I am a Democrat and environmentalist, I am also a resident of Ludington, MI. I am a supporter of keeping our beloved car ferry, the SS Badger, on the water for many years to come. Here are my reasons why.

- The economic impact of shutting down the Badger to our community as well as Manitowac, WI, the states of Michigan and Wisconsin and the Midwest in general would be devastating. As you know, here in Michigan especially, the economic devastation these past years has been real and far reaching. The organization employs some 200 people which, in a community of 8900, is significant. We have lost other large employers over the years and this would simply be crippling to an area finally starting to rebound economically.
- The history of the Great Lakes – a place like none other on the earth – is long and diverse and wondrous. The shipping on these magnificent inland seas is a large and important enterprise. The car ferries played a huge role in this commerce picture. Many can still remember when they would line up to come in and out of Ludington harbor daily. Now there is only one left.
- ONLY ONE LEFT. The Badger is the last of its kind and to lose that would be to lose a part of the history of Ludington, Michigan and these wonderful Great Lakes.
- The Badger offers a route across the lake to individuals on vacation or business. It has offered the ability to transport import wind turbine parts safely and efficiently towards their destination at various wind farms. It significantly cuts the cost of transport there by reducing the price of construction of these most import environmental support systems.
- While coal ash is not desirable to be sure, it is the LEAST polluting substance on the Lake. There has not been such a push to have these other polluters clean up their poisons. Especially those in the city of Chicago in the state that Senator Durbin – the champion of shutting down the Badger – represents. He should deal with his own polluters before dealing with something that so strongly affects residents of states other than his own!
- Everyone on all sides, in all states and communities agree that something needs to be done. I feel the proper and fair solution was reached by allowing the Badger to continue to run for two years, store its ash and find a permanent solution in that time period.

The SS Badger is a part of this community, this state, the Great Lakes, the economy and most importantly...history. It is THE ONLY ONE LEFT. There are reasonable ways to save our ship. Please understand how shutting it down will devastate us on so many levels. Our Lady of the Lake is a part of our daily lives during sailing season. We all listen for her horn morning as she leaves and evening when she returns to safe harbor. We all stop for just a moment, listen and then softly whisper....."safe sailing old girl".

Thank you

Teri Wilson

██████████
Ludington, MI 49431
██████████

From: Dennis Reedy
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/28/2013 7:12:33 PM
Subject: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771, United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

To: :pubcomment-ees.enrd@usdoj.gov
Subject: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771, United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger
Date: Thu, 28 Mar 2013 23:03:57 GMT

Gentlemen,

I am writing to express support of the historic SS Badger, operating between Ludington, MI and Manitowoc, WI. I have ridden the ferry and it represents an era of watercraft that is fast disappearing. This ship is living history and serves a valuable purpose as well, as providing a shortcut across Lake Michigan that saves millions of gallons of gasoline and diesel fuel that would be used to drive the vehicles and cargo around the south end of Lake Michigan.

I hope you will strongly consider support of the consent decree to allow the ship to continue operations.

Thank you for your consideration.

Dennis L Reedy

From: Terry Ponkey
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/28/2013 7:15:41 PM
Subject: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

My opinion is that The Consent Decree should be approved. We need the Badger to continue sailing. I can't imagine not being able to see the Badger when I go to watch the sun set from the pier in Ludington.

Theresa A Ponkey

 Ludington Mi. 49431


Sent from my iPad

From: elsie johnson
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/28/2013 7:16:45 PM
Subject: D.J.Ref.No.90-5-1-1-10711

A native of Michigan and senior citizen, I use the SS Badger as a regular part of my journeys between my home in Wisconsin and Michigan to maintain family ties.

I sincerely hope that a solution will be found to allow the car ferry to continue providing transportation, while protecting our environment. It is so unique! And it offers a one of a kind experience serving both public and private interests!

Elsie Johnson


Menasha, WI. 54952

From: ALAN GEIST on behalf of Teri Wilson
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/28/2013 7:17:48 PM
Subject: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Case: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

While I am a Democrat and environmentalist, I am also a resident of Ludington, MI. I am a supporter of keeping our beloved car ferry, the SS Badger, on the water for many years to come. Here are my reasons why.

- The economic impact of shutting down the Badger to our community as well as Manitowac, WI, the states of Michigan and Wisconsin and the Midwest in general would be devastating. As you know, here in Michigan especially, the economic devastation these past years has been real and far reaching. The organization employs some 200 people which, in a community of 8900, is significant. We have lost other large employers over the years and this would simply be crippling to an area finally starting to rebound economically.
- The history of the Great Lakes – a place like none other on the earth – is long and diverse and wondrous. The shipping on these magnificent inland seas is a large and important enterprise. The car ferries played a huge role in this commerce picture. Many can still remember when they would line up to come in and out of Ludington harbor daily. Now there is only one left.
- **ONLY ONE LEFT.** The Badger is the last of its kind and to lose that would be to lose a part of the history of Ludington, Michigan and these wonderful Great Lakes.
- The Badger offers a route across the lake to individuals on vacation or business. It has offered the ability to transport import wind turbine parts safely and efficiently towards their destination at various wind farms. It significantly cuts the cost of transport there by reducing the price of construction of these most import environmental support systems.
- While coal ash is not desirable to be sure, it is the **LEAST** polluting substance on the Lake. There has not been such a push to have these other polluters clean up their poisons. Especially those in the city of Chicago in the state that Senator Durbin – the champion of shutting down the Badger – represents. He should deal with his own polluters before dealing with something that so strongly affects residents of states other than his own!
- Everyone on all sides, in all states and communities agree that something needs to be done. I feel the proper and fair solution was reached by allowing the Badger to continue to run for two years, store its ash and find a permanent solution in that time period.

The SS Badger is a part of this community, this state, the Great Lakes, the economy and most importantly...history. It is **THE ONLY ONE LEFT.** There are reasonable ways to save our ship. Please understand how shutting it down will devastate us on so many levels. Our Lady of the Lake is a part of our daily lives during sailing season. We all listen for her horn morning as she leaves and evening when she returns to safe harbor. We all stop for just a moment, listen and then softly whisper....."safe sailing old girl".

Thank you

Teri Wilson

[REDACTED]
Ludington, MI 49431



From: Daniel Behring
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/28/2013 7:19:30 PM
Subject: DJ Ref No 90-5-1-1-10771

I am a regular user of the Lake Michigan Carferry and I urge approval of the consent agreement to give the company time to address the issue of disposal of ash in an approved manner
Daniel Behring
Manistee, MI

Sent from my iPod

From: [REDACTED]
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/28/2013 7:26:42 PM
Subject: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division
Reference Case Number: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Dear Ms. Moreno,

I respectfully urge you to grant the two year Consent Degree for the Badger. I realize that we human beings, as stewards of God's creation, should take care to preserve its beauty and environmental health. Were it not for my understanding that the ash deposits have done no harm over these many years, I would not be making this request. I have taken the Badger, and years ago its sister ships, for perhaps 50 or more trips across the lake. It is both a convenience and a historic experience for adults and children alike.

Thank you for your consideration.
Thomas N. Brassler
Grand Rapids, Michigan

From: Tom Welsing
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/28/2013 7:35:30 PM
Subject: Reference Case Number D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

To Whom it May Concern. I have been traveling on the Michigan Car Ferry since I was a little girl. It is a great way to travel from Michigan to Wisconsin and avoid the perils of vehicle traffic. I want to voice my vote for the granting of the Consent Decree that is currently being debated. Please don't let this great way to travel be stopped. Thank you for listening to my voice. Pam Welsing.

From: Jerry Annis
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/28/2013 7:42:14 PM
Subject: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

I fully support the USS Badger's plan to stop dumping ash in the lake by two years.

Jerry Annis

From: Val
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/28/2013 7:48:44 PM
Subject: Case number-90-5-1-1-10771

Dear sirs -I am writing in support of the USS BADGER. I am a navy veteran who served on 4 nuclear subs during the Cold War. We dumped tons of radioactive water and by products in the ocean outside the 12. Mile limit. Can you imagine the dilution factor? Have you ever heard of anyone being affected by eating radioactive fish. Even tho the dilution factor is different , I believe there is no cause for alarm with pot ash . Please consider the amount of gasoline saved. And the cars pollution in driving around the lake and the danger in driving thru Chicago. We need to keep our historical monuments . Thank you. Val Muth usn retired.

Sent from my iPad

From: Jeanne Faber
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/28/2013 7:53:48 PM
Subject: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

The S.S. Badger is very important to us. We travel across Lake Michigan to see our family several times during the summer.

Jeanne K Faber

From: Eric.Carlson@emerson.com
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/28/2013 7:55:47 PM
Subject: SS Badger Consent Decree / Reference Case Number: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

To: Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division

Case Name: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

Reference Case Number: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Dear Sir / Madam,

I am writing to express my support for the consent decree signed by Lake Michigan Carferry Services.

The SS Badger is a valuable asset to both the State of Michigan and City of Ludington. More importantly, it's a *fantastic* resource for travelers wanting to avoid the cost and hassle of driving through the Chicago, IL / Gary, IN area to reach destinations in Michigan or Wisconsin.

Please support this decree. It's the right thing to do from an environmental and commercial perspective.

Sincerely,
Eric

Eric Carlson | Supply Chain Business Leader
Emerson Commercial & Residential Solutions
8000 W. Florissant Ave. | Saint Louis | MO | 63136
T +1 314 553 1766 | M +1 314 566 4130

From: betsy
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/28/2013 7:55:41 PM
Subject: Badger Consent Decree

I am 76 years of age and have used the Badger to cross Lake Michigan dozens of times over a period of over 50 years, excluding of course the period during which it was docked. I strongly support granting of the Consent Decree. I am aware of environmental implications but we do many more harmful things to our environment without blinking an eye and I would like the Badger to continue as the one of a kind treasure it is.

Betsy Flory-McCoy

[REDACTED]
Grand Rapids, Michigan 49504-2478

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Good Friends are like Angels, You Don't Have to See Them to Know That They are There!

From: Barbara Mallien
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/28/2013 7:58:10 PM
Subject: D.J.Reference Case No. 90-5-1-1-10771

I would like to let you know that my husband and I are completely in agreement that the consent decree should be approved . The Lake Michigan Carferry is a very important part of the economy for Wi. and Michigan .

Barbara Mallien
Sturgeon Bay , Wi.
54235

From: leola gajeski
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/28/2013 7:58:16 PM
Subject: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division

This e-mail is in support of the SS Badger that sails between Ludington, MI and Manitowac, WI. The economic impact this ship has on both ports is vital. The employment to our citizens, many college students, is so very important. Please allow the sailings to continue, and provide the much needed support for the Badger.

Sincerely
Leola Gajeski
Free Soil, MI 49411

From: Judy Boice
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/28/2013 7:58:33 PM
Subject: Badger Car Ferry of Lake Michigan

Hello

I am a person that rarely comments on any open or political matter, but when it comes to the SS Badger, I have to make my insights and feelings known. I have also been shocked at reading many of the extremely negative comments about the SS Badger and her "issues" by people who have nothing better to do than get on a bandwagon and trash the latest cause.

I am 64 years old and have watched the Badger and her sister ships, the City of Midland, and the Spartan, cross Lake Michigan for my entire life. Our family has had a summer home on the shores of Lake Michigan 2 miles north of Ludington for over 80 years and I am the third generation owner of this family treasure. We were brought up seeing the ferries cross the big lake and practically set our dinner hour by its horn. It's imposing presence coming in to harbor each and every evening was, and still is, a reminder of who we are and the influence the big lake has on our lives. For the past four decades, I have crossed the big lake from Milwaukee and Manistee, (where it has in years past docked) and Manitowac to join my family. To this day, it is my primary mode of transport to Michigan as I live in Minneapolis.

The big ship not only carries multitudes of passengers, but also transports their cars, pickup trucks, motorcycles, bicycles, and baby carriages across Lake Michigan. But this is only a fraction of its amazing worth to the people and economies of Wisconsin and Michigan. You cannot board the ship without also seeing numerous semi-trucks, monster trailers, RV's, and railroad cars being loaded. I have seen entire antique car clubs board the big ship. The vast capacity of the innards of this ship are stupendous and save untold dollars and hours for all the patrons of this special ship. Its impact upon the economies of both Ludington and Manitowac is life supporting. There are always young people who are working on the ship, but in addition is the solid workforce of the veteran sailors. And they are the friendliest, most welcoming sailors you have ever met! Your trip, if you have not taken one, will be a great experience and joy for you. And the food is great.

The matter of the coal ash seems in my mind to be exaggerated. I know there are solutions being worked upon, and quite frankly the huge benefit to everyone concerned is worth a little coal ash. Is this really worth the price being asked? Or is this another topic for endless debate and hard will? Let's have some good will, let's look at the positive, trust me it completely outweighs the negative. I know it is the complainers that shout the loudest, but let me add some positive input to this scenario.

I am available any time any one wants to discuss this matter with me and welcome that opportunity.

Sincerely,

Judith Boice
Wayzata, MN 55391

From: Ralph R Frisch
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/28/2013 7:58:56 PM
Subject: Lake Michigan Car Ferry Consent Decree

To whom it may concern;

I fully support the approval of the DOJ Consent Decree agreement with the Lake Michigan Car Ferry. I utilize this service several times a year and to lose this service would be an undue hardship on myself and my family.

Sent from my iPad


From: Leone Stewart
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/28/2013 8:00:27 PM
Subject: re :D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Dear Madam/Sir:

Please approve the consent decree allowing the Lake Michigan Carferry to end the ash discharge within two years so that we who use the carferry annually may continue to do so. My husband and I are in our seventies and prefer not to drive through Chicago in order to get to southern Wisconsin to visit relatives.

Thank you for your consideration.

Leone Stewart


Toledo, OH 43611

From: Mathey, Barbara J
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/28/2013 8:02:44 PM
Subject: Car Ferry

Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division

Reference Case Number: (Must be included in subject line)

D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Case Name: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

Please save the Lake Michigan Car Ferry Service and SS Badger!!

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From: DANIEL SHELDON
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/28/2013 8:05:28 PM
Subject: Reference Case Number: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

To: Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division

Case Name: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

I wish to express my support for the subject case consent decree, as a reasonable balance between environmental concerns of reducing the ash discharge into Lake Michigan by the SS Badger and the service provided to residents of MI and WI and others who rely on this historic treasure for transportation across our Great Lake. The two year window should be allowed for fuel source conversion or other measures to control proper handling and disposal of the ash.

Daniel F. Sheldon
Northville, MI

From: [REDACTED]
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/28/2013 8:14:29 PM
Subject: Reference Case Number: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

To Whom It May Concern:

I am a supporter of the Lake Michigan Car Ferry, therefore, I am requesting that the consent decree agreement they signed with the Department of Justice and EPA be approved. The service they offer is not only economically vital, but historically significant as well. Thank you for your consideration.

Thank You,
Debra Lehman

From: Patricia Kothe
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/28/2013 8:17:13 PM
Subject: Reference Case Number: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

I have enjoyed riding on the SS Badger and hope that a workable solution is found.

It would be a disservice to the supporting communities (customers who enjoy the vessel) to apprehend its service.

Please find a solution.

Pat Kothe
Rockton, IL

From: Stephen Parker
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/28/2013 8:21:09 PM
Subject: 90-5-1-1-10771


Sirs .. The ferryn is a draw to our great state and feel like if it were discontinued it would be a big lose to our state and Michigan .. Think long a hard before letting this great ferry die ... Stephen Parker ...

From: Todd VerBeek
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/28/2013 8:27:50 PM
Subject: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division

I am writing to express my support for the Consent Decree (in U.S. v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger) permitting Lake Michigan Carferry to continue operating the SS Badger for two years while adapting the ship to cease dumping ash into the Lake. Although I am troubled by the environmental impact of the ship as currently equipped, the short-term incremental harm of permitting the ship to continue operating uninterrupted is clearly offset by the benefits to the people of Michigan and Wisconsin (and those passing through) and especially to the residents of Manitowoc and Ludington. Personally, I've relied on the Badger for my travel plans in the past, and the trip I have planned for this summer would be impractical – too expensive and too time-consuming – to undertake if the Badger were not available. Thank you for your attention.

Todd VerBeek


Grand Rapids MI 49506

From: Judy Keller
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/28/2013 8:28:46 PM
Subject: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771 SS Badger Support Email
Attachments: image001.jpg

Dear Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources:

I am emailing you to show **my support for the approval of the consent decree for the SS Badger**. Please do all you can to keep this great boat running into the distant future.

Case Name: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

Thank you so much!

Sincerely,
Judith and Patrick Keller

From: Classic Form
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/28/2013 8:28:48 PM
Subject: 90-5-1-1-10771

Approve this consent decree please

Dave corner

From: emory luebke
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/28/2013 8:29:06 PM
Subject: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

To whom it may concern:

The SS Badger should be allowed to operate now and into the foreseeable future. It provides jobs in both Michigan and Wisconsin as well as promoting tourism in both states. It should be allowed to operate as an historical landmark. The amount of pollutants from the ash are below EPA standards from what I can gather and it is a minimal amount of ash that is dumped. The harm to the economies of Luddington and Manitowoc as well as the employees of the Badger should be heavily considered prior to making a decision that would put the operation of the Badger in jeopardy. We need to keep and create jobs to boost our economies, not eliminate jobs.

Sincerely,

Emory Luebke

From: James Schantz
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
CC: Jim Sarna
Sent: 3/28/2013 8:31:45 PM
Subject: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771.

Sirs:

As a summer resident in the shadow of the SS Badger, I would encourage the EPA to stand firm to protect water (and air) quality that is being so adversely affected by this coal burning ship. As Senator Richard Durbin so eloquently stated, "The SS Badger is the last coal fired steamship on the Great Lakes...and there's a reason for that." Lake Michigan Carferry (LMC) was given a 5 year span to develop and implement a plan to comply with discharge regulations. In fact, LMC did nothing but file for an extension. If there is a belief that LMC has any plan to reach compliance in two years, then you sirs have fallen for the charade. LMC's "plan" is obviously to delay any requirement to update the ship's systems in favor of running at current status while earning large fares transporting commercial cargo. Once the commercial business dries up and the EPA forces compliance, LMC will close operations. The business filings with the EPA clearly show there is no business case for LMC to fund the necessary improvements to meet EPA regulations. In that light, I strongly urge the EPA to require Lake Michigan Carferry to meet water AND air pollution standards at the earliest possible date or cease operations.

Regards,
James R. Schantz


Ludington, Michigan 49431

From: [REDACTED]
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/28/2013 8:39:48 PM
Subject: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Frist let me introduce myself as Eric Egeler a life long resident of Ludington Mi. I'm throwing my support behind the agreement that was agreed to. Having driven around the great lakes in big cities and small towns, I've been able to see a lot more pressing environmental needs to improve the Great Lakes than what I believe is a business oriented attack against the Badger. Thanks for the chance to express my opinion.

From: [REDACTED]
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/28/2013 8:40:30 PM
Subject: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Regarding Case: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

Dear Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division,

I would like to express my support for the SS Badger to be allowed to continue operations. We took the boat from Ludington at the start of a long road trip with the kids 2 years ago. The boat was the perfect way to get the trip started. They have their system so well worked out and everyone works so hard for the customers. The crews at both ports performed their tasks flawlessly. It was like watching a well-oiled machine. It would be a shame for future generations not to be able to enjoy the Great Lakes with a trip like they offer. Not to mention the jobs that the company provides to so many people in both states. I thank you for giving them some time to work through their plan to comply with the EPA requirements.

Sincerely,

M. Todd Kolasa

From: Benson, William
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/28/2013 8:52:34 PM
Subject: D. J. Ref. N<o 90 5 1 1 10771

Sirs:

A wise person said in the last centruy "It is not what is given to an enterprise that makes it what it is, but what isn't taken away that makes it what it is". I think it is way past time that the Badger needs to convert or cease operation to make way for another more earth-friendly transport system. Lake Michigan has, like all our Great Lakes, become way over polluted. It is a "no brainer!" What keeps feeding the idea of "perpetuity" is, in my thinking, greed over nostalgia.

Bill Benson


Eau Claire WI 54701-4022

From: David Martens
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/28/2013 8:53:22 PM
Subject: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Due to my age, I may have an unusual perspective, but I clearly remember riding the SS City of Midland, the Spartan and the Badger 45 years ago and continue to do so today. Yes, we should move towards cleaner burning engines in all facets of our lives, but to consider the ash of the Badger on a par with other ecologically sensitive issues would be time poorly spent.

Like the Delta Queen, the Badger is one-of-a-kind whose historical value far outweighs our more contemporary pollution concerns. An exception should be granted. Thank you.

David L. Martens


Mendota Heights, MN 55120

From: diane P
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/28/2013 9:02:36 PM
Subject: Thank you!

Thank you for considering the Badger's request. I am looking forward to sharing the experience this summer with my children. The first time I was on the Badger was over 30 years ago-and I still have fond memories of it! Please allow it to continue on Lake Michigan.

Sincerely,
Diane Walcher

From: [REDACTED]
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/28/2013 9:08:13 PM
Subject: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Assistant Attorney General, Environment and Natural Resources Division
Reference Case Number: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771 (must be included in
subject line)

Case Name:

United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake
Michigan Carferry Services
and SS Badger

I support the Badger and feel it is in the public interest for this boat
to continue sailing. The decree should be approved.

From: [REDACTED]
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/28/2013 9:09:09 PM
Subject: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc.,
d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger
D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Ladies and Gentlemen:

My name is Daniel P. Heibler, a disabled retired Deputy Sheriff and presently volunteering as a History Docent at North Point Light Station in Milwaukee on the shores of Lake Michigan. It's my job to teach Young and Old about the History and Environment of the Great Lakes. I teach them that these Lakes are living and breathing creatures, with a very important story to tell! And, it sounds as if Big Business is about to strangle History once again.

Everytime I hear that there was a storm in the Greater Milwaukee area, I cringe knowing that the "Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District" has dumped another million plus gallons of raw sewage into the lake do to faulty run-off planning. This is a constant, not a once in a lifetime situation and it has happened and will continue to happen without any EPA involvement. People will eventually get sick, like the Cryptosporidium outbreak that happened in the recent past. And CDC just wags its Bureaucratic Finger at MMSD!

Wisconsin Energy had a "Very Large Coal Ash" landslide at their Oak Creek Power Plant last year and we were told "Coal Ash is harmless" and will dissolve with time! Why does Wisconsin Energy not even get a slap on the wrist and the Badger faces a time line to stop and quit....What is this: Those that can salve the Govt can get away with pollution? Pay no attention to the energy polluter behind the curtain!!!!

The S.S. Badger is "History"; the smell; the smoke; the sound is "Real Living History"! Let it Live, and let our children know what it was like to experience the past!

Respectfully submitted

Daniel P. Heibler
[REDACTED]
Waukesha, Wisconsin 53186
[REDACTED] / [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/28/2013 9:11:30 PM
Subject: lake mich ferry

I agree with the consent what ever the ferry people wish to do I'm sure they are trying to keep the waterways clean !! but DNR and the GOVERNMENT gotta interfere and bully the working businesses, just to suck money from them to fund their lavish wasteful spending !!

i

i

From: george mikulyuk
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/28/2013 9:12:18 PM
Subject: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division

By all means approve the "Consent Decree " between the S.S. Badger, the D.J. and the EPA. This ship is such an intimate and historic part of Lake Michigan and the states of Michigan and Wisconsin. The Badger fosters such an appreciation and awareness of the great lakes in ways that only the Mackinac Bridge can approach.

Compared to the Asian Carp threat the Badger is insignificant. And remember, where there used to be hundreds of coal fired vessels traversing the great lakes, now there is but one. So, on the grand scale of an industry reducing it's environmental impact, this would be hard to match.

Thank you for your consideration
George Mikulyuk

From: ChristineVonderhaar@ferris.edu
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/28/2013 9:15:21 PM
Subject: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771 (public comment about the SS Badger)
Attachments: ATT00001.jpg

United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

I am very hopeful about the continued crossings by the LMC SS Badger and find the proposal of the 2 year period to end the ash discharge a reasonable one.

I fully support this Consent Degree and feel confident the owners, operators, and employees of the SS Badger will continue the path to ending the discharge of coal ash while still serving the public.

My 87-year-old father, a WWII Navy veteran hopes to make these WI-MI crossings into his 90s. It is his great joy every summer to make a crossing or two. This is the last of the old ferries with a great history and a wonderful service to industry, business, tourists, and our respective economies (MI/WI).

I strongly urge you--Please pass this Consent Decree! Keep the Badger going--so much of history is lost; let's keep this living history alive for continued sailing of the Badger.

Thank you.

Christine A. Vonder Haar
Associate Professor, Languages and Literature
Program Coordinator, English Education
Department of Languages and Literature
820 Campus Drive, ASC 3058
Big Rapids, MI 49307-2225
Tel. 231-591-2528, Fax. 231-591-2910
vonderc@ferris.edu
Office Hours Spring 2013: Mondays 12-2:00; Thursdays 10-11:00, and by appointment



From: John Lueck
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/28/2013 9:17:24 PM
Subject: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Re:
Case Name: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

I do support the consent decree.
This is a highly regarded transportation/recreational service provider.

Regards,

J. Lueck
Brookfield, Wisconsin
53005

From: Jmdonlon
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
CC: [REDACTED] info@ssbadger.com
Sent: 3/28/2013 9:19:37 PM
Subject: DJ Ref #90-5-1-1-10771 (US vs. Lake Michigan Translake Shortcut, d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services & SS Badger)

Good Day: I support the approval to allow the SS Badger to continue operating as is through the court specified period. My reasoning is simple: This entity (the SS Badger) is among the very few resources left in this region of the country that actually acts and functions as a domestic economic engine should.

If anyone were even to take the most pedestrian and cursory look at the Manitowoc, WI to Ludington, MI areas, one would see areas that have been nothing short of savaged by years of economic upheavals and the relentless march of technology. Manitowoc-Ludington is nothing more than a backwater area with the populace left to their own devices but still stuck with the noose of federally mandated EPA regulations that seriously threaten what what economic hopes they have. Yet these people are still pressing on, and pressing on with every available resource at their disposal. A big resource is the SS Badger.

Still yet, the high and mighty Chicago Tribune and other bully pulpit occupants revile that the "SS Badger Can Pollute Lake Michigan Through 2015"

This is pure hubris. This is the part of the nation that built our Gato-Class WW 2 submarines. This is also where all the "stuff" that went into myriad industrial items was produced. Go there now and see.....see the damage and then act all huffy that the one thing that still brings in the people and money is somehow bad because it burns coal and dumps the ash into Lake Michigan. Go and see the factories that are being turned into condos.....condos for who? Look at the car dealerships that have been turned into used book stores and store-front churches. Look at the factory that made printing press rollers and is now just another abandoned building.

Shame on anyone that does any more damage to this area. To deny the SS Badger is continue operation is tantamount to putting a "boulder in front of the blind" or "vexing the elderly." Leave this entity alone and leave these people alone. The area has suffered enough.

Thank you
John Donlon
LaGrange Park, Illinois

From: Jim & Suzanne
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/28/2013 9:24:38 PM
Subject: USS Badger - Lake Michigan Car Ferry

I support the consent decree.

The Badger is an important part of the Great Lakes economy and provides an invaluable service many people.


Best regards,

Jim Bailey
via iPhone

From: Steve Boutwell
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/28/2013 9:28:04 PM
Subject: 90-5-1-1-10771

I am so glad that an agreement has been reached to keep the Lake Michigan Car Ferry operating. I encourage you to approve the consent decree to keep this historic boat operating!

Steve Boutwell


Appleton, WI 54911

From: Joe Dietz
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
CC: info@ssbadger.com
Sent: 3/28/2013 11:02:58 PM
Subject: D.J.Ref.No.90-5-1-1-10771

To: Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and National Resources Division

The S.S.Badger provides a valuable service for thousands of people working / visiting and traveling from both Wisconsin to Michigan and from Michigan to Wisconsin.

The ships' owners have already agreed to modify their ships power supply by a specific date. I believe the benefits and commerce supplied by all parties that use this vital service, is vital to both Wisconsin and Michigan.

Illinois congressman Dick Durbin, who opposes the continuing operation of this vital commerce ship, ought take as close look at the number of ILLINOIS RESIDENTS who regularly use this passageway to-and-from Michigan!

For anybody that has traveled from Wisconsin and Illinois, AROUND Lake Michigan to get to the State of Michigan, will testify that not only is it time consuming, but more expensive. *(and DANGEROUS I might add!)

The same holds true for those coming to Illinois and Wisconsin from Michigan..

How is it that the great body of water-LAKE MICHIGAN, survived after the 100's and 100's of COAL BURNING SHIPS cruised over the lake for a previous century? And today, we're talking about (1) ship that's "going to destroy the entire lake!" Stop with this nonsense Dick Durbin and company!

Mr. Durbin ought to pay a little more attention to his "home turf", which is "broke-as-a-joke", and about to ask the federal gov't to "bail the state out" of it's mis-management over the last 75+ years! Of course, he had nothing to do that mis-management.....*(Oh REALLY?)

My suggestion? "SAIL ON S.S.BADGER.....SAIL ON!"

Thank you,

Joe Dietz
McHenry, IL - 60050

joe dietz

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From: ernest carlbom
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/28/2013 10:54:39 PM
Subject: Case No. D.J. Ref. No.90-5-1-1-10771

Attn: Assistant Attorney General Environmental and Natural Resource Division

Case. No D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Case Name: United States vs. Lake Michigan Shortcut , Inc. d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Service and S.S. Badger

Please accept my request that the Consent Decree to allow the S.S. Badger to continue service be agreed to for the following considerations:

We are retired and look forward to this service. We have used the ferry service every year for the past four years on our vacation going from Avon Lake In Oh. to upper Michigan, Minnesota and Wisconsin.

It has saved us from the long trip around Chicago and the horrendous traffic conditions.

It has reduced emissions from our vehicles and saved energy consumption for the extra miles it would take to travel around the Lake.

The S. S. Badger is the ONLY Coal fired ship left on the Great Lakes so it's "coal dust" emissions are infinitesimal in comparison to the vast area it covers.

The S.S. Badger is an historical service and needs to be preserved.

Thank you for your service and please consider granting this request.

Sincerely
Ernest & Donna Carlbom

From: Yoshiko Sato
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
CC: Walker Alan Wynkoop
Sent: 3/28/2013 10:46:34 PM
Subject: SS Badger D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division

Reference Case Number:
D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Case Name: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan
Carferry Services and SS Badger

Please Please keep the SS Badger running. For all the history and Love, a little ash is not a big deal!

PLEASE ACCEPT THE CONSENT DECREE

Yoshiko Sato

From: Lisa and Dan
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/28/2013 10:45:08 PM
Subject: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Assistant Attorney General
U.S. DOJ - ENRD
P.O. Box 7611
Washington, DC 20044-7611

I am writing to express my support for the approval of the Consent Decree signed by the Lake Michigan Carferry with the Department of Justice and EPA that will require the SS Badger to end the discharge of ash within two years.

My family, and I have enjoyed the services of the SS Badger numerous times in recent years. Living near Port Washington Wisconsin, we find it to be a much more enjoyable option compared to driving through Chicago to arrive at our Ludington MI area destination. In fact, we are planning to again make a June 2013 trip, this time to the Silver Lake Sand Dunes, to celebrate my youngest son's graduation from High School. We'll be trailering several of the vehicles for use on the Dunes. This is made practical by virtue of the SS Badger. By contrast, we would not consider trailer through the congestion of metro Chicago and would forgo the trip at an obvious loss to our family as well as the economic loss to the Silver Lakes business community.

I strongly support the approval of the Consent Decree and thereby the continued long term service of the SS Badger to the Wisconsin and Michigan commercial and private interest which she serves.

Best Regards,

Daniel N. Halloran
[REDACTED]
Saukville, WI 53080

I

From: Kai Hildebrandt
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/28/2013 10:41:42 PM
Subject: Reference Case Number: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771 United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

To the Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division

With regard to the case referenced above, I would like to add my voice on the side of the Consent Agreement that would give the Badger operators 2 years to solve the coal ash problem and allow this historic vessel to continue to operate, providing a valuable service (which, incidentally, reduces the impact on the environment that would arise from a considerably longer automobile drive around the bottom of Lake Michigan).

We sailed on the Badger a few years ago to shorten the drive from Windsor, Ontario, Canada to Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada.

The passage considerably shortened our trip, and we thoroughly enjoyed the historic coal-fired steamer, one of, or perhaps the, last coal-fired steamship in the US. We did notice the coal ash/cinders that dropped down on us (and the lake) as we looked out over the stern, and we think it is reasonable to require that modern technology be utilized to minimize the negative impact on the environment. At the same time, we noticed how many large trucks were being transported along with us, all of whom would have produced emissions as they individually would have driven through Chicago (which doesn't need any more pollution!).

We did spend the evening before our crossing in Ludington, MI, where we enjoyed the town, ate dinner, and spent the night in a hotel.

On the return trip, we opted to experience the Milwaukee-Manistee hovercraft ferry instead of the badger; while the boat is efficient and fast, it has all the charm of an airline trip, rather than evoking the heyday of shipping on the Great Lakes, as the SS. Badger does.

Please don't deprive tourists in the Great Lakes area of this experience!

With best regards,

Kai Hildebrandt

Dr. Kai Hildebrandt

Emeritus Associate Professor, Department of Communication, Media, and Film

University of Windsor, WINDSOR, ONTARIO, Canada N9B 3P4

e-mail: kaih@uwindsor.ca, tel: 519-258-6359, fax: 519-971-3642

Home: 538 Askin Ave, Windsor, Ont. N9B 2X4 Canada

"America believes in Education: the average professor earns more in a year than a professional athlete earns in a whole week!"
(Evan Esar, 1899-1995)

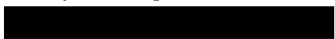
From: AAPepper
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/28/2013 10:42:07 PM
Subject: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division

Case Name: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

I love traveling on the SS Badger. Please help them continue sailing.


Alice Pepper
Troy, Michigan



From: Linda Bishop
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/28/2013 10:29:52 PM
Subject: US vs USS Badger Ref No 90511110771

Please let the USS Badger be able to continue its operation on Lake Michigan. It is a wonderful trip on a historical ship.

Linda Bishop


Findlay, OH 45840

From: Liz Doyle
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/28/2013 10:26:33 PM
Subject: S.S.Badger # 90-5-1-1-10771

We feel the continued operation of the S.S. Badger is of utmost importance. We use the ship often to travel from WI to MI, without having to drive all the way around the lake and thought the horrible Chicago traffic. S car ferry is necessary!
William and Elizabeth Doyle
[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPad

From: Nancy Tejchma
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
CC: Nancy Tejchma
Sent: 3/28/2013 10:03:46 PM
Subject: consent decree

Reference Case Number:
D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Case Name: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

I think the Consent Decree should be approved. We use the boat many times in the season because my daughter lives in Wisconsin.

Mike and Nancy Tejchma
[REDACTED]
Ludington, MI 49431

From: Jennie Nye
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/28/2013 10:01:18 PM
Subject: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc.,D.J. Ref.No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Hi DOJ,

Regarding US v. Lake MI Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc. (Badger Carferry)

The Carferry is an important vital part of Ludington, MI community. Any amount of pollution caused from the ash dump in the lake is literally a drop in the bucket in regard to pollution of Lake MI. Perhaps the Illinois congressperson who is part of the force behind the EPA prosecution of the Badger should consider that the amount of pollution to Lake MI is massive coming from Chicago compared to elsewhere. Ozone, factory run-off, & the threat of invasive species should be more of a priority to the EPA then one company. I recognize the need for environmental monitoring, protection of our resources. Michigan residents treasure our environment for it's beauty, wildlife environment, & as a resource. I know the Badger is a coal-runned ship & this may be why the carferry seems to be a target of the EPA. Personally I feel that the prosecution has been unjust & biased. I've heard apparently the coal dump ins can be seen from space, that does not mean that that ash dump in is poisoning Lake MI. I hope the DOJ examines closely evidence submitted by the EPA. I believe the DOJ's integrity will allow you to review this matter with a just outcome. I hope that outcome is in favor of the carferry. thank you, Jennie Nye LPN

From: [REDACTED] Matt Newcomb
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/28/2013 9:54:18 PM
Subject: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Good Evening,

I'm writing to express my support of the SS Badger Ferry. I and my family are regular passengers and look forward to many more years of wonderful service!

Matt Newcomb

[REDACTED]
Madison, WI
[REDACTED]

From: Michael Krivitzky
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/28/2013 9:43:38 PM
Subject: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

To:
Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division

Re: **D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771**
Case Name: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

This email is to offer my support of the Consent Agreement allowing the SS Badger to continue operations. I believe that the absence of the Badger's service in the Ludington area will have a noticeable negative economic impact on the community. I also believe that preserving and allowing for the historical experience of riding on a carferry is a valuable asset to the tourist industry in Michigan.

Personally, the Badger carferry serves as a valuable and reliable link for travel from one side of Lake Michigan to the other. Not only is time saved, but less fuel is used compared to driving around the Lake. The Badger's competition, being the ferry from Muskegon to Milwaukee, is more expensive and not as reliable, and certainly not as enjoyable a ride.

Carferries have been running out of Ludington, Muskegon, and other Michigan ports for over a hundred years, and at much higher frequency than the Badger currently runs. I find it difficult to believe that the Badger's ash deposits are having any significant long-term effect on the Lake when considering the amount of ash deposits from the dozens of steamships on Lake Michigan over the past 120 years.

That being said, I would also support the eventual elimination of ash dumping from steam ships operating on any of the Great Lakes with the possible exception of historical vessels such as the Badger. If ash dumping absolutely has to be eliminated, for whatever reason, then there are technical solutions to the problem and the Badger should be given enough time to develop, finance, and implement those solutions.

Thank you for reading my email.

Best Regards,

Michael Krivitzky
Muskegon, Michigan

Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division
Reference Case Number: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771
Case Name: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan
Carferry Services and SS Badger

Dear Mr. / Ms. Assistant Attorney General,

As a Michigan resident, an outdoorsman, traveler, fisherman, and a person of many other endeavors that may relate to the use of the Great Lakes, I am very concerned over the issues currently being battled relating to the discharge of coal ash into Lake Michigan. If I were convinced of significant environmental detriment caused by this action occurring continuously or intermittently since the Badger was commissioned as a railroad connection between Michigan and Wisconsin, I would not be in favor of that being allowed to continue. The thing is, I have personally fished Lake Michigan many, many times, and I have taken the LMC SS Badger to Manitowoc WI and back on a number of occasions. I have spoken with the Captain about the discharge of coal ash, I have witnessed the Lake itself on more occasions than I could possibly count, and in my opinion the lake is actually becoming cleaner than in my earlier years around it. The coal ash is inert, as I understand it, and is not unlike leaving a trail of sand to settle to the bottom. Lake Michigan is "alive" with natural cleansing action and certainly can absorb this specific material without negative consequence. If the Federal Government wishes to limit such discharges, I suggest no future permits for new ships are allowed, but I strongly urge the SS Badger be allowed to continue operation with the signing of the consent decree hard fought between the parties. I would go a step farther and say the SS Badger should be permanently grandfathered but it sounds like the matter has exceeded that possibility already. The LMC SS Badger is a national treasure and employs a huge number of citizens on both sides of the Lake either directly or indirectly. It is my opinion the government needs to stop wasting time on matters like this and to find real problems to solve. Better yet, I recommend a scaling back of any government bureaucracy that imposes rules detrimental to our State economy until the unemployment rate has dropped back to less than 5%. Our great country, and our great State, simply cannot afford a government that meddles in every aspect of business and the lives of individuals. Please allow the signing of the consent decree to proceed without further delay.

Sincerely, Rich Newill,

Citizen and Patriot

From: RONALD ANDERSON
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/28/2013 9:36:10 PM
Subject: CASE NUMBER D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

It seems that the EPA is reaching too far again. The infringement upon the historical significance, to the American public, of the few coal burning boats and trains is unjustified when compared to the major power generating stations. The latter are already introducing measure to reduce their pollution at costs that will impact consumers. The EPA's attempt to destroy and eliminate a major source of energy, coal, has now gone to extremes by attacking items of history is unwarranted and excessive. Stop the EPA.

Ronald Anderson
Minneapolis

From: Diane Beattie
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/28/2013 9:32:48 PM
Subject: Reference Case Number: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

I am writing to voice my input on the case that is under review between Lake MI Car Ferry Service and the US Dept of Justice and EPA; while I am a total advocate of protecting the water quality of Lake Michigan, I believe that the solution set forth in the Consent Decree by Lake MI Car Ferry Service is sufficient and would appreciate very much the US Dept of Justice's agreement to keep the Ferry operational for the entire time that it takes to implement compliance with it.

We don't live in Ludington, so really do not benefit directly in an economic sense from the ferry, but we do use the ferry for our personal use to visit Wisconsin regularly. If the ship were not operational we would not make the drive to Wisconsin.

Your consideration of our opinion is greatly appreciated.

Regards,

Jerry and Diane Beattie



Holton, MI 49425

From: doris lincoln
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/28/2013 11:13:39 PM
Subject: Re: The Lake Michigan car ferry service

To Whom it May Concern:

Residents of Michigan and Wisconsin, and residents in a vast area east and west of those states, have benefited from the availability of car ferry service for many decades...in the case of members of our family, for six decades

The time saved, and the damaging emissions not ejected into the environment have been, and continue to be, beyond calculation. If the old saying "time is money" bears a truth (and of course it clearly does), the ferry service has been, and continues to be, of value not only to those who actually use it, but, far beyond their immediate interests.

The interests of those who conduct businesses in the area as well as the millions upon millions of travelers, not to mention those who live in the area, will be irrevocably damaged were the ferry not to be available for their use.. In our family, many members in the two oldest generations live in the Grand Rapids area. Others in those two generations as well as those in a younger generation, live in the Milwaukee, and Green Bay areas. Nearly all of us use the ferry in the service of business travel; all use it for family visits..

This comes to call upon those who have the power of decision to continue to make available the highest and most convenient use of our current transportation system, keeping it intact as it is, and most certainly not becoming responsible for destroying our ferry line and thus significantly diminishing the transportation system within a wide midwestern area.

I hope you will consider not only the many and varied practical reasons for continuing ferry service, but bear in mind that millions of your fellow citizens love the ferry and love using it. Loss of it would be the loss of a significant element of mid-western quality of life.

I write on behalf of not only of myself, but also my husband, two sons, two daughters-in-law, five grandchildren, the spouses of two of the afore-mentioned grandchildren, and one great-grandchild. Most assuredly, our (quite heated) family discussions of this issue indicated that we are of one mind and conviction in this matter: keep the ferry!

Sincerely,

(Mrs.) D. B. Lincoln

Shorewood, WI 53211 .

From: Mary Ann Ransom
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/28/2013 11:09:39 PM
Subject: Ref. Case Number: D.J.Ref.No.90-5-1-1-10771

Case Name: United States v Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS badger

WE feel the Consent Degree should be approved for the SS Badger in Ludington, Michigan, as this is greatly need for jobs and for the historical value of the Badger.

Mary AnnRansom

From: Robert Wallace
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/28/2013 11:24:33 PM
Subject: Case 90-5-1-1-10771

We rode the ferry last late spring
Could not sit outside because of all the smoke and coal ash
Nor could anyone else
It was terrible
Upon arriving in Michigan our car was covered in coal dust
We went right to the car wash who told us their business quadruples when the ferry runs; dust
is acidic and eats through the paint if left on overnite
Stop this pollution

Robert Wallace
[REDACTED]

From: carne andrews
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/28/2013 11:32:09 PM
Subject: SS Badger

It is a relief and a joy to know the SS Badger will be continuing it's service from Manitowoc to Ludington as well as limiting/eliminating pollution to the lake. Our family has used this service regularly for decades. As we age, the drive to visit family becomes more challenging so we will be continuing to book on the SS Badger at least one-way. Please keep the fares reasonable, too.
Appreciating this service,
Carne Andrews

From: Julie Mantyck
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/29/2013 12:09:29 AM
Subject: Lake Michigan carferry

In reference to case number D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771, we wish to express my opinion that we truly enjoy riding on the Badger from Ludington to Manitowoc. Not only does it save on gas and time, but it's relaxing, soothing and enjoyable. It certainly must have a great impact, financially, on the two towns. We sincerely hope the ship continues to sail for some time.

Julie and John Mantyck

Brighton, Michigan

J

From: Tomi Fay Forbes
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/29/2013 12:19:11 AM
Subject: Reference Case Number: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Re: Lake Michigan Car Ferry

Greetings:

I support the agreement which would permit the car ferry to have two more years to convert from the coal to diesel power. I would not want to see the ferry service terminated. It is not only a historic boat and service, it meets many practical needs. When I ride on the ferry, I am always amazed at the massive size of the earth-moving and construction vehicles the ferry transports across the lake, saving mileage, hardship and inconvenience on the highways. I first rode the ferry as a teenager in 1968 and continue to ride it today. It is a delightful way to avoid a long drive around a large lake, and a northern alternative to the Milwaukee high-speed ferry. It continues to serve as a useful form of Great Lakes transportation.

Tomi Fay Forbes

[REDACTED]
Cedarburg WI 53012

From: ESMatz
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/29/2013 12:28:16 AM
Subject: Keep the Badger

I first rode the Badger or it's sistership when I was a little girl. We went back and forth across the lake numerous times and I loved all of them. On a trip to Frankfort after dropping our kids at camp a few years back, the weather was rainy and the hosts of our B&B told us about the carferry museum a short drive away. I was a kid all over again touring the old ferry and delighted to learn the Badger was still running. A year or so later we drove the kids to Manitowoc and our car and family went on board. I was a little girl over again spending most of my time out on deck enjoying even the cold!

I'm all for clean air but the big smoke stack billowing smoke didn't bother me. I took a delightful picture of the smoke going off in the sunset in Ludington. Those Michigan sunsets are a treasure to many of us from the other side.

This ship is a treasure itself. I am delighted to see it continue and glad the EPA and any other governmental agency involved can work together to keep the ferry service going.

E. Matz
Wilmette, IL

From: [REDACTED]
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/29/2013 3:01:36 AM
Subject: Reference Case Number: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Case Name: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Regarding the above proposed consent decree for coal ash disposal from the ship S.S. Badger, which ferries between Manitowoc Wisc. and Ludington, Mich. -

My family and my vehicle have been customers of this service on Lake Michigan appromiately four times in recent years. It is the only short-cut for cars and passengers across this lake. With reasonable accommodation being made on both sides, I would like to see this consent decree put in place to assure the ship continues to run.

When reading public comment, please consider these facts -

- This is the last coal-burning ship on the lake. Once all motorized ships were coal burners. This ship is the last of its breed and as a former railroad car ferry, was desgned to use the very coal it hauled in freight cars as a source of fuel. A total retrofit may completely put it out of business economically. Too many people will be negatively effected.
- There is great benefit to the public having this 'short-cut' available to avoid going around the lake through Chicago. It saves many thousands of gallons of gasoline being burned in favor of taking the short-cut on this ship, while alleviating a bit of the endless congestion in the Gary, Indiana / Chicago, Illinois area. It is also much safer than driving through this area. I have done both.
- This ship is also an historic tourist attraction, and very important to the tourist industry of eastern Wisconsin and western Michigan.
- The ship also further alleviates road use / fuel usage / road congestion by taking unusual cargo across the lakes, such as the recent increase in hauling huge wind turbine parts as non prime time cargo.

I consider myself an environmentalist, but given the potential net losses to jobs on the ship, the tourist industry and its many jobs, loss of a major attraction, increased fuel use if not available, and convenience to the general public of having a choice to avoid 'going round the lake', this consent decree makes much sense as a reasonable compromise for all interested parties involved. Considering both clean air / clean water benefits against the economic benefits of it continuing in business, a reasonable compromise is the correct course of action.

Please approve and put this decree officially into action.

Sincerely,

Robert Schneider
[REDACTED]

Royal Oak, Michigan 48073

From: lewism@msu.edu
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/29/2013 3:37:06 AM
Subject: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

I support the Michigan Badger and its stand in this case. I have taken the ferry many times. Not only does it support the local Michigan-Wisconsin economy, it also introduces many fellow Americans to a part of the nation that they would not see. And it does it at a bargain price. The ferry service deserves to be continued. Please consider all the good that will be done if it does. Thank you for doing the right thing.

Sincerely,
Michael Lewis
Professor
University of Sydney and
Michigan State University

From: Patrice Riemens
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/29/2013 4:01:47 AM
Subject: Reference Case Number: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Re: Case Name: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc.,
d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

Addressed to:
Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division

Dear Ms or Mr Assistant Attorney General,

Even if living in the far away Netherlands, Europe, I wholly support the Consent Decree signed by the owners of S/S Badger with DoJ and EPA regarding ash discharge to be ended within two years.

This because I think the S/S Badger should keep on sailing Lake Michigan, both as an outstanding public service provision, and as a working historic monument with very great, not to say unique, cultural, educational, and touristic value.

Also, in this age of technological overreach, and not always well-informed insistence on speed and innovation for the sake of itself, S/S Badger represents the upcoming trend towards sustainability of proven technologies, focus on the local economy and collectivity, and a general, and timely, mood of 'unwinding'. In other words, there are many benefits of keeping S/S Badger in service that may be not 'tangible', or quantifiable, or even qualifiable within (newly?) established parameters and protocols, but are invaluable nonetheless.

Thank you for your consideration,
Yours faithfully

Patrice Riemens
[REDACTED]
Amsterdam
(The Netherlands)


From: robert
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/29/2013 6:08:11 AM
Subject: D.J.Ref.No. 90-5-1-1-10771

To Whom it May Concern,

I just want to express my complete agreement that the Dept has consented to a 2 yr. extension for the SS Badger to be able to find a solution to the disposal of the waste ash. It is a part of our history and experience that many people enjoy to travel from Manitowoc, WI to Ludington, MI. It is good for turisum and both economies to beable to have an alternative to transport goods and people. You have my complete support in this action.

Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter.

Bob Gresens


Appleton, WI 54914

From: Tom & Sharon Sharratt
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/29/2013 7:04:13 AM
Subject: Reference Case Number: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771, United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc.

We wish to indicate our support of the consent decree which will allow the SS Badger to continue to operate for two years, after which time the company will be required to end the discharge of ash into Lake Michigan. This is a reasonable agreement that sets a definite end of dumping ash and gives the company time to correct the problem. We do use this service and desire to see it continue both for historical and economic reasons.

Tom and Sharon Sharratt


Westby WI 54667

From: Eric Petersen
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/29/2013 7:29:45 AM
Subject: Reference Case Number: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division,

In the case of United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger, I am in full support of the Consent Decree.

The Badger owners have worked in good faith to develop a mutually acceptable time-line for the conversion from coal power to natural gas. So it is my sincere desire that the Consent Decree be approved.

As you know, the Badger is an historically important ship in the Great Lakes and is an absolute icon for Ludington inhabitants and visitors. Ludington and Michigan just wouldn't be the same without her.

Sincerely,

Eric Petersen


Ludington, MI


From: Taha Jamil
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/29/2013 7:42:33 AM
Subject: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Dear Assistant Attorney General:

I am writing to express my support for the consent decree for Lake Michigan Carferry/SS Badger. As a Wisconsin resident and Michigan native, I have personally seen the vital role this company plays in the economies of the two states as well as the communities it serves. I encourage you to ride the SS Badger across Lake Michigan, and speak to some of the crew members and passengers. You will learn first-hand the importance of this company. One trip will be all that you need to realize that the consent decree must be approved.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Taha Jamil


Appleton, WI 54913

Taha Jamil

From: Marvin Westenburg
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/29/2013 7:43:01 AM
Subject: Case # D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Just to let you know that I value the continued service of the USS Badger.
Marvin Westenburg

From: Christa Gensler
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/29/2013 8:20:45 AM
Subject: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771 United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

Dear Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division,

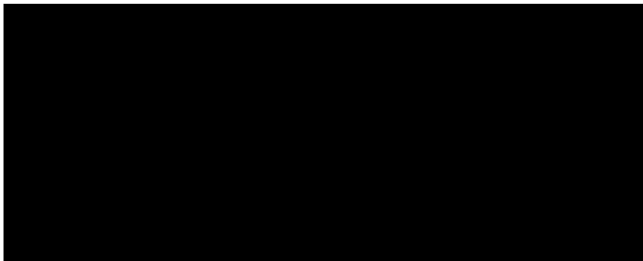
I am in full support of making sure the Lake Michigan Carferry continues to cross Lake Michigan. It is a critical path of transportation for me as I live in Wisconsin, but travel often to Michigan to visit my family. I use the SS Badger to make my trip at various times during the summer. It has always been an enjoyable, secure, and trustworthy means of transportation for me. I'm confident the SS Badger will do all which is required of it to make sure Lake Michigan is environmentally protected. I wanted to express my support for their continued service.

Thanks.

Christa Gensler

[REDACTED]
Wauwatosa, WI 53222
[REDACTED]

From: McMullen, Rebecca (ENRD)
To: McMullen, Rebecca (ENRD)
Sent: 3/29/2013 9:24:50 AM
Subject: FW:



From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, March 28, 2013 11:47 PM
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Subject:

Please approve the consent case for the Lake Michigan Ferry,

Sincerely,
Janet Wohlgemuth Peterson

Address to:

Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division

Reference Case Number:

D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Case Name: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan
Carferry Services and SS Badger

From: verdun chagnon
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/29/2013 8:26:59 AM
Subject: Reference Case Number: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

To whom it may concern with regard to the Lake Michigan Car Ferry Consent Decree agreement. I ask that you support the S.S. Badger Line Ferry in their efforts to clean the emissions of their vessel. I do not think this is too much to ask from our government with all of the infrastructure neglect I see going on in this country. This is one of the only operable ferries serving northern Michigan and Wisconsin. My family uses it to travel to Wisconsin saving us hundreds of gallons of fuel and time. Our nation worked patiently with you during the many oil spill tragedies that have happened. These oil companies have billions of dollars to work with. The Badger line people do not have the vast money supply to instantly update their equipment. They are cooperating with you so give them a break during their transition and we will continue to support you in your efforts to logically clean up America.

Thanks

Verdun P. Chagnon
infrastructure

From: David Modra
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/29/2013 8:28:49 AM
Subject: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Please approve the Consent Decree associated with the above case!! The Badger is a excellent example of living history and should continue to operate.!!

David Modra
Spring Grove, IL.

From: Jamie Walton
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/29/2013 8:36:11 AM
Subject: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Case Name: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

Please approve the Consent Decree.

Jamie Walton

From: Brookover, Jim
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/29/2013 8:44:27 AM
Subject: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Case Name: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Car ferry Services and SS Badger

Sirs/ Madams:

Certainly we must let a few of the relics from our Great Country's industrialized past live on to remind us of our History? I also believe the Coal fired Locomotive is important for giving our children this Historic prospective, but, this great old Lady of Lake Michigan also serves a useful service to our society that was not intended when it was manufactured - namely transporting families and their vehicles from Michigan to Wisconsin. This shortcut alone saves several vehicles the necessity of traveling several hundred miles around Lake Michigan – each trip with its own carbon footprint. Please help save the USS Badger for the future, so our children may take this lazy 4 hour trip back in time to a bygone era - instead of congesting the Highways of Chicago.

Thank You,
James Brookover

James Brookover
Manufacturing IT
Bridgestone / Firestone USA

From: Fenwick, George
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
CC: [REDACTED]
Sent: 3/29/2013 8:46:19 AM
Subject: Reference Case Number: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

In reference to the above Case Number, my wife and I strongly support approval of the above Consent Decree. We have used Ferry service numerous times, we have taken our grand kids on it, and we strongly recommend the service to everyone we talk to. This is a part of our country's history and it would be a terrible shame for future generations not to experience this part of our past.

Please approve the Consent Decree to allow the USS Badger to continue to sail.

If you need any additional information, please let us know,

Linda & George Fenwick

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From: Brian Plumhoff
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/29/2013 8:54:19 AM
Subject: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Assistant Attorney General, Environment and Natural Resources Division,

This is regarding the case of United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger.

As a customer of the SS Badger, and a West Michigan resident, I strongly urge you to do whatever it takes to keep the SS Badger sailing. This historic boat provides a unique transportation and entertainment opportunity that frankly not available anywhere else. Newer boats, while faster don't provide the glimpse into the past that the Badger does. A trip on the SS Badger, yes is a 4 hour trip across Lake Michigan, but is also a trip back in time to a simpler time. The badger also provides a much needed link with the other side of the lake, eliminating time consuming, anxiety filled and unefficient travel around the bottom of the lake, or for that matter I guess the top. This unique business also provides many jobs for the communities in both Michigan and Wisconsin. In addition there is other businesses that benefit from the presence of the SS Badger. Many people, like myself love watching this iconic boat enter and leave the harbor, a sight seen no-where else. The days of the car ferry are over everywhere, except the two lucky cities of Ludington Michigan and Manitowoc Wisconsin. Please ensure future generations can enjoy this boat by approving current agreements and legislation that allow this boat to sail and seeking to work with the owners of the SS Badger to come up with agreeable, affordable and sustainable solutions in the future that allow this iconic Lake Michigan asset to keep on sailing.

Thank You for your time,

Brian

--

Brian D. Plumhoff M.A., LPC

Licensed Professional Counselor

www.briandplumhoff.com - 616-666-6BDP



Please consider the environment before printing this email.

From: Denny Nystrom
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/29/2013 9:01:59 AM
Subject: Case # D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

To whom it concerns:

The SS Badger has been an excellent form of transportation for my commutes between Minnesota and Michigan. It seems reasonable to move forward with the Consent Decree allowing the Badger two years to adjust to the ash discharge. Hope this Decree is approved and the Badger will continue it's service on Lake Michigan.

Sincerely,
Denny Nystrom
Bloomington, Minnesota 55420

From: [REDACTED]
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
CC: info@ssbadger.com
Sent: 3/29/2013 9:03:21 AM
Subject: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

As frequent travelers on the Badgers car ferry, I write in support of the consent decree recently entered by the company and EPA. It is important to maintain the service while alternatives to coal ash dumping (which is probably not a hazard in the first place) be found.

Sincerely,
Alan Kimbell

[REDACTED]
Indianapolis, Indiana 46220

From: Rosemary/Bill
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/29/2013 9:09:45 AM
Subject: SS Badger

We should preserve the only coal-fired car ferry left in the Lakes. Too many things of the past are gone forever and our heritage is lost. We make exceptions for endangered species, why not the machines as well?

Bill Gamble


Lowell, MI 49331

From: Jim
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/29/2013 9:21:43 AM
Subject: D.J. ref.No.90-5-1-1-10771

We use the car ferry occasionally and appreciate the fact that it is still running.
There are other ways to cross the lake to Michigan, but none like the car ferry that transcends us back to a golden age.

Thank you and every one who worked to keep the ferry alive

Jim

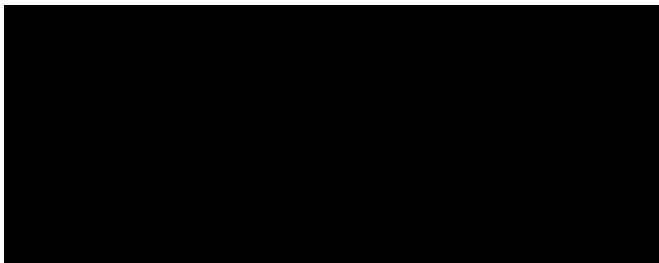
From: Lee Moore
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/29/2013 9:23:19 AM
Subject: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

A plea to grant the grant the Consent Decree to the S.S.Badger as they continue to work on the white ash discharge. Myself along with my family have utilized the Badger to travel from lower Michigan to the western Upper Peninsula since we moved downstate in 1960. Transporting one to three vehicles each passage. There must be some environmental positive impact there as well as allowing us time to relax, see The Lake and enjoy time with family members. I am hopeful that we will be able to cruise on the Badger for many more years. Thank-you for your consideration is this matter.

Lee Moore


Granger, In 46530

From: McMullen, Rebecca (ENRD)
To: McMullen, Rebecca (ENRD)
Sent: 3/29/2013 9:27:23 AM
Subject: FW:



From: Lenard White [mailto:]
Sent: Friday, March 29, 2013 8:51 AM
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Subject:

To whom it may concern.

I am a Canadian senior who when travelling to eastern Canada and the eastern USA use the Badger to cross lake MI. I will be showing my dogs in WI this spring and also in MI. Without the Badger my trip would end in Green Bay. The time consumption and fuel consumption (pollution) make it too prohibitive for me to go round the bottom of the lake. I have advised freinds who visit familly in eastern Canada to use this route (capitalizing on the Badger) to visit friends in Sarnia and other points east. They have done so and believe me to be a genius as they now visit their families more frequently and enjoy not only the lake crossing but also the refreshing tour through the USA.
Lenard White

From: John Hoch
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/29/2013 9:28:34 AM
Subject: D.J. Ref. No.90-5-1-1-10771

Case name: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger


Dear sirs;

I am in support of the consent decree regarding the continued service of the SS Badger from Ludington, Michigan to Milwaukee, Wisconsin. This ship has real historical value in addition to being the last coal fired ship on the Great Lakes. It provides welcome travel to the west without going thru the Chicago area.

I have traveled on the SS Badger several times going back to the mid - 50s. While I don't believe the coal slurry provides any harm to Lake Michigan, this consent decree will give added time to correct the issue in a viable and cost conscious way.

Please approve this consent decree.

Sincerely,

John Hoch


From: Paul Peterson
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/29/2013 9:26:39 AM
Subject: comment

Re: United States vs. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc, D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing in support of the consent order which will permit the S.S. Badger to continue operating its cross-lake route from Ludington, Mi., to Manitowoc, Wi.

Obviously there is a tremendous economic impact on these two ports if carferry service is discontinued. The company directly employs about 200, making it one of the largest employers in the area. Ludington has had carferry links to Wisconsin since 1873. Since the late 1940s that service was operated by the Chessie System. In 1992 Lake Michigan Carferry bought the vessels, but never operated its sister ship. The new company totally reconditioned the Badger, and resumed passenger service to Manitowoc.

The carferry has historically been one of this area's most important economic benefits. Our restaurants, motels, and retailers depend heavily on the passenger trade the carferry brings in and out of town.

The issue of disposing of coal ash is one that no reasonable person ignores. But given the two-year time frame, and knowing how intent the carferry owners are in eliminating the problem - if in fact it is as large as Sen. Durbin claims - I believe the consent order should be granted, and sincerely hope it will be.

Sincerely

Paul S. Peterson

[REDACTED]
Ludington, Mi. 49431

Email: [REDACTED]

From: Paul Jones
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/29/2013 9:28:59 AM
Subject: Reference Case Number:

TO: Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division
Case Name: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

I fully support this consent decree.

The SS Badger represents history and heritage and continues to provide economic and customer benefits. Furthermore, I think it would be awesome if multiple organizations could come together to provide the brain power and financial resources to allow attainment of the ash discharge environmental limits. Furthermore, it would be awesome if the powertrain that is installed be a pioneer in environmental friendliness, energy usage and power.

Paul Jones
Advanced Sales Engineering
Waupaca Foundry, Inc
PLEASE NOTE MY NEW E-MAIL ADDRESS
E-Mail: paul.jones@waupacafoundry.com
248-497-3466

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From: John Conway
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
CC: Vivienne
Sent: 3/29/2013 9:29:25 AM
Subject: Case# D.J. Reference Number 90-5-1-1-10771

Dear Sir(s),

This letter is in regard to Case Name: United States v. Lake Michigan Transport-Lake Shortcut, Inc. dba Lake Michigan Company Carferry Services and S.S. Badger. I have traveled on the ship and brought a guest from another country with me. I am over 70 and I deplore the intervention of Government into many of our daily activities...some of course are necessary, but many in my opinion exceed the responsibilities we give to our elected officials. This exceeds by a large measure and in my opinion this car ferry should be allowed to operate as it is with no changes.

John J. Conway, [REDACTED].

From: Cindy Engelking
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/29/2013 9:30:09 AM
Subject: D.J.Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Dear Dept. of Justice -

My husband and I very much support the Consent Decree that will allow our favorite carferry stay in business while they clean up the ash problem. Please allow this Consent Decree to go into effect.

We don't have a lot of choices to cross Lake Michigan on our annual summer vacation. The Badger helps us enjoy our upper and Lower Peninsula vacation without the hassle, stress, and expense of driving through Chicago. We think the Badger is a great Michigan attraction.

Sincerely,

Dave and Cindy Engelking

From: Doug Nowak
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/29/2013 9:32:28 AM
Subject: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

I DO NOT support the dumping of coal ash into the great lakes for another two years. I cannot fathom why we would intentionally allow dumping anything like this or any other waste into one of earths most treasured resources. This makes no sense and once again shows the senseless thinking of our bureaucracy. We only get so much fresh water and to ruin it in any fashion is a tragedy.

I am not an enviromentalist tree hugger in any fashion but this is just common sense ridiculous.

God bless and happy Easter.

Doug Nowak
Grand Haven, MI

From: Sarah Ferguson
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/29/2013 9:36:25 AM
Subject: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

I would like to express my support of the agreement reached between the EPA and the Lake Michigan Carferry Services and the SS Badger.

The Badger is a integral part of the Lake Michigan community, providing essential recreational and commercial transportation.

Regards,

Sarah Ferguson

Galesburg, MI

From: jeanne edwards
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/29/2013 9:38:17 AM
Subject: United States v lake michigan Trans lake short cut DJ ref NO. 90-5-1-1-10771

RE: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771.

I fully support the decision made by the Justice Dept in regards to the coal ash dumping.

It resolves the issues on both sides of the problem - protects the environment and continues to provide jobs to both Michigan and Wisconsin.

(although a certain Senator is not happy no matter what)

Aside from the jobs and environment, you don't realize how beneficial the boat is for us, terms of Transportation, in the northern part of Wisconsin. I live in Manitowoc, and our summer home is north of Ludington. It would be a major trip to drive down to Milwaukee, take lake Express and drive north. There are many, many Wisconsin people who are in the same situation, and many northern Michigan people who have relatives in mid and northern part of Wisconsin. To lose this trans lake connection, does make getting across the lake more challenging for us. While no one really seem to care about this, it IS a big deal for us. And yes, I spend money in Ludington, every trip over to Michigan and every trip on the way home, which I am sure makes the Ludington people happy.

From: John Bufkin
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/29/2013 9:39:17 AM
Subject: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Case Name: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Car ferry Services and SS Badger

Reference Case Number: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Please be advised that I am in favor of the approval of the Consent Decree as referenced above.

John C. Bufkin

██████████
Jonesboro AR 72401

From: Todd Stowe
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/29/2013 9:40:26 AM
Subject: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Attention Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division

RE: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

I would like to strongly request you deny the Consent Decree in the following case: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

I was born in Ludington due to the fact that my grandfather was captain for decades and moved our family here in the late 60's. Two of my uncles also worked on the boats.

I am asking that you to weigh the consequences of your decision, both the positive and negative. I believe the negative health and environmental damage from burning coal, the CO2 emissions and other byproducts such as coal ash far outweigh the positive impact on the community and state. I suggest you look into those health and environmental issues before granting any Consent Degree. The health and environmental damage from burning coal is well documented. To fully visualize the negative impact of the coal ash all you would have to do is walk down to any of the 500 boats in several marinas or visit the three children's parks all located extremely close to the Carferry and put on a white glove and wipe the boat or playground equipment to see how much coal ash gets deposited there on a daily basis. Park your car downtown when the boat is in dock when there is a Southwest wind and wipe your finger on your car after a couple of hours and let me know if you want to breath that filth. Boaters have to clean their boats every day to remove this ash as do nearby residents and their cars, lawn furniture and such. What is that ash doing to our lungs? I don't want the Carferry to go away but it's well past time to insist the boat be converted to diesel or preferably natural gas. Granting a two year extension is irresponsible. A coal burning machine where the ash blankets a town and excess ash is dumped into our lake is medieval. The time is past due to bring this ship into this decade of environmental awareness. The damage to personal property is evident; the risk to human health is reckless.

Todd Stowe

From: [REDACTED]
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/29/2013 9:43:27 AM
Subject: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Dear Sirs:

It would be a shame to shut down the SS Badger line, especially as a lakefront owner we have much bigger fish to fry with lowering water levels. This lovely and restful way to navigate across from Wisconsin is a real family adventure and a true nautical experience. Don't stop this wonderful memory to stop for future generations.

Best regards,

Patricia Bean

[REDACTED]
Kewadin, Mi

From: Kidd, Bonnie
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/29/2013 9:52:24 AM
Subject: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Memo to:

Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division

Regarding: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a/ Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing in defense of the Lake Michigan Carferry Consent Decree and ask that you pass it. The Carferry between Ludington, Michigan, and Manitowoc, Wisconsin is a beloved, and necessary mode of transportation for thousands of residents, and shipping companies in both states. The residents of both cities of Ludington and Manitowoc depend on this carferry for their livelihoods. I believe, through all of the information that I have been reading, that the carferry is doing the very best they can to comply with new EPA regulations. However, another thing to seriously consider is all of the trucks and other vehicles that use this carferry vs. going around the lake. There has been evidence presented that the amount of pollution that will be created by emissions from those vehicles, let alone the amount of wear and tear on the roadways will be far more harmful than the emissions from the carferry. Given our lack of funding for infrastructure in this nation, I doubt that thousands of cars and trucks on the highways are going to be a better solution than one Carferry!

Please do what is necessary to keep the Lake Michigan Carferry legal and running. It is important to our states and to the people and companies that the Carferry serves.

Thank you very much,

Bonnie Kidd

Ann Arbor, Michigan

--

Bonnie Kidd

Director of Choirs, Ann Arbor Tappan Middle School

Co-Director of Choirs, Ann Arbor Huron High School

Concert Choir Conductor, Ann Arbor Youth Chorale

Sanctuary Choir Director, First Baptist Church, Ann Arbor

From: Sheldon Johnson
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/29/2013 9:58:00 AM
Subject: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771 - SS Badger

We support the Consent Decree agreement (D.J. No. 90-1-1-10771) that was made with Lake Michigan Carferry.

The SS Badger provides a valuable service, this agreement equitably serves both those that use the Badger and those those that don't.

Sheldon and Katherine Johnson


Dundee, IL, 60118

From: [REDACTED]
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/29/2013 9:58:44 AM
Subject: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division

Reference Case Number: (Must be included in subject line)

D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Case Name: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

I don't know the technical aspects of how the engine creates and expels the ash into the lake, but is it possible to hold the ash until they get to shore and then dispose of it to trucks and take to a landfill? The ash itself isn't toxic, is it? It should be able to be safely disposed of at a landfill. As I said, I don't know if this is possible or practical, but it seems a consideration anyway.

From: jack hudson
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/29/2013 10:03:03 AM
Subject: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division,

D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771,

Please know that the Lake Michigan Carferry known as the Badger serves our family as a vital link from our home in Upper Michigan to the Lower Peninsula. We enthusiastically endorse the renewal of the Consent Order permit.

Thank you,
Jack and Verl Hudson

--
shalom aleychem

From: Williamson, Tom (US - Chicago)
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/29/2013 10:03:46 AM
Subject: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771
Attachments: image001.gif

To Whom It May Concern,

I am in support of approving the Consent Decree.

Thank you,

Tom Williamson

Thomas D. Williamson

Principal | M&A and Restructuring | Strategy & Operations
Deloitte Consulting LLP | 111 S. Wacker Drive Chicago, IL 60606-4301
Tel/Direct: +1 312 486 2659 | Fax: +1 312 247 2659 | Cell: +1 312 330 5485
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v.E.1

From: Judy Boice
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/29/2013 10:07:34 AM
Subject: Badger Car Ferry of Lake Michigan, D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Case Name: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger
Hello

I am a person that rarely comments on any open or political matter, but when it comes to the SS Badger, I have to make my insights and feelings known. I have also been shocked at reading many of the extremely negative comments about the SS Badger and her "issues" by people who have nothing better to do than get on a bandwagon and trash the latest cause.

I am 64 years old and have watched the Badger and her sister ships, the City of Midland, and the Spartan, cross Lake Michigan for my entire life. Our family has had a summer home on the shores of Lake Michigan 2 miles north of Ludington for over 80 years and I am the third generation owner of this family treasure. We were brought up seeing the ferries cross the big lake and practically set our dinner hour by its horn. It's imposing presence coming in to harbor each and every evening was, and still is, a reminder of who we are and the influence the big lake has on our lives. For the past four decades, I have crossed the big lake from Milwaukee and Manistee, (where it has in years past docked) and Manitowac to join my family. To this day, it is my primary mode of transport to Michigan as I live in Minneapolis.

The big ship not only carries multitudes of passengers, but also transports their cars, pickup trucks, motorcycles, bicycles, and baby carriages across Lake Michigan. But this is only a fraction of its amazing worth to the people and economies of Wisconsin and Michigan. You cannot board the ship without also seeing numerous semi-trucks, monster trailers, RV's, and railroad cars being loaded. I have seen entire antique car clubs board the big ship. The vast capacity of the innards of this ship are stupendous and save untold dollars and hours for all the patrons of this special ship. Its impact upon the economies of both Ludington and Manitowac is life supporting. There are always young people who are working on the ship, but in addition is the solid workforce of the veteran sailors. And they are the friendliest, most welcoming sailors you have ever met! Your trip, if you have not taken one, will be a great experience and joy for you. And the food is great.

The matter of the coal ash seems in my mind to be exaggerated. I know there are solutions being worked upon, and quite frankly the huge benefit to everyone concerned is worth a little coal ash. Is this really worth the price being asked? Or is this another topic for endless debate and hard will? Let's have some good will, let's look at the positive, trust me it completely outweighs the negative. I know it is the complainers that shout the loudest, but let me add some positive input to this scenario.

I am available any time any one wants to discuss this matter with me and welcome that opportunity.

Sincerely,

Judith Boice
Wayzata, MN 55391

From: Maggie Calkins
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/29/2013 10:09:19 AM
Subject: Case Number D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

I am writing in support of the Consent Decree that would allow the SS Badger to continue to operate across Lake Michigan. It offers a substantial time saving when going from central Michigan to Wisconsin, and if shut down, all the traffic it supports would have substantially longer trips, adding to air pollution from this vehicular traffic.

Thank you
Maggie Calkins

Margaret Calkins, PhD
President, IDEAS Consulting Inc.
Board Chair, IDEAS Institute
8055 Chardon Rd.
Kirtland OH 44094
440-256-1880
440-256-1881 (f)
www.IDEASConsultingInc.com
www.IDEASInstitute.org
www.TechforLTC.org
www.SAGEFederation.org

Please consider the environment before printing this email

From: Brian Huffman
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
CC: info@ssbadger.com
Sent: 3/29/2013 10:15:07 AM
Subject: Reference Case Number: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Dear Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division:

Case Name: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

As you know the Lake Michigan Carferry has signed a consent decree agreement with the DOJ and EPA regarding ash discharge. I understand that public comment may have some affect on the outcome so I'd like to say that traveling on the Carferry has been a tradition that many families, including my own, look forward to just as much as we look forward to any other event in the year.

My family and I would certainly be thankful if this matter was resolved as spelled out in the consent decree.

Thank you,

Brian Huffman

████████████████████
Hudson, WI 54016

From: Robert Bonk
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/29/2013 10:20:59 AM
Subject: 90-5-1-1-10771

Agree with decree to allow SS Badger to continue. Navtive of Manitowoc, know how much it is used, traveled bye many, (including daily windtowers) and Ludington also, alot of revenue to both.

Minimal ash with one ship remaining on great lakes, whereas Milwaukee has been dumping sewagefor years and is ongoing. Yes how terrible is that, and it damages and pollutes the whole lakeshore, us included, nothing addressed on that issue.

SS Badger employees many and saves enviroment and other car, truck emissions.

Deborah Bonk

██████████
Manitowoc, WI 54220

From: Tim Lambrecht
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/29/2013 10:21:19 AM
Subject: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

I am writing to express my opinion on the consent decree between the EPA and S.S. Badger. Even though we are regular users of the Badger to travel from our home in Alma, MI to visit family in Wisconsin, we feel very strongly that the Badger should not be allowed to dump any more coal ash in Lake Michigan including this year. Any agreement must stop this process now. Quite frankly, we feel the Badger's management has been dragging their feet on this issue. We will not be using the badger and will instead travel on the ferry from Muskegon (even though we have parents living in Manitowoc) until this situation is remedied.

Tim and Anne Lambrecht
Jacob Lambrecht
John Lambrecht

Alma, MI

From: Terry Grams
To: "pubcomment-ees.enrd@usdoj.gov"@mailsc31.usdoj.gov
CC: Carl Levin Senator; Debbie Stabenow Senator; Congressman Bill Huizenga
Sent: 3/29/2013 10:21:50 AM
Subject: The Badger Steamship In Ludington Michigan

I agree that we must do everything possible to protect our environment, but the badger's contribution to the pollution in the great lakes is negligible at most. Politically we are a small community without much influence just as our beloved Badger has little influence on the condition of the great lakes.

I could go on and on about how the large cities like Chicago and Milwaukee pollute the lake more in one day than the Badger could in a lifetime, how summer after summer we have to clean up the trash coming to our shores from these cities or how foreign ships coming into the great lake by way of the St Lawrence seaway, mostly to the benefit of these larger cities, contribute to the lake's problems more than the Badger ever could, but you already know that.

So I want you to consider our community, our history and our local culture. As all of these will be negatively impacted if we lose the Badger.

Ludington has always been a port city, shipping and the vessels that are used in this industry play a major factor in what we are as a community. From the great days of the 1940's and 1950's when we had seven or more ferries transporting freight in the form of hundreds of train cars across the lake to the benefit of the entire nation we put up with the inconvenience of waiting for the trains to clear local crossings, as there were no overpasses, we dealt with the pollution from the smoke from a constant stream of coal fire steam ships and train locomotives, we dealt with the noise and other negative effects of this industry. We paid this price while the rest of the nation got most of the benefit, especially Chicago who's Senator Dick Durbin now wants to shut us down, well shame on him.

Now that we are down to one ship, that is critically important to our local economy and the nation does not need the service we provided at great local cost we have foolish congressmen wanting to close us down, probably for personal reasons and family connections.

Our community paid for the right to keep the Badger with our lives, lost when ships went down, from numerous injuries and deaths on the ships and at the repair facilities and diseases like "Welders Disease" and by families that paid the price of separation by the twenty days on, when a worker could not get off the ship, work schedule of the car ferries.

The government did nothing to look after the health and safety of the workers when it was really needed, but now that safety practices and worker health and safety is paramount and the harmful effects of our one last ship are nil the government that stood by and did nothing to protect us when we needed protection wants to shut us down.

I sincerely hope that the needs and future of our community, our history and the price our fathers and grandfathers paid are taken into consideration when you make your decision to allow the Badger to continue in operation.

Sincerely;
Terry L. Grams

From: Joseph F Ruder
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/29/2013 10:23:42 AM
Subject: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Please continue the Car Ferry from WI to MI. The Ferry is inexpensive travel from Northern IL and Eastern WI to Western MI

From: Anne Armetta
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/29/2013 10:32:26 AM
Subject: SS Badger

The SS Badger is a Wisconsin and Michigan treasure. It is one of the few ways that a family of modest means can enjoy the majesty of Lake Michigan through making a full crossing. My children have grown up loving the adventure of being on the Badger every summer, as we traveled to visit my brother who has a home there. A crossing on the Badger is a truly enjoyable and memorable experience that promotes connections of families, friends, and regions. Please keep this treasure afloat!

thank you,
Anne Armetta
Burlington, Wisconsin

From: Cindy
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/29/2013 10:39:55 AM
Subject: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

Please keep our historic carferry running! I support the approval of the Consent Decree.

Cindy L. Kucera

Manitowoc, WI 54220

From: Ed & Janice Horton
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/29/2013 10:38:26 AM
Subject: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771, Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

To: The Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division

I believe that the Consent Decree agreement signed by the Lake Michigan Carferry and the Department of Justice and EPA that will require the SS Badger to end the ash discharge within two years is in the public interest and should be approved.

Sincerely,
Edward Horton


Henrico, VA, 23227

From: Ardis Coffman <
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/29/2013 10:39:59 AM
Subject: Badger

I live in Madison and frequently visit an old friend in Ludington. It is convenient and fun to take the Badger across Lake Michigan. That said, I will add that the health of our environment, particularly the Great Lakes, is more important than my convenience or the shipping company's profits. They've had two extensions that I know of. If they can't run this service profitably, and cleanly, they need to turn it over to someone who can.

Ardis Coffman

--

PLEASE NOTE: My email address is changing to [REDACTED]. Please update your address book.

From: Sandy Mills
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/29/2013 10:55:59 AM
Subject: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division

D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Case Name: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

I strongly believe that Lake Michigan Carferry has signed a Consent Decree agreement with the Department of Justice and EPA that will require the SS Badger to end the ash discharge within two years. This agreement is the product of many months of working closely with the EPA. I think that this Consent Decree is the best result under the circumstances. The Carferry Services benefits both states economy and the negative aspect of the coal ash discharge is off set partially with the service it provides with Auto and Truck fuel not being spent. Also, it is one of the landmarks on the great lakes that needs to be preserved.

Thank you for your time,

William H. Mills

████████████████████
Traverse City, MI 49684

From: Paul McCrath
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/29/2013 11:00:20 AM
Subject: Reference Case Number: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

To whom it may concern:

As a resident of Ludington Michigan, I strongly urge you to approve the consent agreement to enable the Lake Michigan Car Ferry to continue operations across Lake Michigan.

This service is vital to our community welfare, and a great benefit to all who use the service.

In over a hundred years of steam boat service on the great lakes we have not affected the environment or damaged our lakes.

Please consider the benefit to our community and State and give your favorable approval to this request.

Thank you.

Paul McCrath
Resident of Ludington, MI

From: Vicky Sluiter
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/29/2013 10:54:59 AM
Subject: Reference Case Number: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Please approve the Consent Decree for the S.S. Badger.

Vicky Sluiter

From: Beryl Striewski
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/29/2013 11:00:37 AM
Subject: car ferry
Attachments: farm.jpg

Yes, i am in support of the SS Badger being forced to discontinue dumping ash into Lake Michigan.
thankyou,
Beryl Striewski
bstriewski@me.com

Beryl Striewski Photography

traverse city 231.933.3971

houston 713.927.5931

bstriewski@mac.com

www.berylstriewski.com

bringing life into focus



From: Holly J Pollock
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/29/2013 11:01:05 AM
Subject: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

Please, Please please save th Badger at all costs. It is a land mark and is known to everybody where ever you go in the US! Best Regards, Holly J Pollock

From: Pamela and James Pondel
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/29/2013 11:01:52 AM
Subject: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Case Name: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

I wanted to submit a comment about the above referenced case. Long before I was born, my grandparents would rent a cottage in Ludington, MI each summer and my mom, aunt, and uncle would spend a few weeks there. There was another family that would often be there at the same time, who lived in Wisconsin, and would take the car ferry to get to Ludington. Before long, the two families were planning their vacations together to ensure the kids would have playmates while they were there. When the resort owners decided to sell the property to individuals, my grandparents and this other family each bought a cottage so their summer vacation spot would remain available to them. This allowed each family to spend even more time up there, and the friendship between the two families continued to flourish. My mom, aunt, and uncle all grew up, got married, started families, and introduced us kids to the joys of Ludington. The same goes for the daughter of the other family. I grew up spending entire summers in Ludington, MI, and I became friends with the kids of the woman in the other family. Although I have never taken the car ferry to get across the lake, my grandparents would bring me to the lighthouse almost every night to watch the ferry come in and/or go out. And I knew that that was how my friends got to Ludington to spend time with me. Now those kids and I plan our vacations together. And since two of us have kids of our own, we are introducing the next generation to this tradition of spending time in Ludington with our friends from Wisconsin each summer. The car ferry makes this all possible - 4 generations of friendships that would not have happened had the car ferry not been bringing people across the lake all this time.

I am extremely concerned about the environment in general and the damage we are doing to it. And, living in a suburb of Chicago that uses Lake Michigan for our drinking water, I do not like the fact that the car ferry is dumping toxic coal ash into the water each time it crosses. But I also have a place in my heart for that car ferry. Ideally I'd like for the car ferry to continue making it's runs back and forth across the lake, while reducing and eliminating the coal ash it dumps. I understand that their ship is somewhat of a historical landmark, being the only coal-fired ship still in use, but the damage it's doing to our environment as a result is not acceptable. If they are allowed to continue service (as I hope they will be), I would then turn my focus to the Michigan Carferry Service and implore them to discontinue that toxic practice in the shortest amount of time possible.

Thank you for taking my thoughts on this subject into consideration!

~Pam Pondel

The Pondel Family

Brookfield, IL 60513

From: Alice White
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/29/2013 11:05:19 AM
Subject: Badger

In reference to keeping our Badger

First of all It seems the senator from Illinois has an agenda against the Badger Why we can only speculate and as to the owners of the the Muskegon carferry when they wrote that we should run on equal grounds with them I think that would be great as they are in business because of a loan from the government

I hope those of you who are making the decision to the Badger staying in business will realize how much financially Ludington and its sister city in Wisconsin rely on it financially. They may make a go of it but the jobs lost would definitely hurt their economy and those of the shops and motel/hotel people who depend on what the Badger brings to them

Also, for those who wish a comfortable as well as an entertaining ride across Lake Michigan there is no comparison to the Muskegon carferry. A couple I talked with recently said if they had to chose the Muskegon ferry or drive around the lake They would drive. Me to.

Alice L. White


Fountain, MI 49410

From: [REDACTED]
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/29/2013 11:05:46 AM
Subject: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

I strongly support the continued operation of the Lake Michigan Car Ferry. It is a great asset to both sides of the lake and adds many jobs and tourism dollars. Being an environmentalist, I am glad they are working toward eliminating the ash dumping in the lake. Thank you.

Janet Carlson

From: Marilyn Rice
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/29/2013 11:07:27 AM
Subject: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

To: Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division

Re: Reference Case Number: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Case Name: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

I am writing in support of the continued service of the S.S. Badger via the approval of the Consent Decree. My sister lives in St. Paul, MN and I'm in metro Detroit. For years she and her family have used the Badger to shorten their drive time when they visit. I very much appreciate this, in that it makes it possible for her to visit more often.

Also, The Badger is a great draw for tourists to both Michigan and Wisconsin. Good for the economy.

Thank you,

Marilyn S. Rice
Oak Park, MI

From: B. Tad Dunville
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/29/2013 11:09:25 AM
Subject: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Dear Sir/Ma'am;

Regarding the **D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771**, I am strongly in favor of the approval of the consent decree. Given that the coal-fired traffic on the great lakes is almost gone, and given that fly ash is used to stabilize feedlots where our future bacon is fed, I do not feel that the SS Badger's discharge of fly ash is a threat to our health or environment. I feel this issue is a fire that has been flamed by gasoline paid for by lobbyists of a competing ferry company and a career politician.

Please approve the consent decree.

**Respectfully,
Tad Dunville**

--

B. Tad Dunville

Email: [REDACTED]

Mobile: [REDACTED]

From: Bill Shafer
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/29/2013 11:16:31 AM
Subject: Case Number: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Case Name: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

I am writing this in support of the Consent Decree in the case mentioned above. The SS Badger provides a vital service to people across Michigan, Wisconsin and in fact the entire country. My wife and I both ask that you approve this Consent Decree.

Bill and Brenda Shafer
Grant, MI

From: Rosemarie DeLoof
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/29/2013 11:17:42 AM
Subject: Badger Car Ferry

My husband and I are in support of the car ferry being allowed to continue its route across Lake Michigan from Ludington. We believe the coal ash that is dumped into the Lake causes minimal if any harm.

This is a private company that is running without the support of tax payer money, unlike the Lake Express in Musksgeon, Michigan.

The ferry provides jobs and income to Ludington. This is a historical ship and must be allowed to continue its sailing.

Richard and Rosemarie DeLoof
Ludington,MI 49431

From: Sheldon Schafer
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/29/2013 11:24:53 AM
Subject: Reference Case Number: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Reference Case Number: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

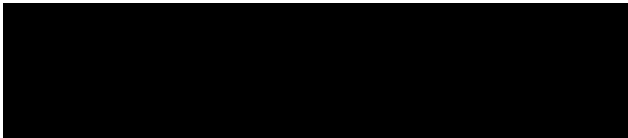
Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division
Case Name: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan
Carferry Services and SS Badger

Sirs:

As a user and supporter of the SS Badger, I'm asking that you please support approval of the Consent Decree as worked out with the EPA and the SS Badger/Lake Michigan Carferry Services. I look forward to the elimination of the coal ash discharge as well as the continued operation of this very historic ship.

thank you
ss

Sheldon Schafer



Peoria, Il 61614, USA
Northern Hemisphere, Earth
Terrestrial Planets, Solar System
Orion Arm, Milky Way Galaxy
Local Group, Virgo Supercluster, Universe

From: [REDACTED]
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/29/2013 11:26:12 AM
Subject: D.J.Ref.No.90-5-1-1-10771

Case Name: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

Do away with our beloved SS Badger???? I certainly HOPE NOT !!! I am an "old-timer" with many great memories of both my children and grandchildren enjoying the fun times during a Badger sailing. Who can ever forget "Badger Bingo"? I am very sure that many other pollutants, far worse than coal ash, are being dumped into Lake Michigan, especially in the Chicago area !! I don't hear of anyone being concerned about that!!

I certainly hope that you all will do the right thing and approve the pending Consent Decree !!!

Sincerely,
Patricia S. Stierle

From: Marc Nuckolls
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/29/2013 11:29:37 AM
Subject: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

To whom it may concern:

Please allow the SS Badger to continue operations as specified in the decree. This is most certainly a matter of emotion as I first stepped foot on the Badger as a 5 year old in 1953, Ludington was my home town. Additionally the carferries (there were seven at that time) provided employment to my family, and the families of countless friends and neighbors. To this day, we find it a convenience and energy saver as we traverse the lake to visit relatives. Frankly, I don't see the ash "problem" as very significant. For over a hundred years many more ships dumped ash and other undesirable substances in the lake without much impact. I would venture to say that airborne pollutants are much more dangerous to the environment. My fondest wish is to let this icon be operational as long as possible.

Marc Nuckolls
Pewaukee WI



From: Jean Howell
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/29/2013 11:29:52 AM
Subject: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Hello,

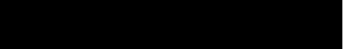
I support the decision to give the Badger, Lake Michigan Car Ferry two years to stop dumping coal ash.

I have cruised on the Badger and am a frequent visitor to Ludington, MI.

Currently, the Badger is transporting parts for the construction of wind mill turbines. As a student of transportation history, I believe this activity is a precious time in US history. The technology of my grandfathers is being used to build the technology for my grandchildren's use. This process will be studied for generations to come. In essence, it will be part of the answer of how did the US move from a fossil fuel economy to a renewable resource economy?

I am a board member and docent for the Carroll County Wabash and Erie Canal, Inc. This non-profit organization restores, re-enacts, and interpret the canal era of Indiana, which opened the interior of our state to early European Settlement. The canal era only lasted 30 or 40 years before railroads replaced them. Canal boats transported the parts and even the locomotives to build the railroads. I see the same transition happening before my eyes when I see the Badger off-loading wind mill components in Ludington, MI.

I salute the Badger and believe that once converted to another type of fuel, the ship will continue to provide valuable service to individuals and commercial concerns by providing the "shortcut" across Lake Michigan.

Jean Howell


From: William West
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/29/2013 11:31:33 AM
Subject: D.J.Ref. No 90-5-1-1-10771


To : Assistant Attorney General - Environmental and Natural Resources

Re: U.S. vs. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a/ Lake Michigan Car Ferry Services and S.S. Badger

I am writing in support of the consent decree I understand has been entered with the company operating the S.S. Badger Ferry Service. My family and I have used this service many times and find it a wonderful service, which if eliminated would certainly negatively impact many people wishing to transit the lake. I believe the commitment to end the issue with ash within 2 years should be accepted by the court.

than you

William L West


S. Barrington, IL 60010

From: [REDACTED]
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/29/2013 11:31:44 AM
Subject: In support of the continued operation of the SS Badger Car Ferry current ruling

Ladies/Gentlemen:

In reference to: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771.

I am in support of the current ruling that allows the Badger to operate for the next two seasons under coal/steam power during which a retrofit to a more EPA-friendly fuel conversion can be funded.

This ship is an important artifact of Great Lakes history, and provides an important commercial service as well. It would be a tremendous loss should there be any disruption in the next two anticipated sailing seasons.

James Ashby

[REDACTED]
Euless TX 76039-3253

[REDACTED]

From: Chris Blalock
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/29/2013 11:51:32 AM
Subject: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

RE: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

I am writing in support of the SS Badger and the Consent Decree agreement with the Department of Justice and EPA.

I have lived in Ludington since 1979 and have experienced firsthand how the lack of the carferry business severely negatively affected our local economy, back in the late 80's. Revenue was noticeably lower for all retail and lodging businesses in the county. The carferry is not only the icon for this area and brings a great deal of pride to all, it supplies jobs and brings millions of dollars of revenue to Mason County and surrounding West Michigan.

The Badger has a positive influence that is synergistic – to say it improves the quality of lives here would not be an exaggeration. The ripple effects from that would take pages to describe. This is a tangible effect.


Please approve the Consent Decree. I have faith in the owners of the Badger that they will continue in their efforts to end the ash discharge.

Thank you,
Christine Blalock
Ludington, MI

From: brian hahn
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/29/2013 11:52:17 AM
Subject: S.S. Badger-I like it

I like the service provided by the Lake Michigan S.S. Badger Car Ferry and would like to see it continue.

Brian Hahn


Oconomowoc, WI 53066 3/29 1050 am

Here is our request - Many of you have asked how you could express your support by sharing your opinion on the continued service of the S.S.Badger. Provided below is the email address and/or the mailing address to the EPA where you can submit your comments on the Consent Decree. Obviously, we think the Consent Decree should be approved and hope you feel the same. Either way, your letter can be as brief as a few sentences or as detailed as you wish.

From: Lee Sims
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/29/2013 11:57:46 AM
Subject: SS Badger Consent Decree
Attachments: image003.jpg

It is very good to hear that the SS Badger has reached a consent decree agreement that will allow it to remain in service. I hope the terms of this agreement will permit modifications to the ash handling system in a cost effective manner that does not force the ship into retirement. Hopefully the ship can obtain a source of low-ash coal and be fitted with ash storage bins to accommodate the consent decree requirements. This ship has a rich history of service with coal-fired boilers and reciprocating steam engines that should be preserved for future generations to study and reflect on the ingenuity of the engineers that designed and built these systems without the computer-aided equipment available today.

I am a US Navy veteran, spending my service time in the engine room of steam powered ships with oil fired boilers. My post-Naval career has been in coal-fired power stations that provide power to RECC customers. Coal fueled the industrialization of this country, and allowed us to mobilize all of our national resources to support our allies and win WW2. In the post-war era, coal provided power for unparalleled growth of our economy. Coal has received very bad publicity in recent years, and much of that could be categorized as misinformation. Other energy sources have been hyped as perfect environmentally friendly sources of power, only to be disappointments when the full truth emerges. New technology and continuing improvements in combustion and efficiency will allow coal to be a reliable source of energy for generations to come.

Our power station has installed equipment on our boilers to reduce emissions, including NOX and SO2. Many other generating stations are being retired due to the high cost of regulatory compliance. Environmental surcharges are passed on to customer's utility bills to pay for these improvements and replacement power costs. Many utilities are working to meet consent decree terms and deadlines to keep reliable power flowing to their customers. If people would do a little objective research on the efficiency and economy of coal versus the alternative energy systems before making a decision based on misinformation, many would realize that coal is a true resource that should be utilized to its full potential.

I applaud the efforts of the SS Badger owners and crew to keep this piece of living history underway between Ludington and Manitowoc, providing a necessary service to the people and businesses around Lake Michigan.

Thanks,
Lee Sims

lee.sims@ekpc.coop



From: Markham, Dan (DA)
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/29/2013 12:09:12 PM
Subject: Reference Case Number: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division,


I fully support the decent decree for case D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771, United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger.

Regards,

Dan A. Markham

From: Kathy Radaj
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/29/2013 12:28:00 PM
Subject: D.J.Ref.No.90-5-1-1-10771

EPA Department of Justice,
Please approve the concent decree for the SSBadger operating on Lake Michigan. The SSBadger is a beautiful ship and provides excellent transportation for me when I visit my family in Michigan. It would be greatly missed if it could not continue to operate.

Kathy Radaj 

Enter the text to appear at the bottom of each email you send.

From: The Campbells
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/29/2013 12:38:51 PM
Subject: Reference Case Number: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division

Reference Case Number: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Case Name: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a
Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

To Whom it May Concern:

I agree with the plan to provide a consent decree in this case.

In fact, given the extremely small environmental impact of any discharges made by the S.S. Badger, I believe that the discharge should be allowed permanently to allow the ongoing operation of this historical and valuable vessel.

I know the ongoing discharge issue is not currently pending, but I felt a need to add the comment.

Regards,

William R. Campbell

[REDACTED]
Wyoming, OH 45215

From: Lady Archer
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/29/2013 12:47:36 PM
Subject: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

To:
Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division

Re: **Case Name:** United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

Please approve the Consent Decree.

Regards,
Chris Leach

From: Haley Case
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/29/2013 12:52:50 PM
Subject: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division,

I know that you will be receiving plenty of emails on the behalf of the case United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger; however, I would be grateful to you if you just took the time to read my thoughts in their entirety.

I have lived in Ludington, MI my entire life. The only time I have honestly left is to attend college. In all of the years of my life, the S.S. Badger has been a part of my community and my life. Without the Badger, my hometown is nothing. This could be a bias opinion; however, I think otherwise. In my town, business revolves around the boat. I worked at a local restaurant downtown, my hours at the restaurant were dependant upon when the boat came in or left town. The hub of the S.S. Badger is a source of more than just transportation, it's a source of income for the town; taking away that source from the community of both Ludington and Manitowac would be taking away the economy of those communities.

Besides these simple facts, I am currently an employee of the Lake Michigan Carferry. I don't want to play the "Don't take away my job" card, but think about how many people the Lake Michigan Carferry employs, and how many people would be out of work just on one side of this issue. And besides that, ask any Badger employee why they work for the boat. Ask them why they stay there. The answer will never be "Because it's a job." A job at the Lake Michigan Carferry is not a job, it's a family. Every person I work with is a brother, a sister, a mom or a dad. We all love each other and we all work together to make the experience of the Badger more than just transportation across the lake, it's an exciting thing. It's amazing how a group of 6 ticket agents and 7 auto attendants can get 600 passengers onto the boat in 2 hours. It's amazing how those same ticket agents and auto attendants can do this stressful job and once the boat leaves, we are all just best friends, we go out and get breakfast once our shift is over, and we hangout after the boat docks. No one thinks of their job at the Badger as a job, it's truly a family, it's something you love to do, and you want to do.

If you've read this far, I truly appreciate you taking the time to listen to my rant about my life, and really about my community, my hometown, because that's honestly what this is about. Fighting for what you believe in. I believe in the Badger.

Thank you,
Haley Case
Ticket Agent
Lake Michigan Carferry

From: E Van Hamm
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/29/2013 1:12:53 PM
Subject: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Comments in favor of United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division:

I have attended school, vacationed and lived on the shore of Lake Michigan most of my 67 years. I have been a passenger on the SS Badger innumerable times under its various owners. I **fully support the implementation** of the proposed Consent Degree and the resulting continuance of SS Badger service.

Edwin S. Van Hamm

[REDACTED]
Golden Valley, MN 55422

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From: [REDACTED]
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/29/2013 1:20:47 PM
Subject: D.J. Ref #90-5-1-1-10771

I believe that the Consent Decree should be granted to the Lake Michigan Carferry.

Joanne M Mohler

[REDACTED]
Ottawa Lake, Mi 49267

From: ROGER McGAUGHEY
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/29/2013 1:27:20 PM
Subject: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Please be advised that my wife and I strongly support the service that the US Badger provides. We use the ship several times each year to accommodate efficient travel from Minnesota to care for elderly grandparents in Michigan.

Thank you for being as flexible and supportive as possible in providing continued sailing authorization of the US Badger.

Respectfully yours,

Dr. Roger and Susan McGaughey

Roger G. McGaughey


Love always protects, trusts, hopes, endures, and never fails.

From: Terri Brown
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/1/2013 8:24:18 AM
Subject: FW: 90-5-1-1-10771

From: Kelsey Oswald [mailto: [REDACTED]]
Sent: Friday, March 29, 2013 2:40 PM
To: Terri Brown
Subject: Fwd: 90-5-1-1-10771

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Jack Mitchell**
Date: Thursday, March 28, 2013
Subject: 90-5-1-1-10771
To: pubcomment-ees.enrd@usdoj.gov
Cc: info@ssbadger.com, [REDACTED]

Case Name: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

I reluctantly support approval of the consent decree regarding the SS Badger.

The Badger provides a valuable service that my family and I have used and enjoyed several times. This unique service is highly important to the economies and tourism in the two states I call home. I would hate to see the service disappear.

On the other hand, I find it unforgivable that the company has continued dumping ash in the lake for all the years we have known the practice endangers the health of the lake (and the tourism industry of which the Badger is a part.)

I see the consent decree as a very generous concession by the EPA to this company that has behaved irresponsibly. Under no circumstances should the deadline established by this agreement be extended by even one day.

Again, I sincerely hope the service can continue, but not at the expense of the lake's health. Grant them two more years and absolutely no more.

Jack Mitchell
[REDACTED]
Madison WI 53711

From: Gayle Woodruff
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
CC: Dan Wallace; info@ssbadger.com
Sent: 4/1/2013 8:39:50 AM
Subject: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

TO: Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division

RE:


Reference Case Number:

D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Case Name: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

We would like to comment on the Consent Decree for the SS Badger. We support the continued service of the SS Badger (Lake Michigan Carferry) on Lake Michigan, and hope that the Consent Decree is approved.

Thank you,

Gayle Woodruff and Dan Wallace


Minneapolis MN 55403

From: [REDACTED]
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/29/2013 1:45:58 PM
Subject: United States v.Lake Michigan TransLake Shortcut,Inc.,D.J.Ref.No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Ref: United States v.Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut,Inc., D.J. Ref.No. 90-5-1-1-10771

I am writing in support of granting the proposed consent decree that will allow the SS Badger to sail and discharge coal ash, as it has been allowed to do throughout its 59 year history, for the 2013 and 2014 seasons before ending the discharge.

The SS Badger provides significant recreational and economic benefit to the states of Michigan and Wisconsin. It also provides substantial commercial benefit to renewable energy developers who are able to ship wind turbine and other extremely large equipment economically and in such manner that reduces highway vehicle emissions and causes far less disruption to highway traffic corridors in and around Milwaukee WI and Chicago IL.

Peter W. Brown

[REDACTED]
Ludington MI 49431
[REDACTED]


From: Phil & Jane Gjevre
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/29/2013 1:55:27 PM
Subject: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771,, United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger,,

TO:
Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division

Please note that we support the proposed settlement decree concerning the waste ash generated by the SS Badger. We urge the court to approve this settlement.

Sincerely,

Phil & Jane Gjevre


Stevens Point WI 54481

From: [REDACTED]
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/29/2013 1:56:57 PM
Subject:

do not let this historic ship die because of polititions !

From: Charles Yonker
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/29/2013 1:58:13 PM
Subject: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Hoping this e-mail will confirm our feelings to let the S.S. Badger continue this great tradition of serving the public from Ludington, MI to Manitowoc, WI. Sincerely, Charles & Joan Yonker, Grand Haven, MI

From: Dave Blahnik
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/29/2013 2:18:58 PM
Subject: D.J. REF. NO. 90-5-1-1-10771

Gentlemen,

We are great fans of the SS Badger and use it quite frequently for crossing Lake Michigan. It is a great family trip and always a fun experience.

We are in favor of the Consent Decree and hope it will be approved.

Thank You

Dave Blahnik

From: D Roeder
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/29/2013 2:14:31 PM
Subject: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771 United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc.d/b/a/Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

To Assistant Attorney General Environmental and Natural Resources Division

RE: Consent Decree

1. Yes, the Issue appears to be the matter of dumping coal ash...
2. But the more serious problem centers on the extended trip around and through the Chicago area
 - . motor travel involves expense of fuel and fumes
 - . it adds to the stress of a land voyage, dealing with numerous traffic hazards
 - . pleasant shipboard travel keeps people out of hospital for problems developing such as heartattacks in transit
3. In conclusion, the Consent Decree, which has already been filed, seems like the way to resolve this matter because the land route has been a problem pre-dating motor traffic and the common sense employed then, could be revised to conform to present circumstances.

Dennis R. Roeder

[REDACTED]
Gahanna, Ohio 43230
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/29/2013 2:36:54 PM
Subject: SS Badger

I'm asking that you approve the Consent Decree filed by the SS Badger from the state of Michigan, DJ Ref # 90-5-1-1-10771. It is a wonderful service to our state.

Sincerely,
Barbara Piotter

[REDACTED]

From: Kay Brow
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/29/2013 2:40:56 PM
Subject: D.J. Ref # 90-5-1-1-10771, Lake Michigan Car Ferry Service

Gentlemen:

My family has used the car ferry service across Lake Michigan for over 50 years. It is a great service to public transportation & industrial/commercial transportation. It cuts miles off the other choice of driving north thru the upper peninsula or south through the Chicago area. Which in turn saves on auto/truck emissions & gasoline costs for individuals who need to traverse Lake Michigan.

I would ask that you allowing the Consent Decree on the Lake Michigan Car Ferry Service to be approved.

Thank you for your consideration.

Kay L. Brow

Long time passenger on the SS Badger

Sent from my Verizon Wireless BlackBerry

From: Larry Champney
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/29/2013 2:41:14 PM
Subject: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771- Comment from Larry Champney

Dear Assistant Attorney General, Environment and Natural Resources Division

Regarding : United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

The Steam ship, the SS Badger is a symbol of Michigan History, Tourism and I dare say Culture. If Michigan wishes prosperity and jobs. It makes no sense to abandon our strengths and uniqueness. Where else can Americans experience a steam ship that even has a similar appearance to the Titanic?

Please do not throw out the baby with the bathwater. I am an Engineer and do not see the cost to benefits here of jeopardizing this part of what is Michigan.

Thank-you for considering my view that is shared by others,
Larry Champney



From: JOHN AHNEFELDT
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/29/2013 2:47:57 PM
Subject: DJ ref no. 905-1-1-10771

Re: SS Badger ferry service across Lake Michigan

I was raised within a mile of Lake Michigan in the 1950's and 60's. I have seen a couple of severe conditions that degraded the aesthetic living environment around the Lake. First was the encroachment of the Alewife fish and the horrendous die off that was resolved by the introduction of the Salmon that eliminated the problem and created a great fishery. Second was the rise in the lake level that created extreme erosion around the lake. This condition was resolved by Mother Nature reducing the lake level. The ash effect generated by the SS Badger is so minute I don't see how any detrimental damage could occur in the next 1000 years. I have taken the ship a number of times across the lake and have fished for salmon since their introduction and have absolutely seen no deterioration of the fishing or the lake shoreline due to the ash disposal.

It seems to me the benefits to the traveling public and the people that work for the company and the communities on either side of the lake far out weight the benefits from shutting down the operation. I urge you to allow the continued operation of the line until the profitability of the line allows for the upgrading or replacement of the ship.

John Ahnefeldt
Eau Claire Wi

Sent from my iPad

From: Gary Castonia
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/29/2013 2:48:56 PM
Subject: Reference Case Number: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Case Name: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

Its great that the EPA and LMC could come to a decision. Although I don't believe the Badger was doing anything illegal. The ash the Badger was dumping was out in the middle of the lake, unlike the factory's that pollute the lake and dump it at the shore line. Since you have taken the LMC to task, isn't it about time you took the other polluters to task. Fairs only Fair.

LMC isn't doing anything illegal and isn't dumping anything of illegal quantities in the lake. Don't be influenced by the cronyism that is going on from Illinois.

Gary E. Castonia 

From: Marg Vance
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/29/2013 3:11:56 PM
Subject: Lake Michigan Car Ferry Service and SS Badger

To Whom It May Concern: I am writing in support of the owner of the SS Badger and the US EPA to resolve the issues of the ash release from the Badger. We are Canadian and have relatives living in Manitowoc Wisconsin and the only way we can visit them is to utilize the services of the Badger.

We are too old to drive around Chicago with all the traffic and plan to use the Badger this summer

If there is a will there is a way

Sincerely
Margaret Vance
Bright, Ontario Canada

From: Bill Caraher
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/29/2013 3:19:14 PM
Subject: Badger Car Ferry

This historic vessel should continue to operate with Federal grants and assistance, but polluting Lake Michigan should not be an option. No extension should be given to pollute our fresh water resource.

I see no reason why it cannot dispose of coal ash on land while it converts to a cleaner fuel.

William Caraher
Milwaukee, WI

From: Bill Caraher
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/29/2013 3:21:36 PM
Subject: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Subject: Badger Car Ferry

This historic vessel should continue to operate with Federal grants and assistance, but polluting Lake Michigan should not be an option. No extension should be given to pollute our fresh water resource.

I see no reason why it cannot dispose of coal ash on land while it converts to a cleaner fuel.

William Caraher
Milwaukee, WI

From: Ed Seramur
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/29/2013 3:22:24 PM
Subject: SS Badger

The Badger should stay. It is a floating Museum of the past on the great lakes. Dumping coal ash is not going to hurt the Lake. It is probably much cleaner than what is in the Lake. We need to keep this Icon of the Past. Don't let the crazy environmentalists get their way. They are destroying much of the America we know and love. Ed Seramur

From: Marilyn Delpaz
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/29/2013 3:24:52 PM
Subject: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

I think the Consent Decree for the S.S. Badger should be approved.

Thank you,

Marilyn Delpaz

From: sharon hull
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/29/2013 3:43:09 PM
Subject: Reference Case Number: (Must be included in subject line)

Case Name: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

I believe it is extremely important to the economy of Michigan and Wisconsin that the Lake Michigan ferry, The Badger, continue to provide its services. On more than one occasion, I have brought friends and family from states like Oklahoma and Texas to enjoy the Badger's history and entertainment, of which its coal fired engines are an integral part of the intrigue.

██████████

From: [REDACTED]
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/29/2013 3:56:06 PM
Subject: D.J.Ref.No.90-5-1-1-10771

Sir:

My comment regarding the continued service of the carferry S.S.badger is that it is a true national treasure with minimal impact on the lake michigan ecosystem.

Actually, I suspect that all the cars and trucks that it now carries would create much more pollution of the air if they had to drive all those miles around the lake instead of taking the shortcut on the ferry.

In any case, the badger richly deserves being grandfathered in to run forever.

Stanley Schroeder

From: Mark Wilson
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/29/2013 4:24:33 PM
Subject: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

To Whom it May Concern:

I'm writing in support of the Lake Michigan Car Ferry.

I've taken it several times and it saves me the long journey around Lake Michigan. Traversing the distance around the Lake takes me about 400 miles and 8 hours. The ferry, although it pollutes, reduces other pollutions such as car emissions and congestion on the roads.

Thanks for listening.

Dr. Mark Wilson
Charleston, WV

From: Jim/Jeanne Holzbach
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/29/2013 4:55:16 PM
Subject: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Case Name: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

I feel very strongly that the consent degree should be passed. If not passed it would be a very serious blow to our local economy. Thank You.

Sincerely , Jim Holzbach

[REDACTED]
Ludington, mi.49431

Phone: [REDACTED]

From: Jan Tava
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/29/2013 5:03:50 PM
Subject: Case no DJ Ref No 90-5-1-1-10771

Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division

Regarding: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut Inc. d/b/a Lake Michigan Services and SS Badger

In support of the car ferry service from Ludington Michigan to Manitowoc Wisconsin, we should honor the history of our country, consider the economics involved, be concerned about the citizenry receiving their livelihood from this business, and also look for a solution that will work for all parties involved.

The sadness of this situation is the "politics" being played by our so called statesmen.

Please consider all options with all communities, environmental issues, history and economic in making decisions and leave out the vendettas that are raging.

I support the continuing service of Lake Michigan Carferry

Thank you
Janice M Tava
Supporter for the continuation of Lake Michigan Carferry

Sent from my iPad

From: Jim Huyser
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/29/2013 5:25:57 PM
Subject: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

I just wanted to take a minute to show my support for the SS. Badger car ferry. My fiance and I rode it for the first time last summer and had the perfect trip home after a long vacation. While I do understand the environmental concerns, the SS Badger has come up with a plan to dramatically decrease the pollution they release. Please understand that the SS Badger sails between 2 economically depressed communities and this is a jobs creator for both of those areas. They are currently starting their season early this year to ship wind mills to lower Michigan to decrease time and costs for Tower Tech. in Manitowoc, Wisconsin, preventing them from having to go through Chicago traffic. The Badger brings much needed tourists to both communities and the areas around them. I could go on and on but the long short of it is you would be crazy not to approve this permit.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

Thanks

Jim Huyser

[REDACTED]
West Bend, WI 53090
[REDACTED]

From: kerry carlin
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/29/2013 5:34:35 PM
Subject: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Please end the dumping. I cannot see why the sailings are in jeopardy simply because they won't be legally permitted to dump tons of waste into the water.

Sent from my iPad

From: Mary Watkins
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/29/2013 5:42:25 PM
Subject: SS Badger consent decree

To Whom it May Concern:

As a resident of Mason County for almost 40 years I am well aware of the important part the car ferries have played in the history of this county. To stop the Badger from sailing would do serious harm to both Ludington and Manitowoc, Wisconsin. It would cause the loss of jobs, not just for those who are part of the Badger's crew but for the local restaurants, bars, hotels, motels, Bed and Breakfast Inns, and the rest of the local economy. At a time when our nation is struggling with an unemployment over 7% I think it unwise for the government to actually put people out of work. With the push for "green energy" the Badger has been responsible for hauling the huge components for the wind turbines that are being built in Michigan. The other cross lake ferry is not large enough to haul these large components. In fact semi trucks cannot use that ferry as a means of crossing Lake Michigan as they can with the Badger. Being able to move these components across the lake saves time and money for the companies building the wind farms which will make the energy they produce cheaper for the consumer.

My husband and I have been married for over 50 years and almost that entire time has been spent living close to Lake Michigan. We love the lake and the sandy beaches and would not want anything to harm the water or the aquatic life that calls Lake Michigan home. I am sure there are facilities along the lake that are putting harmful material into the water not to mention the Asian Carp which, if they invade the lake, will devastate the eco system and the other fish in the lake. I believe all of these facilities should be shut down until they stop polluting the lake. I have seen no concern from Senator Durbin about the other lake pollution which gives this whole situation with the Badger a smell of vendetta.

I would ask that you allow the Badger the time to correct the situation, preserve the jobs and prevent the hurtful economic impact stopping the Badger would have on our community and the community of Manitowoc.

Mary G Watkins

██████████
Ludington, MI 49431

From: Jim Muir
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/29/2013 5:44:23 PM
Subject: SS Badger Public Comment 90-5-1-1-10771

The SS Badger is a valuable and vital public service to the people of western Michigan and the people of eastern Wisconsin. This consent decree deserves to be approved to allow the Badger management team to work to a solution to power the ship into the future.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sally and James Muir

[REDACTED]
Ludington, MI

From: Larry Flanagin
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/29/2013 5:44:57 PM
Subject:

Please help save the SS Badger with present motion--thank you Larry Flanagin

From: [REDACTED]
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/29/2013 5:49:38 PM
Subject: RE: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

I looked at the parts-per-million of residue in the coal ash and really see little problem. Someone might consider going after the gold, after all these years?

I occasionally trailer boats from Michigan to Wisconsin or vice-versa and cannot believe that the boat (for my small part) can contribute as much pollution as a round trip through Chicago with my diesel truck.
Keep the Badger running.

From: Richard Plumb
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/29/2013 6:20:42 PM
Subject: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

To: Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division

Regarding the case:
United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

Date: March 29, 2013

From:
Richard Plumb
[REDACTED]
Bowling Green, OH. 43402

A comment on the Consent Decree

I believe that the SS Badger provides a necessary and quality service to the Lake Michigan area and the surrounding states. They are working to become a good partner with the environment also. Therefore I believe the consent decree should be approved and I urge your approval.

Thank you for your time.
Richard Plumb

From: Shankwitz
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/29/2013 7:07:40 PM
Subject: US v.Lake Michigan TransLake Shortcut, Inc D.J. Ref. No.90-5-1-1-10771....POSITIVE

Please accept the proposed decree between the EPA & the SS Badger. Those of us that live near the lake know how important the Great Lakes are & want it protected. This proposal addresses both sides & is fair. Senator Durbin should look at the pollution in Chicago & how the Chicago River contributes to pollution. The Badger is an historical icon & has done as much as possible to follow guidelines to continue to operate. Special interest groups are trying to stop operation for their financial gain. One critic is the Muskegon ferry & they have a lot to gain by a Badger shut down. This is a fair compromise & I would urge you to accept the proposal. Thank you for your time.

Margene Hankwitz
Sent from my iPad

From: Stewart McNab
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/29/2013 7:16:48 PM
Subject: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771; Consent Decree in United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc.,

To the Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division
United States Department of Justice

Sir/Madam:

I have reviewed the proposed Consent Decree in the above referenced matter and support its approval. Both the Badger and Lake Michigan are national treasures and both should be preserved. The Consent Decree establishes a fair solution for what has increasingly become a political issue. The resolution will permit the Badger to continue to provide its valuable service while bringing a conclusion to the historic disposal method of its ash.

Thank you for your consideration of my views.

Stewart McNab


Golden, CO 80401

From: [REDACTED]
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
CC: jlant68455@aol.com
Sent: 3/29/2013 7:29:54 PM
Subject: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Attn: Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division

RE: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

I am writing to express our wishes regarding the Consent Decree that will allow the S.S. Badger to continue it's cross lake service between Ludington, Michigan and Manitowoc, Wisconsin. We believe that the cross lake service is invaluable to travelers in the Midwest. The service cuts hundreds of miles and several hours of driving time, not to mention the frustration and aggravation that is avoided by travelers by not having to drive through Chicago to get from Michigan to Wisconsin or vice versa. We live in Michigan and we have family in Wisconsin. We have a family reunion every year in Manitowoc and we routinely take advantage of the service that the S.S. Badger provides. My husband and I strongly urge you to approve the Consent Decree. The loss of the service that the S.S. Badger provides would be devastating to the economies of both Ludington and Manitowoc. The service eliminates the emission of fossil fuels from each and every automobile and semi-truck that opts to "hop the Badger" and "avoid the drive through Chicago". Please approve the Consent Decree and allow the S.S. Badger continue sailing Lake Michigan!

Sincerely,

Debra & Jeffrey Lanthier

[REDACTED]
Montague, MI 49437

From: Thankwitz
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/29/2013 7:17:06 PM
Subject: US v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

I am urging you to accept the proposal offered by the EPA. This is a fair compromise & deserves to be accepted. We do need to protect our lakes and this addresses it but allows the company time to deal with the issues. Please accept the proposal. Thank you

Sent from my iPad

From: [REDACTED]
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
CC: res035d8
Sent: 3/29/2013 7:42:58 PM
Subject: United States v. Lake Michigan trans-Lake shortcut, Inc. d/b/a/Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

Attention:

Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division.

Reference Case # D.J. Ref No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Case Name:

United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc. d/b/a/ Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger.

I am sending this email to support the Consent Decree for Lake Michigan Car Ferry and SS Badger. We have two ferries operating in cross lake service on Lake Michigan, and both Michigan and Wisconsin need them both.

They offer very different services. One is the Lake Express, a small high speed ferry that carries a limited number of autos and passengers between Milwaukee and Muskegon. The other is the SS Badger, a large steamship that has the capability of carrying anything that is able to travel down the road between Ludington and Manitowoc. It has recently been carrying windmill parts that constitute a very wide load, that does not as a result have to go down through Chicago to get around to Michigan. We were aboard once when huge wide truck loads of enormous castings headed for Minnesota were put on. The fuel savings are obvious, and since truckers are required to take rest periods, they are able to do that while the ship is underway.

Both these ferries are important to our state as I said, for different reasons. Michigan is a state that has been hard hit by the economy. I feel the Badger is an important link for our region. The Badger is also a historic ship that should be kept running for that reason alone. I am aware of the number of people who travel to Ludington just to see the ship come and go. There is nothing like it left anywhere. Many ride over and back with their children so they can experience the thrill of being on a very large ship, something so common a generation ago, but gone now except for the Badger.

As you must be aware, the solution to the Badger's problem regarding coal is not an easy one. Storing clinkers on board and emptying them in port is difficult. They cannot be taken to the town dump. The stack discharge from the Badger, ironically, is about the same as the discharge from the Lake Express Ferry, which is a diesel ship. I have watched both and so should you.

Again, please approve the Consent Decree to allow this ship to continue running while a solution to it's problems are worked out.

Raymond J. Hilt, DDS

[REDACTED]
Muskegon, MI 49441
[REDACTED]

From: Dan Shimel
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/29/2013 8:01:06 PM
Subject: S.S. Badger

Sen. dick durbin is running his mouth about things concerning the S.S.Badger that are total lies, he don't know anything about the real facts. He is being paid by the owner of the ferry boat that runs out of Muskegon MI because they are trying to use politicians to kill their competition and a city in MI and one in WI . They are paying him big money to spew their crap all over the news. They need to be Stopped now. Thank You for your time.

From: Dennis Schuit
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/29/2013 8:01:45 PM
Subject: D.J. Reference No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Please allow the SS Badger to continue to operate as it transitions away from coal. I am sure the ship saves on emissions from cars and trucks that would have to drive hundreds of needless miles if this route was not available.

Thank you.

Dennis Schuit

From: Donald Marten
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/29/2013 8:07:38 PM
Subject:

To whom this may concern:


We have had the pleasure of experiencing the Badger for many years. This is our primary means of transportation to visit our daughter and her family who live in Glenn, Mi.

It greatly concerns us that these "new laws" and mandates will disrupt a wonderful experience of travel. We are elderly and are no longer look forward to being challenged by driving around Chicago which could easily put serious dents in a marriage. We are aware of the environmental aspects etc. (and there are many more serious concerns than ash). We ask why one unique, historical industry is being forced to become the same as their competitor, why do we always have to change everything so it all looks alike.

Our trip from Ludington is always a delight, we stop along the way to support Mi. economics more than what is realized as well as the rest of our stay. We generally spend a great deal of time in South Haven, Saugatuck, and Holland, sightseeing and shopping. I would be very sad if we as functioning elderly at this point could not rely on our travel aboard the Badger. We do not favor the Lake Express, simply due to driving to Milwaukee, we do not like driving in unfamiliar settings. Manitowoc is manageable for us and we arrive rested and ready to go. I truly feel that if the Badger is compromised we will have to end our trips to Mi. and as we age there many more checks in the negative column than the postive, so please listen.

Thankyou,

Donald and Diane Marten


Marshfield, Wi. 54449

From: susanne warrick
CC: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/29/2013 8:21:07 PM
Subject: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

The Badger Car Ferry has been in my family since I was born, 61 years ago. As a child we would drive from Madison Wisconsin so cross over Lake Michigan in the Badger. This is my history which I have done with my daughter for 25 years. It is tradition and valuable. My brother was a conductor on a train and he found his love of trains thru the Badger. We supported the sculpture at the sculpture Garden in Ludington, Mi. so show our support and we want to make certain this can persist for our children's children. To preserve history. We have a summer home in Ludington and we travel each summer from California. We greet over 40 guests who depend on the car ferry, not to mention the neighbors we have met over the years whose children depend on these jobs. It is a landmark in the Ludington community that we are very proud of and want to see the car ferry continue to cross the Great Lake. Each morning we await the toot of the horn and we watch arrive back at our shores at the dinner hour from our screened in porch. Please keep it alive. It is a vital part of our family, the community, and our traditions. Cheers, Suzanne Warrick

From: The Will's
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
CC: 'Lake Michigan Carferry Service'
Sent: 3/30/2013 9:04:20 AM
Subject: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771
Attachments: image001.jpg

Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division

Reference Case Number: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Case Name: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

Please record my positive opinion on the continuing service of the Lake Michigan Carferry, the S.S. Badger. The signed Consent Decree agreement with the Department of Justice and EPA requiring the SS Badger to end the ash discharge within two years while continuing its valuable service is a welcomed announcement.

My Wisconsin and Michigan family members have enjoyed annual crossings on the S.S. Badger over the past several years. While the coal ash being dumped into the pristine lake water is a disheartening sight, so is the daily air pollution around the southern part of Lake Michigan when we travel Interstates 290 and 94 during the non-boating seasons. I am hoping technology will provide the S.S. Badger in the very near future with a cleaner source of power. My family would like to continue our crossings aboard the Badger enjoying the beautiful sun rises and sunsets over the water.

Perhaps the division can tackle the daily environmental mess around Northern Illinois and Indiana in 2013.

Sincerely,

Marjorie J. Will

████████████████████
Appleton WI 54911

From: Ted Knack
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/29/2013 10:31:25 PM
Subject: Car Ferry Badger

Glad to see that the Badger will keep Sailing. It's a Piece Of History that Should Keep sailing under Steam

From: Rodney Willms
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/29/2013 11:27:27 PM
Subject: SS Badger

As a former passenger on the SS Badger ferry and the fact that it is the only coal powered steam vessel still on the Great Lakes let it keep running as is as a floating history book. We are trying to keep old buildings which surely are not energy efficient on the National Historic Reg. why not make the SS Badger an National Historic item.

Rodney Willms

From: gary neil saxton
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/30/2013 12:57:10 AM
Subject: Lake Michigan Carferry-NPDES consent Decree

I am fully in favor of a waiver or time period for the SS Badger-SS Spartan due to their Historic Nature and unique construction by Chris Craft in the 1950's. I am a Class1 Biological Wastewater Plant operator for the City of Atlanta, GA. The skinner Uniflow engine on these boats is the last on the Great Lakes, and as a member of 2 Railroad historical Societies, I would like a chance to see one first hand in operation. I would love to see it preserved in its original Coal fired configuration. Conversion to Oil fired or LPG gas would solve the ash disposal problems and not require too many changes compared to Diesel. The Ash discharge of one ship will barely affect the water quality and lack of parts will probably shut down operations within 20 years or so. I realize the NPDES is very strict on this, but this ship is the last of its kind and needs to be allowed to continue to operate so the public can experience it first hand.

From: [REDACTED]
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
CC: info@ssbadger.com
Sent: 3/30/2013 1:10:20 AM
Subject: Comment: Consent Decree D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

To:
Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division

Reference Case Number:
D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Case Name:
United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

Comment:
I believe that the S.S.Badger is of major importance to the economies of lands in the mid-Lake Michigan area, especially the cities of Ludington, MI and Manitowoc, WI. The Badger benefits these economies mainly through tourism; her passengers patronize restaurants, shops, and lodgings in these port cities. The Badger is also helping to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by providing motorists with a short-cut route from Michigan to Wisconsin that avoids the need to loop around the Chicago area. Even the huge components of wind turbines are being trucked via the Badger. I strongly recommend that the Consent Decree setting the requirements for cleanup of the Badger's ash discharges be approved.

Submitted by:
Stanley Sattinger
[REDACTED]
Minneapolis, MN 55407

From: Janet & Charlie Pollard
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/30/2013 5:31:10 AM
Subject: S.S. Badger

Regarding:

Reference Case Number:

D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Case Name: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

Dear Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division,

I am a longtime resident of Ludington Michigan. My family first sailed on the City of Midland carferry the summer of 1981. Its main function was to move rail cars. There were few amenities for passengers at that time but it reduced our travel time from the western UP. Plus we wanted to experience the trip with our two year old son. Our community suffered through the two years when the carferry did not run at all. We are a small rural community that mainly depends on our tourists. We were all relieved and grateful when Mr. Conrad got the carferry running again.

Since the Badger has been operating as a passenger oriented ship we personally use it fairly frequently for travel to Wisconsin and Minnesota. It is a perfect way for us to travel to Manitowoc and arrive well rested to continue our drive. There are certainly many activities available on board. But often we just get a stateroom to sleep (always on the night cruise). As the price of gas approaches \$4 it will be more cost effective while reducing the carbon emissions of the hundreds of autos and commercial vehicles that travel cross Lake via the Badger throughout their sailing season.

As residents, who live upwind of Gary Indiana and Chicago, during the summer months we frequently are issued an air quality warning due to pollution spewing from our neighbors to the south. And of course the Asian Carp are an extremely serious threat to Lake Michigan. In recent years we have had medical waste wash ashore our pristine beaches from Milwaukee. Federal money was used to fund the purchase of the carferry Lake Express, in direct competition, a mere fifty miles away. They are unable to accommodate commercial trucks. They also have gone out of their way to paint a very public false and negative picture of the impact of the Badger. They have discovered that Lake Michigan is a much more daunting place to sail than they expected. Even during rough weather I have never felt unsafe while crossing Lake Michigan on the Badger. It would be an extreme blow to our community and the rest of Michigan and Wisconsin since many of the passengers are on their way to other communities in both states.

Lake Michigan is the lifeblood of our community. I love Lake Michigan and am very concerned about anything that could be a detriment to it as are the other residents of Ludington. The ash storage seems to be a good solution for everyone. Please consider carefully and allow our historic carferry SS Badger to continue sailing.

Sincerely,
Janet Pollard

From: emousel
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/30/2013 7:54:40 AM
Subject: D.J. Ref.No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Case Name: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

Asst Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division:

I support the continuing service that the SS Badger provides as this provides a major contribution to the economies for both Ludington and Manitowoc which is very important at this time.

Sincerely,

Ronald Mousel

From: christine brown
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/30/2013 8:41:26 AM
Subject: Reference Case Number: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

Assistant Attorney General, Environment and Natural Resources Division

My name is Christine Brown

I am most definitely in favor of the consent decree.

When considering what to write to show my support for the Badger, I considered the fact that she is very important economically to both Ludington and Manitowoc, not only for the jobs that she provides, but the income that is generated by those visiting both cities, as well as the surrounding cities. It isn't just the residents of the two ports that travel back and forth. If you have ever been aboard the ship, they will ask in the main lounge where people are from. Passengers are not only from all over the United States, but most trips I have been on, there have been passengers from a foreign country as well.

To hear the opponents talk, they would have everyone believe it's just an old boat whose time has come and gone. There is so much "New" in our lives...new computerized this and that and all the new technology. This piece of nostalgia brings great joy to many, many people. The Badger gives our children and grandchildren a chance to step back in time and enjoy a good old fashion family vacation, and learn about a time when our lakes were full of these coal-fired ships traveling back and forth, night and day, and all year round. She also provides a benefit to the drivers of the huge trucks that can save gas and time and avoid the traffic trying to drive around the lake.

I would understand, if the tests showed she was really harming the lake and the fish...but I do believe the tests have proved the opposite.

I am the administrator of a face Book page, "Love Those Carferries".

The last thing I would like to leave for you to read, is my introduction letter to my page (below).

I have listed many reasons above why I support the Badger and the consent decree, the following is why I am so passionate about it.

So why am I starting a page called, "Love those Carferries"?

Well the answer is in the name! I don't know why I feel so passionately about them but I do.

From as far back as I can remember, and before that, the C & O Carferry was the focus of our family vacations most summers. There were a few summers that dad decided we would drive around the lake for our annual visit to Grandma and Grandpa's house in Manistee, MI and of course Scottville and Ludington...but most often it was the carferry for us throughout the 60's and 70's! I remember the anticipation of each trip, not knowing which one we would be boarding...the Badger, Spartan or the City of Midland.

Back then the boats came to the Port of Milwaukee, Jones Island...to this day I can't smell the sewage dept without thinking it smells like vacation...odd, I know, but smells trigger memories... and they are good memories!

Back then they loaded trains below deck, which was an adventure in itself and took some balance to walk on board the slightly tipped ship, until it eventually evened back out.

Of course we always had to get a stateroom, as mom was no fan of the water, and in that stateroom she stayed from start to finish. My dad (a former member of the merchant marines), my brother and myself were much more adventurous. The rougher the lake, the better the trip...and it was a 6 hour trip from Milwaukee to Ludington!

So that was how it started. As a teenager, I would ride my bike down to watch the carferry come in and wait for it to leave again, always a little sad as it pulled away with me still on shore.

I remember going across in winter, so cold outside, but so amazing to watch it break through the ice. We pretty much had the ship to ourselves that trip....and it was great!

My last trip out of the Milwaukee Port took place in 1981 and for many reasons I didn't take another trip across the lake until 2009, when my brother gave me the trip as a gift. How in the world did I let so many years go by? It was a very emotional trip! So many thoughts and feelings came flooding back and memories of my dad and his love for sailing. Once again, each year as sailing season draws near I get the fever! Gotta get on board the Badger!

This year I traveled to Ludington on the Badger with my daughter and my grandson. What a wonderful experience! I loved sharing something I love so much with them. I believe we have started a new tradition! I hope to get the rest of my family to come along soon!

I have many pictures, both recent and from way back, that I hope to post soon.

So this is just a little background of my memories with the carferries, it is my hope that others will like my page and share their stories and pictures as well.

Thanks for reading my story! Chris

Thank you for taking the time to read my letter

Sincerely ,

Christine Brown

From: Al Urbain
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/30/2013 10:01:01 AM
Subject:

To Whom it May Concern, As a businessman and also from a personal perspective I urge you to work with the SS Badger so that it she can continue it's fine service on Lake Michigan. This historical ship provides critical commercial and personal passage of the lake and I look forward to sharing the experience of future trips on her with my children and grandchildren. Thanks for your continued efforts to keep this great ship on the water.

Best Regards,
Al Urbain,

Al Urbain Construction Mgmt
300 Main Street
Dubuque, Iowa 52001
Office: 563.556.4387
Fax: 563.556.4394
<http://alurbaincm.com>

From: Mark Rogers
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/30/2013 10:07:13 AM
Subject: Reference Case Number: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Case Name: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

Dear Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division,

Please approve the Consent Decree agreement signed by Lake Michigan Carferry.

I have crossed the lake on the Badger many times both ways, during the day and at night. The number of stars you can see at night time is staggering. I don't know exactly how many times I have made the trip on one of the steam ships, but the first time was actually on the S.S. City of Midland which has been out of commission for a long time. My wife and kids always enjoyed it, too. In fact, my son who was probably between 5 and 10 years old on his first voyage recently took his girlfriend on it which took some effort since they live in New York City.

It would be a shame to lose such a wonderful boat and experience.

Thank-you.

-Mark Rogers
Howell, NJ

From: Bill Bluhm
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
CC: Bill Bluhm
Sent: 3/30/2013 10:09:04 AM
Subject: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

United States v. Lake Michigan Tans-trans-Lake short, Inc.
D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

I am writing in reference and support to the above consent decree. The Lake Michigan Car-ferry Company was established to rescue the Lake Michigan Car Ferry system and support a historic page in the development of the towns of Ludington and Manitowoc for over 70 years. The system now has become a valuable commercial and tourist link across Lake Michigan and supplies millions of dollars to the economy of both cities. Even though the amount of toxic materials added to the waters of the lake is within the limits of the E.P.A., the owners of the car ferries have consistently researched with time and money a long term solution to these environmental concerns. This is a private company with limited resources making a difference in difficult times economically for the citizens of both communities.

I support the proposed consent decree before the federal court D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-1-771. This continuation of time to allow a long term solution is in the best interests of all.

Sincerely,

William Bluhm
P.O. Box 72
Pentwater, Mi.
49449

Retired C.C. Merchant Marine Captain # [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: lori davis
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/30/2013 10:22:21 AM
Subject: SS Badger

I am voicing my support for the Consent Decree between the Justice Dept and LMC. I look forward to the continuation of the benefits the Badger brings to its communities.
Sent from my Verizon Wireless BlackBerry

From: Sheila Tarrant
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/30/2013 10:31:23 AM
Subject: Consent Decree

<META HTTP-EQUIV="Content-Type" CONTENT="text/html; charset=us-ascii">
<font style="background-color: transparent;"
face="Arial, Helvetica, sans-serif">Please allow this consent decree to pass as we LOVE the
S.S. Badger and feel it is important to pass this. Regarding : D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771
THANK'S, Sheila Tarrant


From: Sharon Sawdo
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/30/2013 10:33:46 AM
Subject: DJref# 90-5-1-10771

We need the carferry to continue running. Not only does our community benefit, but the communities in Wisconsin as well.

I have lived in Ludington most of my life and have made many trips across the lake on the carferry. This ship is a part of our heritage and history and should be allowed to continue to sail. There should be a lot of support for whatever modifications that need to be done to make the carferry compliant with EPA laws. Any individual who opposes the continuation of the Badgers sailing, should just shut up and at least try to make things work out for the good of all.

sincerely

sharon sawdo

have a happy day 

From: Tom Jackson
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/30/2013 10:34:25 AM
Subject: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

I support your vote for approval of the consent decree (**D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771**).

Thank you,

Dr. Thomas Jackson

From: Max Schipper
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/30/2013 10:34:30 AM
Subject: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

I totally support the EPA consent decree to allow the S.S. Badger to continue to operate with coal ash discharge until no later than Jan. 1, 2015. Given that amount of time to develop a method of storing the coal ash on board, the LMC company will cease to be in violation of EPA requirements and still be able to provide an effective and cost efficient means of reducing automobile & truck air pollution and fuel consumption (if traffic had to go around Lake Michigan through Chicago or over the Straits of Mackinac). With an improving economy, the LMC will be better able to accomplish this expensive change over with a greater chance of economic survivability. Give the S.S. Badger a chance to survive! It is a valuable and "clean!" asset to interstate traffic and commerce. Max and Sonja Schipper

Sent from my iPad

From: James Niblock
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/30/2013 11:00:04 AM
Subject: Fwd: #90-5-1-1-10771 : new arrangement for 2 yrs...

Begin forwarded message:

From: James Niblock <Niblock@msu.edu>
Date: March 30, 2013 10:56:01 AM EDT
To: pubcomment-ees.enrd@usdoj.gov
Subject: new arrangement for 2 yrs...

Dear Badger transport:

Indeed we support the latest proposal for a 2 yr continuation of service on a most reliable and pleasant route across Lake Michigan.

This service has been a blessing to our family as we try to maintain contacts between Mn, Wi and Michigan for summer reunions!

The pleasant journey + the affordability make the Badger an indispensable part of summer travel for many families. Thank you!

Sincerely,
Dr and Mrs James F. Niblock

From: steve meress
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/30/2013 11:49:55 AM
Subject: SS Badger

Please keep the Badger going! Thanks

From: John Vanderhoof
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/30/2013 12:01:28 PM
Subject: Lake Michigan Car Ferry comments

This historic ship provides a service to Michigan and Wisconsin but by allowing it to continue to burn coal is sad. The sister ship the Spartan could be renovated (yes for tons of money) but this would allow the Badger to keep running. On-land disposal of the ash will add to the landfills; more stinky trucks running on the highway; more chances for accidents; more constituents saddened by their elected officials - SAD. Take this opportunity to get additional funding and time to do it RIGHT!

The smoke and ash are not healthy. It is unfortunate that Air laws exempt the Badger.

The small fines are a joke. The potential size of fines that could have been assessed should have been considered and used to demand that the coal burning and disposal cease.

If any grants were given by the government to study alternatives, the Badger should pay them back.

Where are the health studies showing the effects on the residents from the burning of the coal with no treatment; no scrubbers; no worries?

I enjoy seeing the Badger. The long-term solution would be natural gas, Even if that means we, the taxpayers, pay more of the costs.

John Vanderhoof
Reed City, MI

From: Tom Mettler
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/30/2013 12:07:06 PM
Subject: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771 Michigan Badger Carferry

Case Name: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Car ferry Services and SS Badger

I would hope you will provide an extension for the car ferry. I have used the ferry several times and it is kind of a Michigan landmark. It would be missed by many. I think a 2 year extension should be sufficient if they are serious about meeting EPA standards. Thank you, Thomas Mettler

From: Allan Bigelow
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/30/2013 12:15:34 PM
Subject: Support for the SS Badger Consent Decree D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Dear: Assistant Attorney General, Environment and Natural Resources Division

Re: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Re: Case Name: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

I am writing today in support of the consent decree between the EPA and the Lake Michigan Carferry operators of the SS Badger.

For me the boats out of Ludington (the SS Badger being the last one operating) are a very important part of my heritage. I am the fourth generation of my family to sail as a passenger on the SS Badger. My children are the fifth. As far as being passengers on board the steamship services out of Ludington I am the fifth generation and my children are the sixth to utilize the service. My great great grandparents settled and started a farm in West Michigan in the early 1880's. (That farm remained active until the late 1960's and was owned by the family until the mid 1990's) As the economic situation in the area changed with the collapse of the logging industry, my family began to seek opportunities in places like Milwaukee, North Eastern Wisconsin, Chicago and points further west. As a result, that service allowed our family to maintain ties for all those years. Some of earliest memories were of taking the ferries Badger, Spartan and the City of Midland from Jones Island in Milwaukee to Ludington Michigan. As a kid, it was fun exploring the ships, walking the decks and getting into mischief. As an adult, I proposed to my wife on the bow of the SS Badger while approaching the sand dunes of Ludington.

Besides my sentimentality there are many reasons to support keeping the SS Badger open. A very important reason is economics. The operations of the SS Badger contribute an estimated \$35 Million in revenue to the ports of Manitowoc Wisconsin and Ludington Michigan. Both of these economies have not only been deeply affected by the recent Great Recession but also by a long term trend of deindustrialization over the past 40 years. One of the areas the SS Badger is very active in is transporting windtowers produced by Broadwind Energy at the old shipyard site. The SS Badger brings visitors to see the Wisconsin Maritime Museum and USS Cobia. It would not have been possible to develop and maintain the Schooner Coast tourist area which runs from Manitowoc to Sturgeon Bay. It brings tourists to Door County another popular Wisconsin tourist area and to large events like the EAA in Oshkosh. The ferry is also an extension of US Highway 10 and a part of the Lake Michigan Circle Tour. On the Michigan side it has been the backbone of the tourist industry for the Ludington and Manistee area. It has provides Wisconsin Travelers a short cut to places like Traverse City and Mackinac Island. It provides a much cheaper and easier alternative for North Eastern Wisconsin visitors to tour the maritime museums of Muskegon.

Many people site that there is another ferry service out of Milwaukee that could be used as an alternative to the services provided by the SS Badger. Anyone who knows the history of cross lake service will tell you that the markets served by the two ships are completely different. The closure of the SS Badger would not bring much of a boost to the Milwaukee ferry, it would just kill a market. The Milwaukee ferry is out of the way for most people in Northeastern Wisconsin and is more expensive. Evidence of this includes an over reported article on Kevin Costner being unable to cross on the SS Badger to get to Michigan. Kevin Costner did not take the Milwaukee ferry to get to Michigan. One can assume he drove around instead. The Milwaukee ferry also does not have the ability to carry large trucks and oversized loads like windtowers like the SS Badger. The Milwaukee ferry also is more likely to cancel sailings due to weather and mechanical issues as experienced during the 2011 season where it was out of service twice for several weeks due to engine issues. However, this has not stopped the owners of the competing ferry to lobby against and create misinformation campaigns against the SS Badger. Recent revelations made an by article published by Outer Boundary Magazine titled Attacking the SS Badger The Deception of Environmental Activism points to many of the groups attacking the SS Badger not only using junk

science but being funded by the owner of the competitor Sheldon Lubar. It appears that even the Badgers chief critic in Washington, Senator Dick Durbin of Illinois is benefiting from Sheldon Lubar's "generous lobbying efforts". The City of Ludington in 2010 tried to obtain a Tiger II grant that would have converted the SS Badger to Diesel Engines which would have eliminated the ash discharge was lobbied against by the Milwaukee Ferry and shot down, despite, the fact that the Milwaukee Ferry received a lot in various subsidies for start up. As it turns out, some of the groups trying to shut down the Badger are using tricks to give the impressions that there numbers are greater than they appear. The Sierra Club Great Lakes in their blog urged its members to vote several times in a Muskegon Chronicle poll against the SS Badger. The Stop Dumping Coal Campaign's bulk of its Facebook likes are from Cairo Egypt. Suggesting the likes are probably from a source that sells facebook likes.

Another aspect is science. Test results conducted over the course of six years that published on the EPA's site have well documented that the ash discharge from the SS Badger is well below EPA tolerances for toxicity and turbidity. There is more lead, arsenic and mercury in top soil that there is in the equivalent amount of coal ash. Ironically, those who are opposing coal ash seem to be unaware that it is being used to filter sewage out of water. Due to heavy arsenic concentrations in water in Bangladesh it is used to filter out the arsenic. Wood ash is used to filter and mellow whiskey. When investigated further wood ash has higher levels of heavy metals and toxins than coal ash. Is the government going to shut down whiskey production? Concrete which contains coal ash is used in the construction of breakwalls, retaining walls and for rip rap all over the Great Lakes. Is that suddenly toxic waste?

It is good to see a different fuel being used besides petroleum based fuels to power our transportation needs. One does not have to look very far to the nearest gas station to see that oil is an overburdened fuel source. Currently alternatives are needed and needed ASAP to stabilize prices and make it more affordable. While the rest of the Great Lakes fleet uses petroleum based fuel, the SS Badger uses coal. My oldest son asked on a trip once where they pump the gas. I said it didn't use gas and pointed to the truck of coal. He was amazed that Badger was powered by "rocks". LOL. Coal is abundant and cheap and we don't have to import it. We don't have to fight wars in the Middle East. Coal does not fund terrorists or corrupt regimes like Venezuela. It does keep good hard working and in many cases unionized American workers employed in mines and railroads. With all this talk of developing clean coal technology, it would make development of the technology a lot harder with fewer things like the SS Badger and old steam locomotives being gone. The giving of more time and the development of an ash collection system on the SS Badger is a step in the right direction in developing clean coal technology which will help break our dependence on foreign oil and the oil industry in general.

These are some the reasons why it is important for supporting the Consent Decree between the EPA and the SS Badger. Thank you for your time and effort.

Allan Bigelow


From: Carole Johnson
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/30/2013 12:16:47 PM
Subject: D.J. Ref. Number 90-5-1-1-10771

Dear Assistant Attorney general,

I am writing to give my approval of the Consent Decree for the continuance of operation of the S.S. Badger Carferry in Lake Michigan. The S.S. Badger has been a large part of Ludington's history. In addition, it plays a large part in the economy of Mason Co., MI. It's the only carferry of its kind left in Lake Michigan. As long as it stops dumping its coal ash in the Lake, there's no reason that it shouldn't continue to operate.

Thank you,

Carole L. Johnson
Ludington, MI



From: [REDACTED]
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/30/2013 12:42:28 PM
Subject: Badger car ferry

As to D.J.Ref. No. 90-51-1-1071

If it costs the Badger ferry company more to unload their coal ash rather than dump into Lake Michigan- so be it. Just raise the cost of passage to the customers. They will pay it with no problem.

It's horrible to dump this ash into the pure drinking waters of our lake. If it doesn't stop -- as it should have last year- then the owners should be arrested. Two years is too long. This a Federal crime because the effects of the dumping affect inter-state waters.

Fred Flasher
Wilton, Wi.

From: Carolyn Newman
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/30/2013 12:58:27 PM
Subject: 90-5-1-1-10771. The Badger

The badger is the icon of Ludington and means the world to our family and our community. It is a source of pride, economic security, and just plain enjoyable to watch each time it departs and arrives. It is truly the last ship of its kind and needs to be not only a historical landmark, but cherished for all the history it represents. Leave it alone and let it go until it can't go any more.

Sincerely,
Carolyn Newman
Ludington, MI

From: Mary Watkins
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/30/2013 12:59:49 PM
Subject: Re United States v Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc

D.J. Ref No 90-5-1-1-10771

To Whom it May Concern:

As a resident of Mason County for almost 40 years I am well aware of the important part the car ferries have played in the history of this county. To stop the Badger from sailing would do serious harm to both Ludington and Manitowoc, Wisconsin. It would cause the loss of jobs, not just for those who are part of the Badger's crew but for the local restaurants, bars, hotels, motels, Bed and Breakfast Inns, and the rest of the local economy. At a time when our nation is struggling with an unemployment over 7% I think it unwise for the government to actually put people out of work. With the push for "green energy" the Badger has been responsible for hauling the huge components for the wind turbines that are being built in Michigan. The other cross lake ferry is not large enough to haul these large components. In fact semi trucks cannot use that ferry as a means of crossing Lake Michigan as they can with the Badger. Being able to move these components across the lake saves time and money for the companies building the wind farms which will make the energy they produce cheaper for the consumer.

My husband and I have been married for over 50 years and almost that entire time has been spent living close to Lake Michigan. We love the lake and the sandy beaches and would not want anything to harm the water or the aquatic life that calls Lake Michigan home. I am sure there are facilities along the lake that are putting harmful material into the water not to mention the Asian Carp which, if they invade the lake, will devastate the eco system and the other fish in the lake. I believe all of these facilities should be shut down until they stop polluting. If the Badger is such a threat to the lake all the other polluters are as well. I have not seen any concern from Senator Durbin about the other polluters of Lake Michigan. It seems his concern with the Badger is more a political vendetta rather than true concern about the lake.

Mary Watkins

[REDACTED]
Ludington, MI 49431

From: Diane Melisko
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/30/2013 1:37:56 PM
Subject: DJRef #90-5-1-1-10771

Please save the S S Badger! I enjoy the trip each fall to visit my aunt in Wisconsin. I enjoy spending time in Ludington and I cannot imagine taking the trip and having to drive thru Chicago. Thank you for working with the owners of the ship to solve the ash coal problem.

From: Peter Lorimer
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/30/2013 1:38:07 PM
Subject: Reference Case Number D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Dear Sir:

My wife & I will be riding the S.S. Badger this June. It would be a great loss if you shut the S.S. Badger down. Many would lose jobs & tourism will be reduced on both sides of Lake Michigan. My wife & I would change our route. Give them two years to fix the problem.

Thank You,

Peter F. Lorimer
Chippewa Falls, WI

From: Ervin Lichterman
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/30/2013 1:38:10 PM
Subject: DJ Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

The SS Badger consent decree should be considered positively. The ship is a very integral part of Lake Michigan history as well as being a source of jobs for both the people of MI and WI. It serves as an important transportation link between the two states and carries commerce that would otherwise be polluting the air with diesel fuel exhaust and making highways less safe. It is my understanding that the EPA should aid US citizens not only tree-hugging special interest groups who would like us to return to the age of the dinosaur.

Ervin Lichterman [REDACTED], Holland, MI 49424

From: Andrew Naidl
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/30/2013 1:50:10 PM
Subject: Badger Carferry

Please I want the Badger to continue . As long as they can comply and still be able to operate I will be happy!
-Andy

Sent from my iPhone

From: Chet & Jean Schwerin
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/30/2013 2:13:03 PM
Subject: Badger

I think the consent decree for the Badger should be approved. Our family here and in MN travel on the Badger several times each summer. It provides an easy, comfortable, and cost effective way for us to visit our friends. It is a historic part of Michigan's past and should be marketed for the tourist industry.

From: Barry Matthews
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/30/2013 2:21:30 PM
Subject: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Address to:

Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division

Case Name: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

To whom it may concern;

I encourage you to approve the consent decree between the DOJ and LMC regarding coal ash discharge into Lake Michigan by the SS Badger. This historic vessel contributes very little to problems for the Great Lakes but contributes tremendously to the economy and standard of living in the Ludington, Michigan and Manitowoc, Wisconsin areas. Compared to coal fired power plants, storm sewer discharge and just plain wind borne particulates off Chicago streets, the pollution generated by the Badger is negligible. I would hope the decision to allow the SS Badger to continue operations is dependent upon scientific principles and common sense, not political posturing by a few high ranking individuals.

I have lived in Ludington since I was a small boy. The C&O carferry fleet allowed my father to raise his family here. I was able to attend college because the SS Badger gave me enough employment in the summer months to pay for my schooling. My brothers both began their careers on "the boats". My children and grandchildren live in Wisconsin. The SS Badger is the only viable form of transportation available to me to visit them as I can no longer drive an automobile. There is no access to air lines, bus lines or railroad lines within a reasonable distance of either Ludington or Manitowoc. I travel on the Badger at least once per month in the sailing season and often more. If the Badger ceases operations, I would be isolated from my family and would seldom be able to visit them.

Loss of the Badger would be a loss of historical significance, economic disaster for the area, and a personal tragedy for me. Please approve the consent decree recently negotiated between the LMC and EPA.

Thank you for allowing me to comment on this important issue.

Sincerely yours,
Barry B. Matthews

[REDACTED]
Ludington MI 49431
[REDACTED]

--

Barry Matthews

In every endeavour we must consider the effects on our children for seven generations to come

From: Steven Overway
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/30/2013 2:31:53 PM
Subject: Case Number: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

To: Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division

Dear Sir,

I am writing you this brief e-mail to express my opinion as a member of the public during the public comment period of the above referenced case.

I believe the Consent Decree between Lake Michigan Carferry and U.S. Department of Justice and EPA is in the best interest of the public.

In my opinion, the S.S. Badger (Lake Michigan Carferry) provides a valuable service to the public with minimal environmental impact. It should be allowed to continue to operate while the system that will allow elimination of coal ash disposal in Lake Michigan continues to be designed. My understanding is that the ash is essentially inert (I am an engineer at a power company here in Michigan, so I have some technical background upon which to base this understanding).

Sincerely,

Steven S. Overway


Holland, MI 49424

From: Janice Barnes
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/30/2013 3:24:09 PM
Subject: Reference Case Number D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Please be advised that is the case of United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger I think that the consent should be approved. We ride the Badger each summer as a way to avoid the congestion of Chicago. My personal thought is that the Badger produces less air pollution the the Lake Ferry Express running out of Muskegan.

Janice Barnes


Rockford, MI

From: [REDACTED]
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/30/2013 3:31:10 PM
Subject: Reference Case Number: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

I have enjoyed using the SS Badger both as a child and an adult. It links the two beautiful and unique cities of Ludington, MI and Manitowoc, WI and replaces the nightmare of driving through Chicago with with an exciting and at the same time, relaxing experience.

I could understand the environmental concern if there were many of these old coal fired ferries, but this is the last one in the United States. And, it only operates a few months a year. I would doubt that eliminating this historic ship would have any measurable positive impact.

Sincerely,

Stephen Reese

[REDACTED]
Osceola, IN 46561

From: Darlene M Thomay
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/30/2013 4:09:28 PM
Subject: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

To whom it may concern, Please help the Lake Michigan car ferry from Manitowoc to Ludington to continue. It is a great ship. The trip is very enjoyable. The company has been in business for many years and has been careful of what it does to the lake. Please continue to give them whatever leniency is possible. Sincerely, Darlene M Thomay Weaver

From: Kay
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/30/2013 4:34:35 PM
Subject: Badger

Our Badger is a wonderful sailing experience. The small amount of ash dumped in the Lake results in far less harm than the many exotics dumped in our water by the freighters. They just have a better lobby against restrictions. Please allow people to continue to enjoy the Badger sailing on Lake Michigan for many years.
Thank you.

Ken & Kay Walcott

████████████████████
Norton Shores ,MI
49441

Sent from my iPad

From: Julianna Wostyn
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/30/2013 7:02:58 PM
Subject: D J Ref No 90-5-1-1-10771

Dear Ladies & Gentlemen:

The Badger is a historic ship - the last of its kind. It should be preserved and allowed to service the people of Michigan and Wisconsin. It is actually eliminating pollution in the moving of windmill parts across the lake - eliminating the fuel usage and emissions discharge of hundreds of trucks each year. The Lake Michigan Car Ferry Service is working towards a solution to the coal ash and time should be given to allow them to convert the ship to a more efficient method powering the ship.

We take the ship to Wisconsin once a year to attend a fundraiser for the last whaleback ship in the world - the Meteor. We are all about preservation. Without this ship, we would not be able to participate in the preservation of the Meteor. The Badger allows us to make the trip in 3-4 days. If we had to drive, the added day of travel would not allow us to make the trip. Although the crew of the Badger does not know it, their service aids in the preservation of a sister ship!

Please grant the two year reprieve so the good ship Badger can proceed down the path to solution of the coal ash problem. Unlike so many others who pollute, these people and this company has been diligently working towards a solution and provides a much needed service and jobs to the states of Michigan and Wisconsin.

Thank you for your consideration!

Julianna Wostyn
Algonac, MI

From: [REDACTED]
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/31/2013 12:29:55 AM
Subject: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Assistant Attorney General
Environmental and Natural Resources Div.

Ref: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry
Services and SS Badger

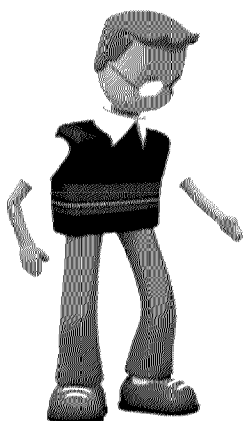
I offer this e-mail in support of the Consent Decree to allow the SS Badger to continue to operate its trans Lake Michigan steam ship operation. This has been such a valuable asset to travelers over the years seeking an alternative to driving around Lake Michigan either to the east or west. I wish that the EPA and others would stop and think for a moment about several factors resulting from the use of this alternative transportation mode. First, think about the amount of car/truck fuel savings from reduced road driving. Second, think about the vehicle exhaust emissions saved from reduced road driving (lower carbon footprint). And third, think about the reduced road accident exposure and saving lives.

I don't think I need to say any more about why I support keeping the SS Badger in operation!

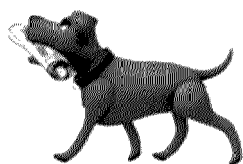
Sincerely,
Ken Peterson
[REDACTED]
Linden, MI 48451

From: KENNETH H WALTON
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/31/2013 6:44:09 PM
Subject: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771
Attachments: --static--liam_fetch_bl.gif; --static--liam_fetch_lb.gif

Growing up in Manitowoc I have always enjoyed watching and traveling on the car ferry. I now live in Alabama but 2 summers ago had the opportunity to travel once again both to and from Manitowoc to Michigan and my family and I had such a fun time while taking the cruise. The car ferry is very much a part of the past and should be able to operate during the summer months for the enjoyment of other families. Please do not do away with it.



Marilyn Walton



From: [REDACTED]
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
CC: [REDACTED]
Sent: 3/31/2013 12:43:43 AM
Subject: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Case name: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

To Whom it May Concern:

I am writing in behalf of the SS Badger. I was born in 1947 and have been using the carferry service for almost as many years! I visit Ludington every summer and it is an institution that really binds the community together. It's historic value is well documented and entrenched into the hearts of so many peoplenot just those who reside in Ludington, but the many who visit there. The experience of traveling on the carferry is an icon from the past....a trip that takes you back to childhood and also opens those doors to the very young. So many memories and so many new adventures for children. The town thrives on the arrival and departure of the carferry. People daily line the walk to the lighthouse and wildly wave to greet those arriving....or bid farewell to those who have visited this fine town. It is the very heart of the very small city of Ludington. Those driving off of the ship directly go to the ice cream shop, the campground, the fast food restaurant, the small local restaurant or to the local Walmart, etc. for their supplies. You know, Ludington IS defined by the carferry. The Badger is the best example of "small town" values, community, and business. KEEP THE BADGER!! If the Badger "dies", so will this wonderful midwestern town!!!! Hearts will break and it would be one more sad example of the destruction of midwestern values and culture.

Sincerely,
Lynda Gumeson

[REDACTED]
Centennial CO 80121
[REDACTED]

From: Chris Crary
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/31/2013 12:54:20 AM
Subject: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

To: Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources
Division

Ref: Case Name: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc.,
d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger



The above referenced case has interesting ideals which appear to be in the best interest for the environment by cleaning up the ash residue caused by the SS Badger burning fossil fuels, coal to be exact. The environment was never the problem until many apartments, condominiums and/or other types of housing and business units were built next to the docking area of the Lake Michigan Carferry Services (LMCS) where the SS Badger currently comes and goes at least twice a day and even more trips during the summer schedule. That being the case, the LMCS appears to have agreed to a Consent Agreement which most people would agree they have been forced into a two year death sentence if they cannot meet a clean ash status. If this were some other historical business that had been a vital part of a communities growth for decades, the Government, be it Local, State, Federal or other private investor type avenue, would have come to the rescue of that business. Instead a deadline in the form of a Consent Agreement has been issued with no help offered in the form of incentives, Loans, or Grants for the LMCS to make the transition for the cleaner air issue.

1. Does the environment need to be given protection for better air quality?
Absolutely.
2. Does the Government understand the full impact of the sanctions thqt are being imposed on one of Michigan's great assets? I think NOT.

Please help save the LMCS and the SS Badger by making avenues for funding to help in providing technology for eliminating the ash residue. The whole PURE MICHIGAN ad campaign could showcase the need for Ludington to save the LMCS and the SS Badger which has been an intergral part of their history.

Respectfully,

Chris Crary


Inlay City, MI 48444


From: Dan Nadolski
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/31/2013 8:39:15 AM
Subject: Reference Case Number: D.J.Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

As a concerned citizen and resident of the State of Michigan, in addition to being an occasional user of the SS Badger car ferry, please support approving the Consent Decree as it pertains to United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger which will allow continued uninterrupted operation of the ferry system while at the same time permit the Lake Michigan Carferry to develop and implement a plan to end the ash discharge within two years. Thanks in advance.

From: [REDACTED]
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/31/2013 9:12:13 AM
Subject: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-11-10771

I am writing in support of approval of the consent decree related to coal ash discharge from SS Badger. The Badger provides a valuable service. Two years is a rapid corrective response given the details to be worked out and the associated costs. John Roach [REDACTED] Bellaire, Mi 49615

From: Phil Cuchetti
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/31/2013 9:14:40 AM
Subject: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

I am in favor of keeping the car ferry badger just as it is. It's historic, it's the last of it's kind and it's one of the only way to get across Lake Michigan affordably .Please leave the Badger alone and let her serve the citizens of Michigan for MANY MANY years to come... LEAVE HER ALONE !!!!

Phillip Cuchetti
Interlochen,Mi.

From: David Bigelow
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/31/2013 9:37:20 AM
Subject: D.J. Ref.No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Hello

This is for support of the S. S. Badger to continue to operate and use coal as her fuel

Thank you

Patricia Bigelow

From: Richard Hubbard
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/31/2013 11:24:55 AM
Subject: DoJ Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771,

Ref. United States vs. Trans-Lake Shortcut Inc.: The proposed settlement between Trans-Lake Shortcut Inc. and USDoJ should be approved, as it is in the best interests of all concerned. Failure to approve this settlement will result in years of continuing controversy, pollution, and needless expense for both the defendant, which is trying to run a business employing over 200 people, and plaintiff, which in this case is the US taxpayer.

R. K. Hubbard
Ludington, MI

From: walkerawynkoop
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/31/2013 11:31:36 AM
Subject: Re: SS Badger D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division

Reference Case Number:
D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Case Name: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

I've been riding the Badger or it's sister for almost 60 years. Please Please keep the SS Badger running.

It's only one boat!!

PLEASE ACCEPT THE CONSENT DECREE

Walker Wynkoop

[REDACTED]
Frankfort, MI 49635

From: HUGH TYNDALL
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/31/2013 12:01:09 PM
Subject: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10711


Concerning the Lake Michigan Car Ferry shortcut:

I've live in Minneapolis, MN, and annually visit relatives who reside just east of Ludington, MI. Using the car ferry for round trip service saves me approximately 600 miles of driving and an 2 overnight stay. I've done this at 25 times which calculates to 15,000 miles. At 25 MPG, that is 600 gallons of gasoline not used, as well as about 12 hours per trip or about 300 hours total.

Please approve the requested action.

Thank you,

Hugh Tyndall


Minneapolis, MN 55416

From: Reid Stangel
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/31/2013 12:22:26 PM
Subject: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Case Name: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

Thanks for granting an extension to the owners of the SS Badger regarding the coal ash situation. I support the extension and the move to natural gas to keep the lake clean. I strongly encourage the EPA to strongly enforce other regulations that keep the Great Lakes clean of sewage, zebra mussels, and other pollutants.

Thank you.

Reid Stangel

[REDACTED]
Monroe WI 53566-9290
[REDACTED]

From: Peter Maternowski
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/31/2013 3:40:02 PM
Subject: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Case Name: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

I'm writing in reference to the enforcement case against Lake Michigan Car Ferry.

I've often taken the ferries across Lake Michigan and while I appreciate the convenience the service provides I feel strongly that it should not come at the expense of the long term health of Lake Michigan.

I also appreciate the economic impact that the failure of the SS Badger to secure an operating permit will have on local economies in Wisconsin and Michigan. I believe the two-year window the consent decree provides to the SS Badger operators to end ash dumping into the lake is a reasonable balance between competing economic and environmental goals.

Given the potential for environmental harm, I believe that the consent decree should include clear timelines and milestones for the SS Badger's owners to meet their consent decree commitments and if the timelines are not met then the provisional operating permit should be revoked.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proceeding.

Peter Maternowski

From: Richard Rathsack
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/31/2013 3:27:49 PM
Subject: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc. D.J. Ref. No. 90--5-1-1-10771

We believe the ruling issued by the EPA regarding the above is in the best interest of the communities involved, the people employed and affected by the operations of the carferry, the environment and Lake Michigan in particular. Many facts in this case have been distorted and politics have played a regrettable role. It is time to accept the ruling and move forward.

Respectively,

Patricia & Richard Rathsack

From: [REDACTED]
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/31/2013 3:57:41 PM
Subject: Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Car ferry Services and SS Badger

As a Wisconsin resident I am pleased a short term agreement has been put in place to allow the SS Badger to continue to ply the waters of Lake Michigan.
I am not pleased that the company which operates the SS Badger has been put through ringer after ringer in an attempt to not only cause it to cease operating altogether and that the overseeing authority has seen fit to test small amounts of ash generated repeatedly with the same results, those being, there is nothing detrimental *enough* in the ash to warrant any concerns for the future quality of the waters of Lake Michigan while the CITIES along the lake are allowed to dump harmful substances by the numbers without scrutiny.
If all those polluters were held to the same standard the SS Badger is expected to meet it might be a different story but the it ISN'T.
The Badger has been singled out simply because environmentalist extremists have decreed that coal residue is tantamount to radioactive waste.

The SS Badger is a national treasure but sure isn't treated as such.
How many national treasures operate under private ownership and still manage to eek out a profit?
It is my belief the governing agency won't be happy until there are no historic steam powered vessels left anywhere.
It is unfortunate that these are the ideas that come from committees which, first off, have little if any idea about the subject at hand and, secondly, are too easily swayed by the loudest voices with utter disregard for facts.
The FACT is the SS Badger is not nor ever been a danger to the waters of Lake Michigan.
Thankfully no governmental body owns the SS Badger so it continues to provide a valuable service to thousands every year, keeps a large staff gainfully employed and gives a living history lesson every time she docks.
I beg you to not base any decisions based on the words of over zealous extremists who cringe at the sight of a puff of smoke and allow the SS Badger to continue to operate for many many years without having to deal with governmental harassment at every departure.

Craig A. Anderson [REDACTED]
Rosholt Wisconsin 54473
[REDACTED]

From: Bryce Binstadt
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/31/2013 4:02:47 PM
Subject: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

To:
Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division

Reference Case Number:
D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Case Name: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

I am writing to express my interest in seeing the SS Badger Carferry services continue. However, I am concerned about the amount of ash pollution that the carferry generates, so would encourage any effort that the company can make to convert their ship to a more environmentally friendly fuel source.

Bryce A. Binstadt

From: Dan Cable
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/31/2013 4:28:15 PM
Subject: LMC-SS Badger EPA consent agreement

To whom it may concern,

We're writing you regarding the proposed consent decree between the EPA and the SS Badger. As property owners in the Ludington area of Michigan we can't tell you how pleased we were to see an agreement reached that would allow the Badger to continue sailing on Lake Michigan while they work to ameliorate concerns about coal ash being dumped into the lake.

The Badger is a vital part of the economic health of an area already hard hit by job losses in other parts of its economy. The Badger brings not just the jobs of its crews and attendants to the area but provides other jobs in lodging, recreation and dining for the passengers prior to departing and after their arrival at the port. Unemployment is higher here than we would like and the the loss of the Badger's direct and indirect employees would be a serious blow.

Thank you for your consideration,

Dan and Phyllis Cable

From: greg@buschmachinetool.com
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
CC: Linda Williamson
Sent: 3/31/2013 8:28:00 PM
Subject: DJrefNo. 90-5-1-1-10771 SS Badger

Dear Sirs,

Granting the SS Badger another two years to pollute Lake Michigan is grossly unfair to the other ship owners that have complied with the clean water act or were prosecuted for far smaller discharges. Lake Michigan Car-ferry has been given more than enough time already to change their propulsion system. They simply do not want to spend the money. There are no technical issues to re-power a vessel built in 1955, its been done many times on other Great Lakes vessels and world wide.

Lake Michigan Car-ferry has manipulated local government and the public for years to their advantage and at the expense of everyone but themselves.

I own three Great Lakes commercial vessels that were built before 1940 and we had to comply years ago at our own expense. The Badger produces so much air pollution it can be seen 30 miles away, more than all the steel mills in Gary Indiana. I have cleaned coal soot off my car in Manitowoc.

Furthermore, LMC President Bob Maglitz issued statements several months ago that LMC would continue to operate if their permit was denied, very defiant of the intent of the law.

Sincerely,

Capt. Busch

From: Sheila
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/31/2013 9:01:15 PM
Subject: D.J. Ref. 90-5-1-1-10771

I urge you to approve the Consent Decree impacting the operation of the SS Badger in Ludington, MI and Manitowoc, WI. For many years it has enabled our family to meet from 3 states and we hope that can continue for years to come.

Thank you for your consideration,
Sheila Keller

Sent from my iPad

From: Vicki Maher
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/1/2013 8:48:05 AM
Subject: D.J.Ref.No.90-5-1-1-10771
Attachments: image001.jpg; Vicki Maher.vcf

Assistant Attorney General:

Being an employee of the Lake Michigan Carferry, it would be quite obvious that I would support the Consent Decree. I have worked for the carferry for over 20 years, and it is my desire to retire from the Lake Michigan Carferry. I know how much this company and the Badger itself means to so many people that work here, use our company to transport their products, as a mini vacation or the means to travel without going through a much congested Chicago traffic area. The amount of revenue generated by this company that goes back to both of the communities it serves and the surrounding areas, is so badly needed by what is already a struggling economy. My job here is purchasing and accounts payable, we literally have hundreds of vendors that we do business with, so the trickle-down effect is far reaching.

I do support a cleaner environment, and the fine line for a healthier environment and a strong economy sometimes is a difficult balancing act. I ask that we are given the time to make the necessary changes, and save the jobs and the fate of this historical ship.

Sincerely,

Vicki Maher



From: judy wheelock
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/1/2013 8:50:09 AM
Subject: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division

Please allow the SS Badger to keep operating. It is an important to Michigan and Wisconsin's economy.

Thank You,
Judy Wheelock

From: Nancy Mackey
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/1/2013 9:28:47 AM
Subject: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

I agree with this Consent Decree.

Lake Michigan Carferry has signed a Consent Decree agreement with the Department of Justice and EPA that will require the SS Badger to end the ash discharge within two years. This agreement is the product of many months of working closely with the EPA. We think that this Consent Decree is the best result under the circumstances. We will continue on our path to ending the discharge of coal ash while still serving the public and local communities

Nancy Mackey
Administrative Assistant

GEMINI GROUP

53 West Maple Road | Clawson, MI | 48017
Tel 248.435.7271 x 7201 | Fax 248.435.7991
www.geminigroup.net

From: Shirley Katt
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/1/2013 9:35:37 AM
Subject: Badger Ferry

So many people rely on the Badger not only for vacations but also for business. I have taken it many times. It is the only possible way for me to get to Michigan. This ferry is a sailing National Historic Site. To shut it down would be getting rid of a part of history of Wisconsin and Michigan. Keep the Badger sailing not only for the next 2 years but for my grandchildren.

From: Shirley Katt
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/1/2013 9:39:31 AM
Subject: D J Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

The Badger is an important part of Wisconsin and Michigan history. It is a National Historic Site. More important is what it means to those who sail on it, not only the passengers but the industry that uses it. It is an economical and safe way to get across the Lake. Do not shut down the Badger.

From: Jim/Jeanne Holzbach
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/1/2013 9:57:11 AM
Subject: concent degree

Case Name: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

I feel very strongly that the consent degree should be passed. If not passed it would be a very serious blow to our local economy. Thank You.

Sincerely , Jeanne Holzbach

[REDACTED]
Ludington, mi.49431

Phone: [REDACTED]

From: Janet Lillevoid
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/1/2013 10:12:46 AM
Subject: consent decree for the Badger

Dear Sir/Madam,

As an individual born and raised in MI, and now residing in MN, I can tell you that we use the Badger at least a few times each year to travel back and forth between MN and MI. The Badger is an icon and a very relaxing, safe, and affordable way to make the trip between WI and MI. I strongly advocate that you approve the Consent Decree to allow the Badger the time to adjust ash discharge and minimize environmental impact while still allowing the service to continue in the interim.

Sincerely,

Janet R Lillevoid

Janet Rebman Lillevoid



From: [REDACTED]
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/1/2013 10:28:10 AM
Subject: Consent decree

Re: D>J>Ref No. 90-1-1-10771

My husband and I travel on the Badger every summer to and from Wisconsin. The Badger provides us with safe, social, entertaining travel and helps us avoid going via Chicago. It is an important part of American history and by all means be kept in operation! Hopefully, my grandchildren will someday be able to experience the joy of traveling on the Badger.

From: ehankes@phdinc.com
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/1/2013 6:42:10 AM
Subject: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

I support the 2 year extension to comply with the elimination of coal ash discharge into Lake Michigan. The SS Badger is historic and should be granted the extension.

Sincerely,

Ed

Ed Hankes
Facilities Manager

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From: Richard Rathsack
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/1/2013 7:04:29 AM
Subject: United States v. Lake Michigan TransLake Shortcut, Inc. D. J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

We believe the ruling issued by the EPA regarding the above subject is in the best interest of the communities involved; the people employed and affected by the operations of the carferry; and the environment and Lake Michigan in particular. Many facts in this case have been distorted and politics have played a regrettable role. It is time to accept the ruling and move forward.

Respectively,

Patricia & Richard Rathsack

From: Laurel Smith
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/1/2013 10:59:32 AM
Subject: D.J. Ref. 90-5-1-1-10771

These comments refer to United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc, D.J. Ref. 90-5-1-1-10771

I support the consent decree. It offers the fastest and most certain path to stop the discharge of coal ash from the Badger into Lake Michigan. This agreement will save the jobs of 200 plus employees as well as many other jobs on the state of Michigan and Wisconsin.

Laurel S. Smith

[REDACTED]

Ludington! MI 49431

Sent from my iPad

From: John Rosing
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/1/2013 11:21:02 AM
Subject: Reference Case Number: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Case Name: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

Dear EPA, I think the consent decree should be approved. I use the ferry several times per year. It saves CO2 emissions that would otherwise be emitted driving around Chicago into Michigan and back. Thank you.

John R. Rosing, MHA, FACHE
Vice President and Principal
Patton Healthcare Consulting
email: johnrosing@pattonhc.com
web: www.pattonhc.com
twitter: @johnrosing

Milwaukee Wisconsin Office
262-242-3631 (Office)
414-581-7458 (Mobile)
262-242-3705 (Confidential Fax)

512 Alta Loma Drive, Suite D
Thiensville, Wisconsin 53092

From: Dan Fitzgerald
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/1/2013 11:26:09 AM
Subject: ss badger

Great decision on the Badger!!

Unknown

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, April 01, 2013 1:46 PM
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Subject: ss badger

DJ Ref. 90-5-1-1-10771

Good that you finally found a way to get the Badger to stop putting pollution into Lake Michigan. They have had EIGHT years and now TWO more years to stop this discharge!

Their impact to Manitowoc is way over estimated. Our schedule over here, makes it that people head out to other destinations, they don't stay in Manitowoc. If you had to shut this ship down the impact on the Manitowoc side would be minimal.

Get LMC to do the right thing this time or shut them down.

Unknown

From: Neil Stout [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, April 01, 2013 1:05 PM
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Subject: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771 -- A PUBLIC COMMENT

I am heartily in favor of and urge the DOJ to accept the Consent Decree between the Environmental Protection Agency and the SS Badger.

This consent decree provides specific, measurable goals for the SS Badger to meet over specific timelines. These goals when met will have accomplished the EPA's environmental goals without sacrificing a thriving company. The economic benefit to the States of Michigan and Wisconsin are substantial and should not be infringed by failure to accept the Consent Decree.

In addition, the EPA has permitted land-based entities (cities and industrial enterprises) to pollute Lake Michigan at rates of hundreds and thousands of times the rate of the SS Badger coal discharge. I am, in fact, surprised that the EPA singled out the SS Badger while condoning the land-based offenders who pollute the lake at hundreds and thousands times the rate of the SS Badger.

From my perspective, Illinois Senator Richard Durbin has single-handedly placed the political and media focus on this issue. He seems to see the SS Badger coal discharge issue as a crime against humanity while ignoring land-based polluters all along the lakefront in the States of Illinois, Wisconsin, Michigan, and Indiana. I have homes both in Illinois and Michigan and recognize that Senator Durbin has ulterior motives that have nothing to do with the environment and has impugned the SS Badger's operation with false and misleading facts and presentations. As an Illinois resident, I am embarrassed by Senator Durbin's activities.

It is now time to take this argument out of the public rhetoric arena and put it in the scientific and legal arena. The legal work has been done. The science has already been done.

Please accept the Consent Decree as a rational, practical, and forward-thinking way to preserve economic stability *and* growth and meet the EPA goals.

Thank you.

April 1, 2013

Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division

Reference Case Number: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Case Name: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and the SS Badger

Dear Assistant Attorney General,

I have been employed with Lake Michigan Carferry for 19 years and I am the third generation of my family to work for the Carferries.

I was here in Ludington in the 1980's when the Carferries went out of business so I first handedly know the economic impact the Carferries have on the City of Ludington and its residents. Without the carferry, Ludington businesses would fail dramatically and 200 direct and 700+ indirect jobs would be lost.

I respect the S.S. Badger, its owner's and its employees. I need my job and our community needs the S.S. Badger. Please approve the consent decree

Respectfully,

Shari Vandervest

sv

From: Lorraine Walter
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/1/2013 1:31:26 PM
Subject: S.S.Badger-Case number: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Dear Sirs:

We would like to continue to see the S.S. Badger continue its Lake Michigan Carferry Service for years to come. We agree that the coal ash needs to be stopped from being dumped into our Great Lake Michigan.

So please agree to allow this service to continue with restrictions and give them the time to convert from coal to another form of energy to run this ship.

This car ferry provides many jobs and promotes tourism to both Wisconsin and Michigan.

We have been using it since 1971 and would like to see it continue in service for our children and grandchildren.

Thank you.

Albert and Lorraine Walter

From: Leslie Sprott
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/1/2013 1:41:59 PM
Subject: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771, US V. Lake Michigan Trans-lake Shortcut, Inc.

I agree with the proposed consent decree that would allow the SS Badger to sail and to discharge coal ash for the 2013 and 2014 seasons.

The SS Badger and the passengers it transports are essential to the economy of Ludington.

There is no proof that the coal ash the SS Badger has dumped for the past 59 years has harmed Lake Michigan in any way. Two more years will make no difference.

The SS Badger transports vehicles which would otherwise be driven around the lake, causing air pollution, road wear, and a certain percentage of car accidents which use emergency resources.

The SS Badger is a part of Michigan history. We should do everything we can to preserve it.

Two more years should give the owners enough time to research alternatives and to convert the SS Badger to a more environmentally-friendly fuel.

Thank you.



Leslie Sprott


Muskegon, MI 49445

From: [REDACTED]
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/1/2013 3:28:23 PM
Subject: D.J. Ref. No. 9-5-1-1-10771

To Whom It May Concern;

My wife and I strongly support the two year extension being negotiated with Lakes Michigan Car Ferry Service. We've used the ferry several times and find it very convenient. It cuts our travel time between our home and central area of Michigan's lower peninsula in half. The ash discharge is an issue but remedies are being pursued. The ferry eliminates over 500 miles of vehicle pollution every time we use it.

Sincerely,
Eric and Karen Gustafson
[REDACTED]
Pleasant Prairie, WI 53158

From: [REDACTED]
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/1/2013 3:38:03 PM
Subject: D.J.Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

We value the contribution made by the S.S.Badger as the Lake Michigan Carferry that provides the link by water from Wisconsin to Michigan and back. It would be great to own our own boat but we are some of those who cannot afford to be boat owners.

Please approve the Consent Decree regarding this matter.. Thank You, Ruth and George Harker, Ellison Bay, WI

From: [REDACTED]
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/1/2013 3:51:02 PM
Subject: D.J.Ref.No.90-5-1-1-10771

Instructions for commenting on the Consent Decree

Address to:

Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division

Reference Case Number: (Must be included in subject line)

D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Case Name: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

Comments to be EMAILED: pubcomment-ees.enrd@usdoj.gov

Or mail to:

Assistant Attorney General
U.S. DOJ - ENRD
P.O. Box 7611
Washington, DC 20044-7611

I feel the Badger car ferry has been a wonderful thing for the State Of Michigan. The car ferries have run for many years at Ludington, I am 80 years old and have been crossing Lake Michigan on the car ferries, which were first Pere Marquette car ferries, and then the C. O . car ferries, my father worked on the railroad and we got passes to cross the lake every summer and after my father retired we still continued to ride the car ferries across and I have taken my child and now grand children and great grandchildren on the Badger. What a shame if that was not able to run anymore. The owners in Muskegon , running the faster ships would love to see the Badger be forced to quit running. What a shame for the city of Ludington , which I also enjoy visiting. I have relatives that live there and my grandparents came from there also. Actually they lived in the country, near by. I am hoping that the company that handles the Badger can get some help to keep this wonderful ship to continue running, what a shame to have to close it down. There are so many people I know would be very unhappy. Please see if you can help the situation.

Joanne Mertz
[REDACTED]
Bridgeport, Michigan 48722

From: Davis, Janice
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/1/2013 3:53:13 PM
Subject: D J Ref No: 90-5-1-1-10771

Please approve the Consent Decree for the SS Badger Carferry. This passenger boat service is still very important to everyday travel, tourism, and businesses.

Thank you.

Janice Davis, OPIII
City of Mt Pleasant
(989) 779-5386
jdavis@mt-pleasant.org

From: Brian Thompson
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/1/2013 3:58:06 PM
Subject: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Please provide the S.S. Badger a two year Consent Decree so that it has time to convert the ship to a more acceptable fuel source.
Thank you.

Brian Thompson

[REDACTED]
Appleton, WI 54915

From: ROBERT VOKAC
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/1/2013 4:28:00 PM
Subject: Reference Case Number: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Case Name: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

I support the recently filed consent decree.

The SS Badger provides a valuable, important, and necessary transportation link between Wisconsin and Michigan. No other operator is capable of providing the full range of transportation services provided by the SS Badger.

Regards,


Robert H. Vokac

From: Janet Fox
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/1/2013 5:45:47 PM
Subject: D.J. Ref.No. 90-5-1-1-10771

In regards to US vs lake Mich TAns-Lake Shortcut , Inc d/b/a lake Mich. Carferry Service and SS Badger I fully support the Consent Decree to allow the SS Badger the 2 years to figure out how to eliminate the ash pollution. I live in Milwaukee and am a frequent user of the SS Badger to get to northern Michigan to visit family. Just avoiding the drive around Chicago is worth the additional cost.

Sincerely,

Janet Fox


Brookfield, WI 53045

From: Kay Hanson
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/1/2013 6:25:07 PM
Subject: Support for the Badger

In Ludington we NEED the Badger. With very little industry, the business has been a huge success for the community. Increasingly we are dependant on tourism here in this beautiful West Michigan area. We have made a success of the Badger WITHOUT government money, unlike the Muskegon cross-lake boat. Also, the schedule is much more reliable due to the large size and stability of the ship. Please be understanding and allow these 2 years to develop a solution.

Kay Hanson


Ludington, MI

From: Howard Tripp
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/1/2013 6:25:33 PM
Subject: D.J. Ref.No. 90-5-1-1-10771

To whom it may concern,

Thanks much for allowing this to take place and allowing the SS Badger to continue to run it's route. Personally I do not believe that the coal ash ever posed a threat to the environment at all. It is just a bunch of people who want to stop it all together as a ploy to keep the Lake Express in business along with the dip shit senator from Illinois. There is more pollution coming into our Great Lakes from Wisconsin and Illinois than the Badger could ever put into the Lake Michigan in the five months it runs.

Hopefully in the near future the Badger will be able to be converted to liquified Natural Gas, and put all the people who believe that it is "dirty" to rest. This mode of transportation is al whole lot better than driving through the congested mess in Chicago.

Thanks again.
Howard Tripp

--

From: Diane Sonefeld
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/1/2013 6:31:00 PM
Subject: Carferry comment

Regarding United States vs. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., D.J. Ref. No 90-5-1-1-10771:

I have lived in Ludington, Michigan for 33 years. The S.S. Badger carferry has been an iconic part of our community as long as I can remember. My husband's father worked on the carferry so it has special meaning for us.

Lake Michigan Carferry employs 200 people in the communities of Ludington and Manitowoc, Wisconsin. It would be devastating to lose this great ship, the jobs it provides and the millions of dollars it brings to our communities. It offers a wonderful shortcut across Lake Michigan and cuts down on air pollution caused by vehicles having to use gasoline to drive their cars around the lake.

Those who say it is a dirty ship are wrong. The coal ash that has been discharged into Lake Michigan over the last 60 years is not toxic. It has been tested and the levels of arsenic and mercury are extremely minimal. It in no way endangers the lake. Dumping of sewage from Chicago and Milwaukee causes much more damage and pollution to the lake.

Lake Michigan Carferry is working hard to make the S.S. Badger a cleaner, greener ship. It should be a National Historic Landmark and should never be docked.

Thank you for allowing me to comment on this matter.

Diane Sonefeld

From: Edward Alexander
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/1/2013 6:48:33 PM
Subject: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

The Badger is a beloved tradition for many many people in the Great lakes region. Certainly we must have better and far more enviromentaly destructive things to worry about. Hands off our Badger! Ed and Cindy Alexander.

From: [REDACTED]
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/1/2013 7:33:25 PM
Subject: case number 90-5-1-1-10771

I am in favor of letting the SS Badger continue it's services to the public during the next two years.I would like to see the consent decree approved while they work to end the ash discharge in Lake Michigan

Thank You

Joseph Salavics
[REDACTED]
Swartz Creek,Mi.48473

From: Tom Hoy
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/1/2013 7:49:36 PM
Subject: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771.

Sirs:
I do not agree with granting a two year or any extension for the Badge to become compliant.

Rather, either they suspend operations until they make the appropriate engineering modifications or they provide a holding area for the ash to be kept on board and disposed with in an appropriate manner.

The business has had adequate notification and time to comply with regulations.

Should you need additional information/comments:

Thomas J. Hoy

[REDACTED]
Green Bay, WI 54301

[REDACTED]

From: Leonard H Cizewski
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/1/2013 8:19:30 PM
Subject: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

To Assistant Attorney General, Environment and Natural Resources Division.

Comments regarding the proposed consent decree in United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771.

I urge that the consent decree be modified to require the cessation of the dumping of coal ash into Lake Michigan starting with the 2013 season.

I urge that be accomplished by the installation of temporary solutions for 100% of the coal ash for the 2013 season to be followed by permanent solutions by the 2015 season.

Enough time has passed since the owners and operators of the Badger Ferry have been notified of this problem that solutions should have been implemented by now. That solutions have not is the result of their choices. They should be given no more time to cease dumping coal ash into Lake Michigan.

My family and I have used both Lake Michigan ferry services, recommend both to others, and hope to use them again.

Thank you.

Yours,

Leonard H. Cizewski


Madison, WI 53704-5524

From: [REDACTED]
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/1/2013 8:47:25 PM
Subject: reference D.J.90-5-1-1-1-10771 lake michigan carferry

please allow the subject to continue operation under the proposed document--our family always enjoyed our trips-thanks.

From: Andy Klevorn
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/1/2013 9:33:36 PM
Subject: Fwd: DJ Ref. 90-5-1-1-10771

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Andy Klevorn** <[REDACTED]>
Date: Mon, Apr 1, 2013 at 9:22 PM
Subject: DJ Ref. 90-5-1-1-10771
To: pubcomment-ees.endr@usjog.gov

In regards to the above named case.

Tell the fine senator from Illinois Mr. Durbin to worry about his own backyard. Between the medical waste that washes up on our beaches that comes from his side of the lake and the Asian Carp that will likely migrate to the Great Lakes through the Chicago Shipping Canal he has enough to worry about.

The ash the carferry dumps overboard is mostly inert sand and has been certified okay by the EPA. The Badger brings tens of millions of dollars into the economy of Michigan and is an historic vessel that should be preserved not moth balled for some fast ferry that can't sail on the roughest of days on the lake.

Grant the Badger Historic Status and allow them to sail for as long as they can.

United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., dba Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

--
Andy Klevorn
www.myracesticker.com
www.singletrackshowdown.com
www.facebook.com/myracesticker
<http://app.strava.com/athletes/255079>



--
Andy Klevorn
www.myracesticker.com
www.singletrackshowdown.com
www.facebook.com/myracesticker
<http://app.strava.com/athletes/255079>



From: Andy Klevorn
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/1/2013 9:34:32 PM
Subject: DJ Ref. 90-5-1-1-10771

In regards to the above named case.

Tell the fine senator from Illinois Mr. Durbin to worry about his own backyard. Between the medical waste that washes up on our beaches that comes from his side of the lake and the Asian Carp that will likely migrate to the Great Lakes through the Chicago Shipping Canal he has enough to worry about.

The ash the carferry dumps overboard is mostly inert sand and has been certified okay by the EPA. The Badger brings tens of millions of dollars into the economy of Michigan and is an historic vessel that should be preserved not moth balled for some fast ferry that can't sail on the roughest of days on the lake.

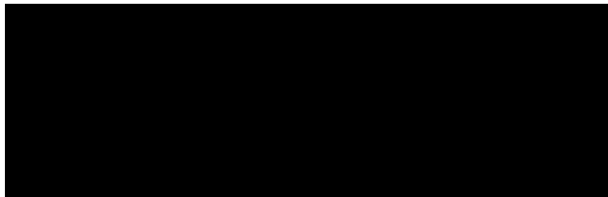
Grant the Badger Historic Status and allow them to sail for as long as they can.

United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., dba Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger



--

Andy Klevorn



From: [REDACTED]
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/1/2013 10:33:03 PM
Subject: 90-5-1-10771

Dear Sir or Madam;

I would like to voice my support for the continued service of the S.S. Badger. This vessel is a throw back to a time when ships of her nature played a huge part in the upper Midwest's commerce. With the recent interest in harnessing the winds coming off the Great lakes, she again is playing a major role as a transportation link in this process. It's been estimated that Lake Michigan Car Ferry contributes over 35 million dollars in revenue to both Manitowac, WI and Ludington, MI. Surely these numbers indicate the huge impact to both communities should this service be forced to end. I have personally sailed on the vessel on many different occasions, both for pleasure and on business. I would love for my children and their children to also have the opportunity to experience a part of our Lake Michigan history in their own times as well.

sincerely,
Mike LaBelle

From: Bruce Claveau Sr
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/1/2013 10:56:04 PM
Subject: United States v Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

We are writing to **voice our support for the approval of the proposed consent decree** that would allow the SS Badger to sail and discharge coal ash as it has been allowed to do throughout its 59 year history, for the 2013 and 2014 seasons before ending the discharge.

After reading the provisions outlined between the EPA and the LMC carferry owners we believe this will be the quickest and most efficient means to solve the problems of coal ash discharge into Lake Michigan.

We do not believe the carferry is harming the Lake but evidently there are enough people concerned to warrant these actions as a means to finalize this issue and bring it to a close, thus allowing the carferry to continue her many benefits to the local economies of Ludington, MI and Manitowoc, WI as well as both states.

Regards,

Bruce M. Claveau Sr

[REDACTED]
Scottville, MI 49454

Frank and Eloise Claveau Jr.

[REDACTED]
Scottville, MI 49454

From: Mary Jo Smith
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/1/2013 11:15:25 PM
Subject: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Dear.....Assistant Attorney General, Environment and Natural Resources Division,

I am writing concerning the Consent Decree for the SS Badger.

PLEASE help save our ship. We Pray that you will help give the SS Badger time to make everything right and save our town....all the jobs and the excitement everyday when we watch her come to port. The prospect of no car ferry would devastate Ludington and Manitowoc. We love our ship.

Please give the SS Badger time to show they can fix this...once and for all. I believe they can do this.

Case Name:

United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

Thank you so much,

Blessings,
Mary Jo Smith

From: [REDACTED]
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/1/2013 11:50:13 PM
Subject: United States v. Lake Michigan Translake Shortcut, Inc., D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

RE: United States v. Lake Michigan Translake Shortcut, Inc., Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

I am writing in support of the proposed consent decree between the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Lake Michigan Carferry (LMC) which operates the SS Badger. This is a win-win agreement for the EPA, LMC, the citizens of Ludington, MI and Manitowoc, WI, and all who visit our area. All parties involved agree on our mutual dedication to the protection and preservation of our national treasure, beautiful Lake Michigan. LMC will operate the SS Badger in such a way as to reduce coal combustion and coal ash discharge by 15% by the end of 2014 and totally end all coal ash discharge by January 1, 2015, regardless of difficulty and expense. The EPA standards will be met. The SS Badger will continue to provide its important services to the port cities of Ludington and Manitowoc, which will retain the much needed 200 direct jobs and estimated 700 support jobs provided by the Badger and the business it brings. The SS Badger will also continue to provide a less expensive and less environmentally polluting option to the new green energy wind turbine industry by transporting the wind turbine parts across Lake Michigan beginning May 6, 2013.

In addition to the above stated factual and environmentally sound points, there are other reasons best understood by those of us who live on Lake Michigan and call the SS Badger our hometown historical treasure. She is a majestic and awe-inspiring sight as she leaves Ludington harbor, sails past the Ludington lighthouse, and heads into the open lake toward Manitowoc harbor! The sound of the Badger's horn, when returning or leaving port throughout the Summer and Fall, brings smiles to the faces of residents and tourists alike as they rush to watch her. Everyone lines up along the channel to clap, wave, and shout either "Welcome to Ludington" or "Bon Voyage". To see the SS Badger glide soundlessly past the Ludington lighthouse, frequently with a bag-piper playing aboard, is a world-class event on par with the singing gondoliers of Venice, Italy or the batous on the Seine River in Paris, France. How fortunate we are to have this magnificent steam-burning treasure from a by-gone era still operating in our own backyard! It truly is a floating living maritime museum available to all who visit Michigan and Wisconsin. Needless to say, a trip on the SS Badger is an historically significant experience that should be available to all Americans, as well as the many foreign visitors, who travel to our area specifically for this purpose.

May this proposed consent agreement serve as a positive step in creating a long-term solution that will allow the historically important SS Badger to continue her majestic voyage across Lake Michigan!

Respectfully,

Susan Scarfino

[REDACTED]
Ludington, Michigan 49431

From: [REDACTED]
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/2/2013 9:34:44 AM
Subject: SS Badger

To the Assistant Attorney General,

I am writing to show my support for the continuation of ferry service of the S.S. Badger out of the ports of Ludington, Michigan and Manitowoc, Wisconsin. This historic car ferry has been traversing Lake Michigan for decades and has provided a much needed link across the Great Lake as well as an essential boost to the economies of two small Midwestern cities. It has been targeted for burning coal and is supposed to make a prohibitively costly transition to some other fuel or stop it's daily trip across the lake.

As a person who is very concerned with the environment, I believe that this one ship should be given an exemption from these requirements. If it were a growing fleet of ships that would add more pollutants on an increasing basis, I would understand the restrictions. But this is one historic ship contributes to many more cars and trucks not polluting and using energy by taking a much longer route around the lake. I can't imagine that if all those car's and truck's emissions were measured, that they wouldn't far surpass the contaminants of this one ship.

For economic, ecological and historical reasons I SUPPORT LETTING THE SS. BADGER CONTINUE ON ITS CURRENT SHIPPING SCHEDULE IN PERPETUITY.

Sincerely,
Elizabeth McFadzean
La Canada, California and Ludington, Michigan

From: Captain Ron
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/2/2013 10:11:01 AM
Subject: Case Number: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Subject :SS Badger to end the ash discharge

It is hoped that all possible option be looked at to have the SS Badger continue serving the state in transporting car and trucks the shortest way to get from Mich to Wis.

 **Captain Ron Gedda** 

From: Josh and Nanci Swenson
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
CC: info@ssbadger.com
Sent: 4/2/2013 10:33:51 AM
Subject: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., D.V. Ref. No. 90- 5- 1-1-10771

To Whom It May Concern:

I'm very much in favor of the settlement. Mainly because it keeps the Badger running, which is vitally important for Manitowoc and Ludington, also cross-lake shippers including movement of wind energy parts. In other words, the operation is a major factor in two local economies on each side of the lake, and the Badger's net environmental impact is no doubt positive. Saves a lot of cars and trucks from driving around Lake Michigan.

The best would be for the Badger not to burn coal at all. Similarly it would help even more for coal generated power plants that are outdated to be shut down, and replaced by clean energy sources.

From: [REDACTED]
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/2/2013 10:40:15 AM
Subject: DJ Ref. 90-5-1-1-10771

I own a cottage at Epworth in Ludington, MI. For four generations, my family has had the joy of watching the SS Badger come and go. I think it is a part of history that needs to be saved. The Badger is also a big asset to the community and the State of Michigan.

Thank You,

Ann R. Lewis
[REDACTED]

Little Rock, AR 72207

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
CC: Bob Manglitz
Sent: 4/2/2013 11:13:50 AM
Subject: reference D.J.90-5-1-1-10771 Lake Michigan Carferry

our family desires that the consent decree involved in this action be approved for the welfare of all those persons and corporations involved.

as we all realize jobs are at a premium and the existence of the consent decree will go far to keep people employed.

thank you

From: JRichert
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/2/2013 11:35:16 AM
Subject: SS Badger - West Michigan
Attachments: image001.jpg

To the Department of Justice –

I am a Ludington resident and a huge supporter of the ongoing services of the SS Badger, owned by LMC, that sails from Ludington, Michigan to Manitowoc, Wisconsin. I ask that you would continue to allow the Badger to sail for two reasons: 1) its coal ash discharge is less than the EPA's allowable amount, and 2) the LMC is confident it can attain all of the requirements set forth by the most recent proposed consent decree between the EPA and the Badger.

The Badger remains a key service to the West Michigan area that is enjoyed by its residents and tourists as well as being of historical significance to the area.

I support the consent agreement and ask that the Justice Department will support it as well.

Thank you,
Jennifer Richert
Ludington, MI resident

From: Jody Radlinger
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/2/2013 11:52:01 AM
Subject: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

I have been riding the SSBadger for over 40 years, and would not like to have it 'taken away'. Please help preserve this one-of-a-kind historic ship and **APPROVE this Consent Decree.**

Thanks.

Jody Radlinger

From: Maureen Myers
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/2/2013 12:11:36 PM
Subject: United States v.Lake MichiganTrans-Lake Shortcut, Inc,D.J.Ref.No.90-5-1-1-10771

To whom this subject concerns:

The LMC BADGER is an important connection between Wisconsin for many reasons.

It keeps cars off highways, thus reducing auto pollution.

It can carry large trucks and large pieces of equipment that not only reduce air pollution, but also the wear and tear on our highways.

It gives truck drivers a chance to rest, thus making them more alert on the road.

It provides jobs for people in both the Ludington and Manitowoc area.

Crossing Lake Michigan on the Badger is a unique experience, not available any place else in the United States.

It is an important part of the history of Michigan.

Watching the Badger come into the Ludington Harbor and hearing the Big Horn tooting is just plain fun!!

Sincerely,
Maureen Myers

From: Susan Barry
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/2/2013 12:12:57 PM
Subject: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771 Save the Badger

D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Dear Sirs,

Lake Michigan car ferries are a long term tradition on the inland lakes and the SS Badger should be allowed to continue service to continue this tradition and convenience for the families and individuals who regularly use it and want to have it for their children and grandchildren to use and remember. As a child growing up on the great lakes I regularly rode the carferries between Upper and Lower Michigan as a regular mode of transportation. Now, my family and I cross Lake Michigan each year from Wisconsin to Michigan on the SS Badger to visit family. Traveling this way saves 8 hours of driving in two cars around the lake. The savings in time, safety and gas are great, and we're not polluting the environment burning gasoline. The grandkids are in awe of the great ship. The docks and communities on each side bustle with commerce and jobs because of work on the ferry or in the businesses in those towns that depend on the tourism dollars it brings in. So much will be lost if you take away our last heritage ferry. Please reasonable and save the SS Badger for our posterity.

Sincerely,

Susan and Tom Barry

[REDACTED]
Green Bay, WI 54302

[REDACTED]

From: Joe G
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/2/2013 7:12:30 PM
Subject: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Thank You for the approval,
I personally think this is a great decision
Joe Garrett
Groton CT (an annual visitor to Manitowoc)

From: Gene Lewis
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/2/2013 12:19:47 PM
Subject: DJ Ref. 90-5-1-1-10771

To Whom it may concern: It would be a travesty to history if the EPA or other US Govt. agency closed down the Badger. It's an important symbol of US ingenuity, industrial growth and western transportation, via the railroads. It's also important to Western Michigan and its beautiful assets. Four generations of our family have spent every summer in Ludington and it's always hard to not take time to watch the Badger leave and arrive daily. Shame on whoever closes the door and turns off the light. Gene

GENE LEWIS, JR.
LEWIS REALTY & ASSOCIATES
P.O. BOX 7683
LITTLE ROCK, AR 72217
501/663-0077 FAX 501/603-0730

From: Rodney Willms
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/2/2013 10:18:43 PM
Subject: D.J. Ref #90-5-1-10771

Good evening

I am writing in regards to R.J. Ref. #90-5-1-10771 regarding the SS Badger ferry boat on lake Mich. It is the only natural coal fired ferry still on the great lakes I consider it the same as any national historic building as being a history icon. It should remain in operation as long as it can just so youth of today can experience the joy of traveling on a historic icon.

Thank you
Rodney Willms
Brooklyn Park, MN

From: Karl Racenis
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/2/2013 7:00:05 PM
Subject: Reference Case Number: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Please agree to the Consent Decree (United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger) for Lake Michigan Carferry regarding ash discharge from the SS Badger's historic steam engines. This vessel is a historic treasure, rehabilitated to a vital economic development role for both western Michigan and eastern Wisconsin communities.

As a Professional Engineer, I appreciate the technology heritage represented by this vessel and its powerplant. Preserving historic treasures is strongly encouraged by Department of the Interior, which allow substantial flexibility in adapting to modern regulations. This same consideration should be extended to the SS Badger.

Sincerely,
Karl Racenis, P.E.

From: Jack Hietpas
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/2/2013 2:40:43 PM
Subject:

D.J. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Please consider approving the above referenced consent decree that will allow the SS Badger to continue transporting passengers across Lake Michigan into the future. This ship has been such an important transportation method for thousands of passengers each week and this should not be allowed to cease operation. It is to important of a transportation option for visitors and travelers to Wisconsin and Michigan.

Jack Hietpas
N8502 Moh He Con Nuck Rd.
Bowler, WI 54416
Land Management
jack.hietpas@mohican-nsn.gov

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From: [REDACTED]
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/2/2013 1:27:23 PM
Subject: Reference Case Number: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

To: Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division

RE: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

Hello,

We strongly urge approval of D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771, Consent Decree to allow the SS Badger to keep sailing.

This ship is a vital transportation link for commercial and tourist traffic linking two great lake states. We ride the Badger several times a year to go to our vacation home in the upper peninsula of Michigan from the lower peninsula. It saves us 4 hours drive time. During our trips we have seen the numerous trucks carrying everything from apples to livestock to containers of goods. We've seen whole asphalt plants and huge pieces of machinery taken on the boat. Large groups of antique cars, old tractors and Harleys have taken the boat. People from all over the US and other countries have ridden the boat. Even Kevin Costner tried to take it last summer. Bus loads of school kids take it on educational trips and baby boomers travel by the tour bus load.

Approval of the consent decree will allow all this commerce, education and entertainment to continue. Please let this historic transportation icon to survive and continue to serve.

Respectfully
Timothy and Patricia Johnson
[REDACTED]
Free Soil, MI 49411

From: joseph knowles
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/2/2013 11:15:36 AM
Subject: Please Approve the Consent Decree for D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division ,

Thank you for taking the time to listen to my comment regarding the case United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger. **D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771**

It is important to our community that this Consent Decree agreement with the Department of Justice and EPA that will require the SS Badger to end the ash discharge within two years be approved. We think that this Consent Decree is the best result under the circumstances. Continuing on a path to ending the discharge of coal ash while still serving the public and local communities is the most important outcome of this situation.

I thank you for your support in this matter and stress the importance that the Lake Michigan Car Ferry SS Banger be allowed to continue operation in our community, without them, our local economy would be devastated! At times like these in small towns across this great state, we need tourist activity such as this to help sustain our great community.

Joe Knowles

From: James and Judy Cullen
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/3/2013 8:52:14 AM
Subject: SS Badger

I think the SS Badger provides a valuable service to the people of Michigan and Wisconsin, as well as, other individuals who use the SS Badger as a tourist destination or convenient way to cross Lake Michigan. I thank-you in advance for helping keep the SS Badger afloat.

James G. Cullen

From: Robert Melin
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/3/2013 9:22:35 AM
Subject: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771
Attachments: image001.gif

I was born in Muskegon, MI. I started riding the car ferries back in the 50s with my parents and brothers to visit relatives at Garfield, MN. This was the birth place of my father. We rode on three different ships over the years. In 1958, my parents moved to the Iron Range in Minnesota. My family still continued to ride the ships but this time, back to Michigan. My parents are gone now but my wife and I still enjoy riding on the car ferry on Lake Michigan, when we have the opportunity. I still have relatives who live in Muskegon, MI, and the trip is a real delight. Driving around Chicago is no fun and the boat ride makes the trip back home to Michigan a great experience. I plan to take the ship to Michigan this summer (2013) to see my brother, aunts, uncles and many cousins. The ship's crew are so nice and make the trip enjoyable. I hope this experience never goes away. It is one tradition that needs to be supported and kept afloat.

Bob and Melody Melin

Robert A. Melin

Byron, MN 55920



“Too often we under-estimate the power of a touch, a smile, a kind word, a listening ear, an honest compliment, or the smallest act of caring, all of which have the potential to turn a life around.” - Dr. Felice Leonardo Buscaglia

Success seems to be connected to action, Successful men keep moving, They make mistakes But they Don't Quit

***A good friend is never forgotten...
But held in your heart forever!***

From: Willie Crear
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/3/2013 9:30:04 AM
Subject: In RE: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

In RE: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

It would appear to me that the heart of the Consent Decree is contained in Section IV, paragraphs 29-33 inclusive.

As I read this, two words come to mind: 'Reserve Mining'. Reserve Mining was the taconite mining/processing company famous for discharging 67,000 tons of taconite tailings per day into Lake Superior for decades. As a part of the suit that the U. S. government brought, Reserve agreed to remedy the discharge, to stop it, and the agreement gave them a period of time to do this, a number of years.

At the end of that time, Reserve, without having done anything to mitigate the discharge, just shut down. It was clear that was what they were planning to do all along.

Given the complete lack of any engineering plans for the conversion of the S. S. Badger available to the public, I must assume that they do not exist. LMC are planning on doing exactly what Reserve did: operate for as long as possible, shut down when the jig is up, and sell the ship for scrap.

No where does the agreement specify that the design and plan for conversion of the Badger be accomplished by the beginning of the 2015 season. I do not fault the owners of the S. S. Badger for this; they are merely negotiating effectively. You, the U. S. government, the EPA, and the other authorities having jurisdiction, are not. The agreement, the Consent Decree, is not worthless. It allows the LMC to operate for another two seasons without making any real steps towards a resolution. They have been doing this since 2008, when the previous agreement was made. The \$25,000 'civil penalty' is merely a fee to permit LMC to operate for two more years under rules that no other company are permitted to operate. The U. S. government, and it's respective agencies, are the fools here. I am, as they say, underwhelmed.

I have no connection, financial interest, relatives, employment, anything to do with the S. S. Badger's ferry competitors.

Best regards,

Willie Crear

[REDACTED]
Howard Lake
Minnesota
55349-0084
[REDACTED]

From: Jeanne Dolson
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/3/2013 9:35:08 AM
Subject: D.J.Ref.No. 90-5-1-1-10771

To: Assistant Atty.General, Env. and Natural Resources Division
Re: United States v.Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

I am in favor of your approving the Consent Decree in regards to this case. Having the SS Badger is so important to the livelihood of many in the Ludington, Michigan and Manitowoc, Wisconsin areas. The Badger is a wonderful way to cross Lake Michigan thereby avoiding auto traffic in the Chicago area.

Giving the owners two years to work on ending the discharge of coal ash is necessary.

Please approve this!

Thank you.

Jeanne M. Dolson


Royal Oak MI 48067

From: [REDACTED]
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/3/2013 5:49:00 PM
Subject: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Dear Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division,

I would like to express my support of the SS Badger and my hopes for its continued service. My teenage children and I have had great experiences on several trips on the SS Badger. I feel it is important to keep some competition with the Lake Express Ferry. I hope that the Consent Decree will be approved.

thank you,
Joan Kress
Mequon, Wisconsin

From: Jerry Schiltz
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/3/2013 10:22:26 AM
Subject: 90-5-1-1-10771

please approve the lake michigan car ferry consent decree. thank you Jerry Lee Schiltz

From: Kimberly Hamm
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/3/2013 11:54:04 AM
Subject: SS Badger

To Whom it May Concern:

Please consider allowing the SS Badger, Ludington/Lake Michigan Carferry to continue to operate over the next two years as it has for the last several decades.

As you well know, the trace amount of toxins that are disbursed into Lake Michigan are far less than several other allowable sources that continue to discharge under your care and guidance.

The Carferry system is vital to the economical stability of Ludington and Mason County and we urge you to make your decision based on the facts and not be swayed by political interests and misstatements.

--

Kimberly Hamm

From: pam nelson
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/3/2013 11:05:56 AM
Subject: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-LakeShortcut, Inc

Comments on United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

We are in agreement with allowing the SS Badger another two years to address the problem of coal ash discharge into Lake Michigan. The Badger service has brought millions of dollars into the economy of both Michigan and Wisconsin through it's many years of operation. There would be a huge economic downturn as a result of the loss of this service. We feel LMC can and will meet the requirements within the next two years.

Phyllis & Charles Nelson

From: Phil Chmielewski
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/3/2013 11:53:36 AM
Subject: S.S. Badger

Good morning,

This note regards the Consent Decree agreement between the DoJ and S.S. Badger.

While it's heartening to learn that the Badger will again be allowed to sail on Lake Michigan, I'm concerned by their being allowed yet another "stay of execution" by being allowed to dump yet more coal ash into the lake. This follows a pattern of the Badger's management taking any possible action shy of actually updating their vessel. They've spend thousands on campaign contributions, media releases and other tactics, but nary a penny on upgrading the systems.

There are many benefits to keeping the Badger running. It's a piece of Wisconsin maritime history and significantly impacts the economies of both Manitowoc and Ludington. The Badger is also a unique vehicle for tourism for both Wisconsin and Michigan, saving residents and visitors the time of traveling around the lake in order to visit their destinations. It also reduces traffic in the already congested Milwaukee-Chicago corridor.

Though these benefits are real, they pale in comparison to the risks that we all face should the Badger continue to pollute Lake Michigan with coal ash. Communities could have their drinking water supplies contaminated. Both the business and pastime of sport fishing on Michigan could be threatened as well. Even if fish could continue to survive in an environment polluted by coal ash, serious questions would have to be raised about the threat their consumption would pose for humans.

While the Badger provides many benefits to both Wisconsin and Michigan, its effects on the Lake cannot be downplayed. The compromise is a fair one, but it has to be the last. Please ensure that the Badger's management follows through with the upgrades and shut them down if they don't. Economies can adjust and rebuild, but once an ecosystem dies, it's gone forever. We have many boats, but only one planet.

Thank you for your attention.

Phil Chmielewski
Cudahy, WI

April 3, 2013
Green Bay, WI

Assistant Attorney General
Environmental and Natural Resources Division

Reference Case Number – D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Case – United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc. d/b/a Lake Michigan
Carferry Services and SS Badger

Please approve the Consent Decree agreement in this case.

As a lifelong resident on the western side of Lake Michigan in Manitowoc and Green Bay and seeing how much this ferry has been and continues to be used both commercially and by thousands of vacationers, I feel that it would be a great loss of a treasured historic asset if the service is no longer available.

Sincerely,

Robert H. Knuth


Green Bay, WI. 54301-2602

From: Graham, Theresa
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/3/2013 12:20:15 PM
Subject: Reference Case Number: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771
Attachments: image001.jpg

Case Name: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

Dear Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division,

I strongly believe the Consent Decree should be approved.

She's one of a kind on the Lakes – she is a workhorse as well has a mode of transportation that has brought pleasure and good memories to many.

I'm behind the approval of this decree if it would ensure the continued service of the S.S.Badger, for ourselves and for future generations.

Best Regards,

Theresa Graham

BlueScope Buildings North America, Inc

Secretary, Product Excellence

Corp. Document Control Administrator

((901) 748-9334 | Fax: (901) 748-9324

* Theresa.Graham@bluescopesteel.com



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From: Kay Misenheimer
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/3/2013 12:35:36 PM
Subject: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

To: Assistant Attorney General
Environment and Natural Resources Division
Re: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771, United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and S.S. Badger

To whom it may concern,

I am 48 years old and our family has spent almost every summer vacation on the shores of Lake Michigan in and around Ludington. I have watched the Badger cross Lake Michigan for my entire life. And now my grandchildren get to watch as well. And even to ride (finally) this year. The giant ship is an imposing presence coming and going in and out of the harbor and my granddaughter squeals with delight and laughter every time the horn is blown!

All of the passengers, cars, pick-up trucks, motorcycles, and bicycles that go back and forth each day are just a fraction of the Badger's amazing worth to the people and economies of Michigan and Wisconsin. You can't board the ship without also seeing numerous semi-trucks, huge trailers, RV's, and railroad cars being loaded. I have seen entire car clubs board the ship. The capacity of the Badger is awe inspiring. The savings in dollars and hours for all the passengers must be incredible. Its impact upon the economies of both Ludington and Manitowoc is deep. There are always young people who are working on the ship and shore, but there is also the workforce of veteran sailors. Not to mention the tourism impact on both cities.

I am a strong supporter of keeping our lakes clean and healthy. But this matter of coal ash seems to be exaggerated to me. I know they are working on solutions, and I believe the huge benefit to everyone concerned is worth a little coal ash for the time being. Is this really worth the price being asked? Or is this another topic for endless debate and hard headedness? I think we should look at the positive. Trust me... It completely outweighs the negative.

I know it is the critics that make the most noise, so I wanted to add something positive to this scenario.

Thank you for taking the time to read my letter.

Kay Misenheimer

Westland, MI


From: [REDACTED]
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/3/2013 3:15:26 PM
Subject: Ref case #90-5-1-1-10771

Please approve the consent decree regarding the operators of the S.S. Badger being given two years to remediate the discharge of ash. Allowing this historic ship to continue in service is in the public interest both for historical reasons as well as for the good of the travelling public. The impact on the environment of permitting this ship to continue will decrease the pollution that would be caused by alternate means of transportation.

Thank you for your consideration,
Rebecca Knox

From: Everett Smith
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/3/2013 3:58:43 PM
Subject: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

Dear Assistant Attorney General, Environment and Natural Resources Division,

United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

Please pass the Consent Decree. We LOVE the SS Badger and it would break our hearts to loose her.

Thank you,

Everett Smith

From: William Kostlevy
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/3/2013 4:07:31 PM
Subject: DJ Ref. No 90-5-1-110771 US vs Lake Michigan Car Ferry

The Lake Michigan Car Ferry between Manitowoc, WI and Ludington Michigan provides an important service and reduces fuel consumption by radically reducing the number of miles driven. It serves important local local economy needs on both sides of Lake Michigan. To me it is obvious that its exemption from EPA regulations should be continued.

Sincerely,

William Kostlevy

--

William Kostlevy
Professor of History and Political Science
Tabor College
400 S. Jefferson
Hillsboro, KS 67063
(620) 947-3121 Ext 1065

From: BJ Conrad
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/3/2013 5:27:10 PM
Subject: Reference Case Number: D.J. Ref.No.90-5-1-1-10771
Attachments: ATT00001.htm; pastedGraphic.pdf

Decree

To:

Assistant Attorney General, Environment and Natural Resources Division

Reference Case Number: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771 (must be included in subject line)

Case Name:

United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and S.S. Badger

As part of public comment, offer this e-mal post.

My understanding is that an agreement has been reached between Lake Michigan Car Ferry and the Environment and Natural Resources Division. I am relieved at that. The ferry system is the economic mainstay of the small lakeside communities of Luddington Mi. and Manitowac Wi. It has been a wonderful pleasure outing for many people as well as providing a shortcut for truck transport across Lake Michigan. This shortcut is an environmental benefit as it saves in fuel for the transporters.

The Lake Michigan Car Ferry is often the only water going vessel that can continue operations during severely inclement weather.

Reports have indicated that the coal ash in question is extremely low in environmentally sensitive materials.

I don't know if it has been weighed as a consideration that this vessel is one of two steamships still operational in the US. This gives it both nostalgic and historic impact.

All of the above reasons are compelling issues. From my point of view the idea of sacrificing almost the entire economic underpinnings of two Lake Michigan Coastal cities at any time and at this economic time especially, is unfathomable. So I am glad for this extension and I have my hopes up that a permanent solution will be in effect as a result of the decision.

BJConrad



From: [REDACTED]
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/3/2013 9:30:06 PM
Subject: DJ Ref. No. 90-1-1-10771

To Whom it may concern:

The SS Badger is a National Treasure and it's service should be continued!!! Not only is it a state employer, but the tourism, employment and tourism \$\$'s that it generates would be sorely missed by both Michigan and Wisconsin. I was a passenger on the SS Badger for the first time, as an adult, but I believe that every Michigan and Wisconsin family should enjoy the beauty of the Wisconsin and Michigan shorelines from this excursion trip. There are not that many entertainment venues in our state that so many age groups enjoy which is another reason the Badger is a treasure for us.

The SS Badger should be granted the 2 year extension and the time it would provide to implement a new power source to keep this wonderful vessel afloat.

Jean Horner
Brookfield, WI

From: Randy Cox
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/3/2013 9:34:08 PM
Subject: United States vs. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc, DJ, Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

United States vs. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc, DJ, Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Even as a local in Ludington and having lived in Mason County my entire life, I applaud the EPA for not backing down on this issue with the Badger. So many tourist and locals think the Badger is so wonderful, but all I see when it sails each time is a polluting vessel. I am not an environmental extremist by any means, but I am tired of the EPA and DEQ being threatened with lawsuits and being bullied by senators, etc. everytime they try to do there job. It's always the same thing, these big business using old technology and even business on a smaller scale such as the Badger not wanting to spend any of their own money to upgrade their equipment they get rich off. The Badger and similiar polluting industries, busineses, vessels, etc. should have been saving money for this type of upgrade years ago instead of living the life of luxury from all their profits. Personally, no offense to the EPA, DEQ, and all there workers, but I see no reason for our government to even have these departments of government if they are not going to let them do their jobs. Everytime they try someone is trying to stop them because they are gonna take away jobs from the economy, or they are gonna cost a business too much money and cause them to crumble....both are ridiculous. This type of attitude is one in which money and greed are ignoring the impact on our environment and the environment our children will live in after we are gone. I think the EPA has been too easy going on the Badger if anything. I would like to see them have even less time to resolve the issue since they should've been doing something about it along time ago. I could go on and on, but I think my opinion and my families is clear. The Badger needs to clean up or ship out....for good.

Randy & Cathy Cox
Ludington

From: Lin Ahlstedt
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/3/2013 11:52:51 PM
Subject: D.J.ref. # 90-5-1-1-10771

The Badger is very important to our state. It saves enormous amount of road miles. It is a matter of personal safety to me as I am not able to drive that far when I need to travel to WI. It is an historic vessel and ought to be respected as such. No one has any qualms about damaging our environment where big business is involved but for this piece of history close to the hearts of many Midwesterners, we owe the boat the respect on not junking it.

From: Roger Taylor
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/4/2013 12:16:42 AM
Subject: Case# 90-5-1-1-10771.

The SS Badger is a piece of living history that is one of the last working examples of steam and mechanical machines that many people want to sweep under the rug. It has the One and ONLY working Skinner Uni-flow Triple Expansion Steam Engine that is working, in the World. Everyone is so caught up in the computer world that the Green people forget the more trees are harmed for paper than ever before and that hurts the environment much more than the ash from the Badger.

With the technical knowledge and expertise that is in the world today I don't believe that an effective can't be found. In the economy the way it is, Close to 1000 people with family's, House, car , food etc. payments would be out of work. Company's That use the SS Badger to haul hundreds of WINDMILL parts for the ENVIRONMENT will have to pay thousands of dollars more in hauling costs to go around the lake.

I understand that we all have to do our part to save and preserve the world But there are bigger things we should be looking at that will have a bigger impact than the coal ash. Are we going to stop making power with coal ? See how far you get with that one when you start turning of lights and air conditioner and computers.

Quit listening to the people that are squawking about something they know little or nothing at all, and listen to the people that this effects the most. It also seems that most of the politicians aren't looking at the problem , they want to listen to the squawkers, make head lines and make points for election. Thank you for your time. Please give this careful thought, because your decision will effect History now and for future, not to mention thousands of familys.
Roger Taylor

From: richard kunz [mailto:████████████████████]
Sent: Thursday, April 04, 2013 4:10 AM
To: Cannon, Phillipa
Subject: S.S. Badger

I hope this time you guys stick to this final Two year extension to dump ash. It is also time to STOP this ship from burning coal because of AIR POLLUTION. From what I see on the computer, Manitowoc's air is sampled from SEVEN miles away from the city. It seems this is done by design so the air will not show the spikes of air pollution while the Badger is in port.

During the Badger season if the air is sampled in the north west part of the city, I believe it will show the air to be VERY full of pollution. This would be from the Badger. We get at least a total of Eight hours of this polluted air when the Badger runs two times a day. It is time to stop this boat from Air Polluting also. Coal smoke is some of the most Unhealthy pollution a person can breath. We can't burn tires or plastic, but this boat can just lay a TOXIC layer over the Northern part of the city every day. It has been said in the past that people take the Badger to see the smoke come out of the stack. I would like to burn tires every day to see the smoke also, but that is illegal for a good reason. Its also said the pollution is less than all the cars produce if they had to drive around thru Chicago. All them cars aren't running for hours in the Car Ferry parking lot.

In closing, this boat can be switched from coal and still keep it running for the City tourist season. I am not against running of this boat, but you guys have to also consider the health effects of that air pollution on the residents of Manitowoc. What will it take to get air samples taken in the Northern part of the city of Manitowoc? Thank You Richard Kunz


████████████████████
Manitowoc, WI 54220

From: Henry J C Schwartz
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/4/2013 9:06:39 AM
Subject: SS Badger

I understand that the future of the SS Badger ferry is in jeopardy due to its use of coal. I strongly support the continuation of Badger. I have seen its usefulness in both automobile transportation, shortening the distance between points east and west, and in commercial transportation, most recently in moving very large parts of wind-generation towers from Manitowoc, Wisconsin to Michigan.

Please allow the Badger to sail!

Henry Schwartz


Fredericksburg, Virginia 22406

From: Henry J C Schwartz
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/4/2013 9:19:49 AM
Subject: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771, SS Badger

D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Case Name: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

I strongly support the continuation of the SS Badger in ferry service across Lake Michigan. It serves a valuable purpose in both private automobile transportation in avoiding Chicago and shortening the distance between east and west points, and in commercial transportation. I have seen it transport very large components of wind-generation towers from Manitowoc, Wisconsin to Michigan, a great saving in every way—diesel fuel, wear and tear on roads, and, probably, avoiding tangling roads for miles if these towers had to make the trip around the south of the Lake.

Please do not allow this unique service to be eliminated by short-sighted, erroneous, and misguided environmental policies.

Respectfully,
Henry Schwartz


Fredericksburg, VA 22406

From: [REDACTED] on behalf of Kathy Kvalvaag
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/4/2013 9:21:19 AM
Subject: SS Badger

To all it concerns:

As a Ludington resident and business owner. We have been struggling to reawaken this downtown area since 2008 and have a B&B and a Coffeehouse and Agricultural tourist vacation rental-Petting Farm. www.inn-ludington.com www.myfarmvacation.com and Redolencia Coffeehouse.

Please note on our guest reviews what a memorable vacation experience Ludington is for so many. The Ferry boat is such an important part of not only the charm but the transportation mode of so many of our guests and customers. We fervently support whatever measure it takes to be able to keep another small town business alive as we all work together to carve out a living up here. None of us have made much more than seasonal work for locals and work and a place for us to live due to the very short season we have to attract visitors, any more cost prohibitive restrictions to our business ventures would send us all packing even less job employment for an already struggling Michigan Community.

Thank- you for listening.
Kathy & Ola Kvalvaag

[REDACTED]
Ludington MI 49431

From: Chris Hatch
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/4/2013 9:58:13 AM
Subject: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

I support the Consent decree. The SS Badger is a crucial operation to the Ludington community.

Chris Hatch

Staff Accountant

Merskin & Merskin PC
300 S Rath Ave, Suite 201
Ludington, MI 49431
p (231) 845-6251 f (231) 845-1028

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From: Aryn Katz
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/4/2013 10:07:22 AM
Subject: Lake Michigan Carferry

Dear Sirs:

I am writing to show my support for the Badger. I grew up in Ludington, and it was a tradition in my childhood to ride to Milwaukee. When the boats were shut down for several years, the summers were no longer exciting. It didn't kill the town, or the downtown, or the town's economy. But it gave us one less thing to do to enjoy a nice summer evening, going to the beach and watching the boat come in. Everyone I knew, didn't quite feel right without the daily "toot toot" of the carferry coming and going.

While I am certainly no marine specialist, in my lifetime alone there has been a huge drop in the number of coal-fired boats and a huge increase in the invasive species brought to our area by other boats. What, we must ask ourselves, are we REALLY doing when we stop the ash release??

Thank you,

Carolyn Wooster

From: Cindy Papes
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/4/2013 10:17:29 AM
Subject: USS Badger in Ludington

I am not happy that you are continuing to allow the Badger to pollute our great lake. I really feel that once you stop granting them favors they will just shut down, not because they need to do conversions to the Badger, but because they are business men very close to retirement and once they have made their millions they will have no need for the BADGER and blame the EPA that they need to close up shop. I am sorry but as a life long resident of Mason County our economy will continue to thrive without the Badger.

Cindy Papes
FreeSoil, MI

From: Eric Harmison
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/4/2013 8:33:44 PM
Subject: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Case Name: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

The SS Badger is an important historic working steamship. The Lake Michigan Carferry corporation has done an excellent job of maintaining and preserving the last functioning coal fired ship. It is important to preserve the Bagers history as fully functioning coal fired vessel. The extension to allow the Badger to continue operating is great step toward preserving our heritage. The Badger should be allowed to continue to operate with limited modifications.

Thank you.

Eric Harmison

From: Shoup, Scott
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/4/2013 11:03:48 AM
Subject: Reference Case Number: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

To whom it may concern,

I wish to voice my support for the Lake Michigan Carferry. As a lifelong resident of Mason County, the car ferry service has always been a positive landmark within our community. On a personal level, it has been a wonderful service available to me visiting family in Wisconsin. I have taken the boats too many times to count and each trip has been a wonderful experience not to mention far less stressful than Chicago traffic. My family across the lake has also enjoyed the benefit of the LMC to visit us. Not only has it been a great service but the simple enjoyment of walking out on the breakwall and waving at the passengers as they go by on a sailing has never gotten old. Hearing the horn, still today is a flood of memories from my whole life here in this community. I continue to share this with my family. The first time I took my two daughters on the ship, it was nothing less than a flood of emotion. Having every memory of myself on that very ship 35 years ago with my mother and grandmother. Endlessly walking the halls, the upper deck, looking over the bow and watching the waves roll off the ship. My girls, so enamored by the lights of Manitowoc as we approached at night will be added as one of the very best memories of my life.

On an economic level, I have every reason to believe that both Ludington, Manitowoc and their surrounding areas have benefited greatly by having this service. Although I cannot quantify this personally, nor can I say that my business has directly benefited from it, I can say without question that I have talked to so many people in and around town that have been brought here by the "boat" or for the "boat". I have traveled all around the state and region and am always amazed that when explaining where I come from how many times we are recognized by "oh, isn't there a carferry there?" Every time my family enjoys our wonderful community we speak to people all over that are staying in one of our motels, having dinner in one of our restaurants, buying gas from our stations, a dune ride at Silver Lake, a trip up the coast to Traverse City. It is truly a wonderful asset that has brought our region not only economic benefit but a system of transportation that cannot be duplicated or compared to any other.

I hope one day that my daughters will be able to share the same Great Lakes experience with their children the way I have been able to do with them and my mother to me. Please consider this decree so we can continue to benefit both economically and personally from the Lake Michigan Carferry.

Thank you
Scott Shoup
Farm Bureau Insurance
106 S. Main Street
Scottville, MI 49454
Phone: 231-757-2368
Fax: 231-757-9001
sshoup@fbinsmi.com

From: Kathleen Andersen
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/4/2013 11:14:19 AM
Subject: Case # D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771
Attachments: logo670b88

Please accept my support of the Lake Michigan Carferry-SS Badger in the suit United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger.

I tend to believe that the service they provide not only helps our small community of Ludington, MI, to thrive in the summer months, but also that the crossing reduces carbon emissions by carrying numerous cars across Lake Michigan that would otherwise be on the road spewing exhaust. One carferry's coal ash is not significant enough to warrant discontinuation of the crossing. There are far worse offenders around the lake dumping contaminants into the water. Chicago's factories and Milwaukee's medical waste come to mind.

Thank you for the opportunity to express my opinion.

Sincerely,
Kathleen M. Andersen
Resident Riverton Township, Mason County, Michigan



Kathleen Andersen TITLE ASSISTANT VICE PRESIDENT

D 231.845.6946 | P 800.344.3531 x7761

C 231.690.4582 | F 231.843.8910

220 E. Ludington Avenue

Ludington, Michigan 49431

Wighthousegroup.net

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From: [REDACTED]
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/4/2013 11:24:56 AM
Subject: DJ Ref No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Dear Sir

As a 30 year resident of the State of Michigan I wish to make an appeal to grant the request of the Lake Michigan Carferry Corp. to keep the Badger running across Lake Michigan, It is important to the people of Michigan and other states as an alternate route between Ottawa Canada and the States of Michigan, Indiana, Ohio and beyond.

It contributes to the economy of Michigan and Wisconsin and provide a needed alternative route to going through Chicago to the upper midwest. It also reduces the consumption of gasoline and reduction of some of the traffic going through Chicago.

I am sure you have received studies and other economic justification from the LMC. The issue of pollution of the lake is minimal as the badger reduces air pollution from the reduction of gasoline consumption in the area.

There is also a historic and nostalgic value to keeping the heritage of the Ludington to Manitowac car ferry in operation. That is an important part of our country that we need to maintain.

One further consideration is that the LMC does an excellent job of maintaining the Badger and making the trip a very pleasant experience for the people and families making the trip. The federal government needs to recognize companies that are making a contribution to our economy and national lifestyle. It is too easy to let policies and politics play an overburdening role in what really makes America a great nation.

Sincerely,

Philip R. Wolf
Grands Rapids and Ludington resident

From: Tanya Gasaway
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/4/2013 12:33:11 PM
Subject: D.J. Red. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

To Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division,

Case: United States vs Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

I am sending this email to state my opinion that the Consent Decree for the above case be approved. This company is an integral part of our community and helps sustain our businesses and people. Thank you!

--

Tanya Gasaway

He who learns teaches, he who teaches learns."-African Proverb

From: Bo Sloan
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/4/2013 1:18:11 PM
Subject: Badger, save the beast.

I lived in 9 states over my 48 years. I've lived in California the past 25. We have a cottage in Epworth Heights, Ludington, MI. I have managed to spend anywhere from 2 weeks to 3 months in Ludington every summer of my life. These days I'm there about 8 weeks a summer. 4 at the start, 4 at the end.

Living, swimming, even drinking at times Lake Michigan water. Clear, beautiful water. As clear as the ocean that I live on in Channel Island, CA.

Liberals have again decided to try and control something that they don't know much about. I'm not saying they don't know about the coal ash being a bit harmful. What I am saying they don't know about, is how important that big ugly ship is. It's ugly, but at the same time it is one of the most beautiful things in the world. I couldn't imagine not seeing her sail. The coal ash might sound like a lot, BUT LAKE MICHIGAN IS A DAMN BIG, DEEP LAKE! Coal ash ain't gonna hurt that mass of water. Even the EPA knows that. I think they're a little brain washed at times.

~ J.A. Sloan (Bo)
Tri-West, LTD.
C-(805)312-0098
F-(805)985-8894
O-(800)669-6696

From: Emelia Junk
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/4/2013 1:23:24 PM
Subject: Badger of Michigan

Please consider my opinion regarding the local ferry, THE BADGER. this ferry has long been an icon in this community, and in the area, including states of Michigan and Wisconsin. It transports people, either for pleasure, business or health care needs. . . easily across the Lake and saves many miles, driving either North, or South around metro Chicago. As for pollution, . . . sure it contributes, but it is miniscule in the grand schema of our current living . . . Please consider the whole picture in your decision . . . including the economy of this, a struggling area of Michigan.

Thank you.

(Ms.) Emelia Junk
Ludington Michigan

Unknown

From: Kate O'Brien [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, April 04, 2013 1:34 PM
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Subject: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

To Whom It May Concern,

As a citizen who grew up her entire life in Michigan and spent every summer swimming in Lake Michigan (and bring my young children back there now every summer to swim in that same Great Lake), I urge DOJ and EPA to enforce its consent decree against Lake Michigan Carferry, which has been operating the USS Badger. While I have taken that car ferry across the lake just once in my life, my family and I have watched it sail in and out of Ludington Harbor every morning and every evening for years, and we never knew that it was such a polluter of that rare and lovely freshwater lake, indeed one of the wonders of the world.

This is the 21st Century, and as a society we are moving away from coal-fired anything. That this company has not evolved to keep pristine the very waters upon which it sails and maintains its livelihood as a business is an abomination. Please hold Lake Michigan Carferry accountable to our environment, our laws, and the health, safety and welfare of the public at large.

Thank you for accepting my commentary, and for pursuing environmental justice for the habitat and water quality of Lake Michigan, and citizens of its surrounding communities.

Sincerely,

Katharine S. O'Brien

--

.....
Kate O'Brien

[REDACTED]
Portland, ME 04103
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/4/2013 2:47:34 PM
Subject: Reference Case Number: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division:

I support the consent decree that has been reached between United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger.

I believe it is reasonable to store the ash waste for disposal on land as an environmental solution. There is also an environmental benefit to its continued operation since emissions are eliminated for the vehicles travelling on the car ferry between the two states.

Lake Michigan Carferry is a boon for our regional tourism industry. It puts Ludington, MI and Manitowoc, WI on the map for many people. In my visits to other states, I am pleased how many people recognize my hometown because they have heard of Lake Michigan Carferry.

The Lake Michigan Carferry, SS Badger, is also more comfortable for passengers to use than other car ferry options. The SS Badger is not easily tossed with the waves due to its design. For that reason, the boat itself is not easily replaced by other technologies.

Sincerely,

Kathryn Hettlinger Nixon
[REDACTED] Ludington, MI 49431


From: Christine Okoren
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/4/2013 2:48:39 PM
Subject: US v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut - The Badger

This email refers to US v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771. I have taken the wonderful carferry the Badger numerous times. I believe this historical ship should be accepted as a National Landmark. My family has visited from Minnesota--what a great boat to take and not have the drive. This boat saves time for so many travelers. I want the consent decree to be accepted. The carferry has said they will make concessions concerning the ash discharge. Our area and country needs this ship to continue. The consent decree should be approved. Thank you for your attention.

From: Brenda Beaumier
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/4/2013 2:59:28 PM
Subject: SS Badger

I am extremely upset and highly disappointed that the SS Badger is being allowed to continue to dump coal ash into Lake Michigan! This is a most short sighted and irresponsible decision. The elite few win out again and the rest of us continue to get sicker! By the way, I have been homebound for 3 years because of environmental illness, so I know what it's like!

Brenda Beaumier


Milwaukee, WI 53216

From: Patricia Otto
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/4/2013 3:12:31 PM
Subject: FW: The Badger D.J. Ref # 90-5-1-1-10771

To Whom It May Concern:

I have been a resident of Ludington, Michigan since 1980. Ludington is a small town who survives on the tourism industry during the seasons because of being located on Lake Michigan with the most beautiful State Park and weather that is desirable year around for Michigan residents.

Starting in May when the Badger runs back and forth from Wisconsin, our little town fills up with thousands of people who enjoy the 4 hour trip "across the pond" as many of us locals call it. My family has been on the Badger several times over the past 25 years.

The whole pollution issue about coal is hog wash. If we are going to pick on this boat with a minimal amount of pollution, why don't we pick on the other major sources of pollution in our State.

If the Badger is shut down, that would be a huge blow to the viability of this lovely little community. The downtown businesses along with hotels, motels and resorts would be hit very hard. A couple hundred people would become unemployed. We sure do not need that based on the history of unemployment in the State of Michigan since 2007-2008. We are finally starting the recovery process with unemployment numbers decreasing...let's not add fuel to that old fire of unemployment.

If some of the big city, political figures would just take time to investigate this industry, this community along with the community in Wisconsin on the other side of the pond, you would see why we are fighting so hard to keep our Badger on Lake Michigan.

Thank you,

Patricia E. Otto, BA, MSA
College Adjunct Professor
Ludington, Michigan

From: [REDACTED]
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/4/2013 3:22:37 PM
Subject: Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Assistant Attorney General
U.S. DOJ-ENRD, P.O. Box 7611
Washington, DC 20044-7611

RE:
United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771.

Why is a coal-fired ship still polluting the Great Lakes? Almost 100 years after the Navy saw the problems and inefficiencies with coal, one business continues using it, and dumping "tons of ash."

Please stop allowing this & make them stop & convert to a green energy immediately.

Thank you
April Patalocco

[REDACTED]
Berkley, MI 48072

From: jmclaren@lbppaper.com
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/4/2013 6:19:02 PM
Subject: DJ Ref. 90-5-1-1-10771 United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc

To Whom It May Concern,

At a time when unemployment is astronomical, personal incomes are flat/declining, gasoline prices are topping record highs, and fuel conservation/alternative fuels, as well as resource conservation, are the focus du jour, it is almost inconceivable that Lake Michigan Carferry Services would not be granted very significant latitude within which to become EPA compliant. This is tantamount to shooting a flea with a canon: While ash discharge in the Great Lakes is of significant concern, currently it cannot possibly outweigh concerns of employment and the attendant economies of central midwestern (rust belt) areas already hard hit, to say nothing of the additional pollution and infrastructure degradation created by those hundreds of automobiles which, as a consequence, will soon be driving the several hundred miles around Lake Michigan and thus, all in all, begging the question: "What are we thinking?"

Thank you for your kind attention. I trust that the wisdom to protect this wonderful resource, allowing the company to prosper in concert with our recovering economy and hence enabling affordable compliance, will carry the day.

Sincerely,
James McLaren.

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From: tanya ransom
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/4/2013 7:37:33 PM
Subject: Carferry

The Carferry means a lot to our community! It is a big help for tourism in the summer months and helps our town thrive.

I have road the Carferry since I was a little girl. I continue to go across on it at least once a summer. It also has a special place in my heart because my grandfather was a Captain of the Badger back when it transported rail cars. I along with many others love to watch it go in and out of the harbor. There are no other ships like it and it would be a shame if stopped running!!!

Sent from my iPad

From: [REDACTED]
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/4/2013 8:13:54 PM
Subject: Reference Case Number: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-

To: Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division

Case Name: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

The Consent Decree agreement should be approved as it is in the public's interest. It will benefit both the environment and the states of Michigan and Wisconsin and especially the communities served by the SS Badger.

Dan Ludwig.

From: Oak Hill True Value
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/4/2013 10:22:20 PM
Subject: D.J.Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

TO; Assistant Attorney General

Dear Sir,

This E-mail is in support for the SS Badger and in favor of the consent decree to allow the Badger to continue sailing during the two year period for the retrofit to ash capture. Although the Badger is a much larger enterprise than my own business, in our current economy we need as many businesses as possible to continue to increase employment. The Badger employs many people and contributes much to the local economies of its port cities.

The dumping of ash from many coal vessels has been a fact of life on the lakes for over 100 years and the lakes seem to still be in very pristine shape. Two more sailing seasons (less than a full year for each season) of the Badger as they design and install ash capture would be a great investment for the communities served in Michigan and Wisconsin.

Sincerely,

Don Schere
Oak Hill True Value Hardware

From: Jack McC
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/4/2013 11:52:37 PM
Subject: Badger-Epa consent decree

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to voice my approval of the Badger-EPA Consent Decree, better known as, United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., DJ. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771.

I have spent many an evening welcoming the Badger back into Ludington. Not only is this a wondrous sight to behold, it also brings economic growth to the city of Ludington. I have talked with people who have come to Ludington for the first time and marvel at the wonderful city we have. Some of these same people stated that they would like to relocate to this wonderful city as a result of their short stay.

Those who travel on the ferry, both for pleasure and business, understand the economic value represented by the Badger as a means of transportation.

Such a historic vessel cannot be lost to history when there are ways and means to keep it functioning on a daily basis. With the approval of the Consent Decree, the Badger can continue to function as an important means of transportation and preserve the economic impact on its port cities for generations to come.

Respectfully submitted,
Jack McCreary

From: James Nickelson
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/7/2013 10:27:03 PM
Subject: D.J.Ref.No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Re: The Lake Michigan Car ferry, Badger, sailing out of Ludington, Michigan to Manitowoc, Wisconsin.

I would like to add my comments regarding the consent degree recently reached by the LMC group and the EPA. I've lived in Ludington all my 60 years and the car ferries have been part of Ludington's history for that long and for many years prior to that. The unemployment rate in our county, Mason, is above the national average and LMC provides much needed jobs, not only here in Ludington, but also in Manitowoc, WI. They not only provide the direct employment on the ship but many of our local motels and restaurants and other travel related industries depend on the people making the cross-lake trip on the Badger. And all those tourist and travel related firms provide employment to even more people to service those customers. Ludington and Manitowoc would suffer from many job losses if the Badger ceased to operate. The consent degree reached seems to be a reasonable compromise to the EPA's request that the Badger cease its discharge of coal slurry into Lake Michigan. It gives them 2 years to continue to operate while working on a solution to capture the coal ash. Significant penalties are involved if LMC does not have that method in place by 2015 so it will be in LMC's best interests to make that happen. To sum up, I am in favor of the agreement reached and are hopeful that it will be allowed to go into effect.

Thank you,

James Nickelson

[REDACTED]
Ludington, MI 49431

From: Mike Lenich
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/7/2013 5:49:11 PM
Subject: SS Badger Comment

Dear Department of Justice,

I am writing in support of the two year agreement between the EPA and the LMC regarding solving ash discharge from the SS Badger into Lake Michigan. Specifically I would like you to know some of the good things the SS Badger and LMC provide that I see as a Chicago to Ludington MI transplant.

- Providing transportation across Lake Michigan for those continuing on to Mayo Clinic...
For those of us in this part of the US, the SS Badger provides a welcoming reduction in drive time & stress when making the trek to the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, MN. The added anxiety of driving through Chicago during an already emotional laden trip is eliminated by LMC, the SS Badger, crew & staff. We are grateful for this option
- Reduced truck traffic...
During sailing season, the SS Badger reduces truck traffic through the Chicagoland area by accommodating these vehicles & their cargo. Most recently very large wind turbine parts are among the Badger's load. Livestock, timber, experimental airplanes, farm tractors, new fire trucks from Wisconsin... are among the Badger's daily carries. RV's, motorhomes, campers, tour & school buses are also frequent passengers
- History...
Timber from our area helped rebuild Chicago after the Great Fire. Shipping was always a mainstay in Ludington. Seven railroad car ferries were in operation at its height. The Badger is the sole survivor. LMC has made this history a part of their operational services. Children & adults are treated to this history's insights as part of their passage.
- Community...
The Badger links us to our neighbors in Manitowoc, WI. Passengers & travelers further of connections as they visit our towns and attractions. We share stories and amazing coincidences as we mingle. Folks line up at the Ludington Lighthouse & Breakwall to greet the Badger's return or wave goodbye on its departure. Children line the Pere Marquette harbor and watch in awe when the Badger drops anchor before them to pivot around & back into its dock (it is an amazing site, this huge ship steaming in, then skillfully swinging around to back into its dock).

Yes there are several things about the Badger's operation I wish would change - burning coal while historic is polluting. It's ash byproduct will thankfully be contained this sailing season. With this new agreement with the EPA, I am hopeful a practical solution will avail & this amazing part of history can continue to teach, reduce traffic/fuel consumption/stress, aid the ailing and put smiles on the many many faces of all the folks who greet or wave bon voyage to the Badger every day (and I would surely miss all those smiling faces aboard waving back as a bag piper plays on the aft deck).

Thank you.

Yours very truly,

Michael Lenich

[REDACTED]
Ludington, MI 49431-2298


[REDACTED] (cell/home)

From: Rick Hoffmann
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/7/2013 12:28:06 PM
Subject: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Dear Sirs,

I am relieved and happy to know our Badger will sailing for at least two more years and hopefully for many more to come. The question I have in the first place why is the Badger such an issue when the biggest culprits of polluting the Great Lakes are overlooked? Big industry pollute our air, lakes, rivers and land which always falls back into the Great Lakes with their waste. I say go after them and leave the Badger alone.

Best regards,
Richard A. Hoffmann


Ludington, MI 49431

From: John Leindecker
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/7/2013 11:45:13 AM
Subject: FW: Reference Case Number D.J Ref. NO. 90-5-1-1-10771


Case Name United States V Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., D/B/A Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

Please Allow the SS Badger to keep running with her current propulsion machinery and fuel source. As former longtime resident of Manitowoc WI and a current resident of western Michigan and an occasional SS Badger employee, I have seen daily the benefits of the SS Badger to our regional economy. Each passenger spends untold dollars in the port areas of Manitowoc WI and Ludington MI. The long term effects of having over 1000 people a day during the peak of the season ridding the SS Badger are much greater. Where else can you have that many people exposed to your community each day with the potential to come back, spend more dollars or perhaps locate a business in the area?

Without the SS Badger, the local economy will suffer greatly.

I encourage you to allow the SS Badger to continue to sail.

John Leindecker


Muskegon, MI 49444

From: Kate Hasenbank
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/7/2013 11:14:57 AM
Subject: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

To: Assistant Attorney General, Environment and Natural Resources Division

Case Name:

United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and S.S. Badger

I am writing to express my support for the SS Badger and hope the Consent Decree will be approved. The Badger is a unique link between historic and current transportation measures, and it provides an important economic and social service to western Michigan and eastern Wisconsin. However, I agree that they should continue to run but in a responsible manner as not to be disposing of ash into Lake Michigan.

Thank you for your consideration,

Kate Hasenbank
Allendale, MI

From: [REDACTED]
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/7/2013 10:32:49 AM
Subject: Reference Case Number: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Dear Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources
Division,

I am writing in regard to the pending case: United States v. Lake
Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry
Services and SS Badger

I have been traveling on the Badger round trip once or twice a year for
many years. My Dad had Alzheimer's and it was the best and easiest way
for me to travel alone to visit them.

I loved the history that goes with the Badger and look forward to the
trip every summer.

It is a huge part of our naval heritage.

Thank you much,

Sincerely,
Marcia A. Borell

From: Noreen Rybar
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/7/2013 10:28:47 AM
Subject: United States vs Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut Inc. DJ Ref No 90-5-1-1-10771

Good morning.

As 2nd home owners in Ludington, part of our ritual every night is to welcome visitors and the US Badger itself back to Ludington. It's an economic and historical treasure and we wanted to thank you for the opportunity to sail until 2014 under current requirements with the goal to stop discharge of coal ash into Lake Michigan.

Your problem solving skills and partnership with IMC is much appreciated. It's easy just to say "No", congratulations on a reasonable solution and the opportunity.

Sincerely,

Noreen Rybar and Karl Zarbo


Ludington, MI

From: Rleverich
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/7/2013 9:25:44 AM
Subject: Reference Case Number: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

The Consent Decree allowing the SS Badger is the right thing to do. It appears to be a good faith effort for all involved. At this point I think the EPA should allow the SS Badger to execute the plan and give any and all consideration to a National landmark/asset as part of America's culture.

Somehow, I do not see the Badger as a major contributor to the worry of plunging us all into darkness and causing respiratory distress beyond our ability to cope.

Richard W. Leverich

Oshkosh, WI

and

Bethlehem, PA



Sent from my iPad

From: WARD ALDRICH
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/6/2013 7:18:25 PM
Subject: The Badger

Ladies/Gentlemen:

In reference to: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771.

I am in support of the current ruling that allows the Badger to operate for the next two seasons under coal/steam power during which a retrofit to a more EPA-friendly fuel conversion can be funded.

This ship is an important artifact of Great Lakes history, and provides an important commercial service as well. It would be a tremendous loss should there be any disruption in the next two anticipated sailing seasons.

Ward and Ann Aldrich

From: [REDACTED]
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/6/2013 6:56:52 PM
Subject: Lake Michigan Carferry

Case #D.J.Ref No.90-1-1-10771 United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc.d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry services & SS Badger.

The Badger is a great ship and serves a necessary purpose. It crosses Lake Michigan in half the time it takes to drive around Lake Michigan. The small amount of ash that goes into the Lake cannot compare with the gas fumes from all the cars that would be on the road if the Badger could no longer run.

Sincerely,

Sally Barsley

[REDACTED]
Pentwater, Michigan 49449

From: karl larsen
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/6/2013 12:01:53 PM
Subject: Reference Case Number: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-1077 Please all SS Badger to continue service.
Thank you.

From: Jon Hasenbank
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/6/2013 11:34:33 AM
Subject: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

To: Assistant Attorney General, Environment and Natural Resources Division

Case Name:

United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and S.S. Badger

I am writing to express my support for the SS Badger and hope the Consent Decree will be approved. The Badger is a unique link between historic and current transportation measures, and it provides an important economic and social service to western Michigan and eastern Wisconsin. I have watched in awe as they back huge modular homes, wind turbine blades, and other large equipment onto the Badger. The environmental impact of the Badger is small compared to the myriad costs of moving these cars, people, and equipment around the lake by way of Chicago. Families with small children are particularly well served by the Badger, as a long road trip around the lake is not feasible in those cases, and of course the experience on the Badger is not only more feasible but downright enjoyable. For these reasons and more, I strongly urge you to take the necessary steps to allow the Badger to continue to operate as a passenger and automobile ferry across Lake Michigan for as long as it is economically feasible for them to do so.

Thank you for your consideration,

Jon Hasenbank
Allendale, MI

From: Carol Morava
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
CC: sbegnoche@ludingtondailynews.com
Sent: 4/6/2013 11:33:49 AM
Subject: United States v.Lake Michigan Trans-lake Shortcut, Inc.,D.J.Ref.No.90-5-1-1-10771

Assistant Attorney General,

This e-mail is sent to voice our total support for the consent agreement between the EPA and the owners of the Lake Michigan car ferry.

The SS Badger is not only an economic engine for Ludington, Michigan and Manitowoc, Wisconsin and an employer of over 250 people, it is also a National historic treasure which must be preserved.

Unlike its competitor in Muskegon, Michigan, the SS Badger has never received federal funding, runs on a much more predictable schedule and provides a truly unique experience for the vacationing public.

In addition, oversize cargo such as wind power assemblies are regularly shipped via the SS Badger saving a great deal of time and money.

This consent agreement allows the Lake Michigan Car Ferry Company to convert to a non polluting operation by 2015 and should be allowed to be implemented.

Thank you.

Yours truly,

Carol and John Morava
Toledo, Ohio and
Ludington, Michigan

From: Chuck Yearn
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
CC: Charles F Yearn
Sent: 4/6/2013 11:29:25 AM
Subject: Badger

Mrs. Charles Yearn
P.O. Box 206
Lake Leelanau, Michigan 49653

April 5, 2013

Assistant Attorney General
Environmental and Natural Resources Division

Re: Case Number: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Case Name: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut. Inc., d/b/a Lake
Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

e-mailed to: pubcomment-ees.enrd@usdoj.gov

I would like to have the SS Badger continue it's crossing between Ludington and Manitowoc, Wis. In our case it keeps our family close, to be able to see our grand-children. Without it, we and thousands of other cars and trucks will have to circle Lake Michigan, either to the north or to the south using hours of time and high quantities of fuel resulting in greater air pollution. Please allow the Badger to continue to operate.

Sincerely, Grandma (Barbara Yearn)

From: [REDACTED]
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/6/2013 11:06:01 AM
Subject: D.J.Ref.No.90-5-1-1-10771

To whom it may concern:

I am writing to ask that the consent decree with Lake Michigan Carferry and the SS Badger is approved as proposed. Although I have serious doubts that the Badger is actually hurting Lake Michigan, politically it has become an issue due to Senator Durbin and the Lake Express. I hope that the interests of both port cities and the employees of the Badger are taken into account when the decision is finalized and that the Badger can continue as a convenient means of transportation eliminating many miles of driving through Chicago.

Sincerely,

Evelyn Scherer

Unknown

From: Dave [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, April 06, 2013 9:31 AM
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Subject: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

ATTENTION:

Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division
Case Name: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc d/b/a Lake Michigan
Carferry Services and SS Badger

My thoughts and opinion.

With forty eight years in the pollution control business and many installations of boilers and a lot of them being wood fired boilers and all the stack tests that go along with it I find letting this go on is a disgrace to our state and nation to let this company continue this is wrong.

UP the stack or in the lake what difference does it make pollution is pollution. With all the programs to clean up the great lakes and our air quality and to let this go on is WRONG.

The owners use the Badger for business to turn a buck just like any other business make them play by the same rules and under no circumstances should the repairs be funded by government or tax payers.

If I personally am in breathing distance of the exhaust stack which has been up to a mile or further it will give me a sore throat within minutes I have to go inside. It destroys my personal property and eats the chrome of my autos in time. We keep a boat in a local marina and it destroys the glass on the boat and eats the finish off of stainless steel snaps.

In closing he tells the town people and the media the stack exhausts is nothing more than nuisance dust and it passes all stack tests. Once over heard conversation about all the boaters in his marina bitching about it, that they where like monkeys given enough time they would forget about it. Also appears he does little to no maintenance on it last year his supply loading ramp caved in from rot and still has not repaired it. Amazing some one was not killed.

Early spring summer the Badger runs once daily main summer twice daily late summer early fall once daily the only time he leaves his own boat in the marina is when its running twice daily. Reason ??? he don't want his own property destroyed.

The figures he says it brings to the community I would have to wonder how he comes up with it.

PLEASE PLEASE PLEASE Make them fix it stack and lake discharge or shut them down And don't make the tax payers pay for it they our no different than any other business Make them comply.

Thank you concerned citizen.

From: Mary Veldkamp
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/5/2013 9:37:27 PM
Subject: United States v.Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc.90-5-1-1-10771

To Whom It May Concern:

With great reluctance, I approve of the Consent Decree concerning the car ferry Badger. My reluctance stems from the fact that the last coal fired steamer in the United States will no longer be able to use a technology that is an important part of Great Lakes history. A piece of living history will be forever changed. If, however, the Consent Decree allows the Badger a little more time to comply with the EPA's demands and allows it to continue to operate, I begrudgingly support it.

The Badger has been proven to dump a limited amount of ash into Lake Michigan. As a life long resident of Michigan who loves Lake Michigan's beaches, I certainly do not want to endanger our state's greatest asset. The effects of the Badger's ash, however, pales in comparison to the effects of pollution from Chicago area industries and run-off from farms and golf courses. Ash in the water is a small price to pay for many environmental benefits: reducing air and noise pollution from traffic driving around the bottom of the lake; getting wind turbines across the lake; getting oversize trucks and high risk vehicles off the roads; saving on wear and tear on roads and bridges; and allowing citizens to get out on the lake and appreciate its beauty.

The Badger has been the lifeblood of at least two communities in states where jobs are hard to come by. Ludington, Michigan and Manitowoc, Wisconsin have depended on the Badger for jobs for decades. Both towns are very proud of being identified with the Badger. Their economies depend a great deal on the influx of visitors. The Badger has also provided jobs to coal miners in far away states. Its need for coal has provided jobs to American workers in America. The Badger, in its own small but significant way, has reduced our dependence on foreign oil.

The state of Michigan needs the continued uninterrupted operation of the Badger. If the Consent Decree allows that to happen, then I support it. The fine, however, should be waived in view of the millions of dollars that will be spent by LMC to comply with the EPA's demands.

Have you ever traveled to Michigan or Wisconsin and sailed across Lake Michigan? In view of the great effect of your decision on the lives of so many people, perhaps you should take a ride, before the Badger is just another curiosity of the past.

Sincerely,

Mary B. Veldkamp

Grand Rapids, MI 49504

From: Cynthia Hooper
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/5/2013 7:16:52 PM
Subject: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

First of all, we are greatly in favor of any actions that can keep the SS Badger operating. The ash that is being dumped per the EPA is an inert by-product that really is not adding any measurable pollution to the Great Lakes. If there is a method of containing this ash, that is economically feasible, it would be great if the SS Badger could do so, but we do not believe that it should be done at the detriment of the SS Badger's operation. The esteemed Senator Dick Durbin from Illinois claims that the SS Badger is the greatest polluter of the Great Lakes. It appears the Senator has not noted all the pollution coming from Chicago in the Great Lakes. We hope the SS Badger will be running for many, many more years as it is a great boon to the economy for both Michigan and Wisconsin as well as being the last operating steam ship in America.

Thank you for allowing us to comment. Thomas & Cynthia Hooper

From: Brenda
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/5/2013 5:40:52 PM
Subject: Badger

I would hope that are Ludington badger could continue to serve our Ludington area. I believe that it helps the summer economy and it is a piece of history we can never get back.

Sent from my iPad

From: Benjamin Veldkamp
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/5/2013 3:54:19 PM
Subject: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc. 90-5-1-1-10771

Dear Sir or Madam:

I recommend approval of the Consent Decree lodged in this case. While I do not entirely agree with the Consent Decree's terms, it appears to be the best way to ensure that the Badger can operate in 2013 and beyond, which is in the public's best interest.

I commend LMC for investing significant time, energy, and money over the last five years to preserve the Badger. Many companies would have ended service when faced with the obstacles caused by the EPA's changed stance on vessel discharges. LMC's extensive efforts to preserve the Badger should give both you and the Court a strong indication of the Badger's great value to the communities that she serves, as well as to the broader Great Lakes region. The Badger's many benefits include:

- Providing a shortcut for autos and trucks, including oversize truck freight, such as wind turbines
- Reducing auto and truck pollution
- Reducing highway congestion and accidents, as well as wear-and-tear on infrastructure
- Reducing noise pollution on both land (car and truck noise) and water (steam engines are quieter than diesels)
- Reducing our dependence on foreign oil while using a plentiful domestic resource mined and transported by American workers
- Injecting millions of dollars annually into the economies of Ludington, Michigan, and Manitowoc, Wisconsin
- Providing hundreds of direct jobs and hundreds more indirect jobs
- Allowing the public to experience a piece of living history
- Preserving rare technology
- Serving as a source of civic pride and identity

Because of these many benefits, it is vital that the Badger continue to operate without interruption. At present, this Consent Decree is the best way to achieve that objective, so I urge its approval.

This Consent Decree more than adequately protects the EPA's interest. The EPA gets what it wants: no more ash discharge after 2014. LMC, on the other hand, must pay a fine and spend millions of dollars on new engine parts and an ash retention system that will increase operating costs while reducing carrying capacity. This comes after LMC has already spent more than one million dollars exploring alternative technologies, hiring counsel to help navigate the EPA's procedural quagmire, and defending the Badger against unproven accusations that she was causing environmental damage.

Ideally, the Badger should have received an individual vessel discharge permit that would have allowed her to operate as is for the rest of her career. Unfortunately, that is unrealistic given our current national environmental paranoia and our current presidential administration's vendetta against coal as a fuel source. Hopefully, this Consent Decree clears the way for the Badger to pursue National Historic Landmark status, so she can be preserved as the last coal-fired steamer in the United States and can be protected from future changes in environmental regulations.

I very much doubt that Lake Michigan's water quality will significantly improve after 2014 because I very much doubt that the Badger's ash discharge has ever actually harmed Lake Michigan. But if this Consent Decree stops the EPA from badgering the Badger into extinction, then I can live with it, and hopefully, LMC will be able to also.

Therefore, I recommend approval of the Consent Decree.

Respectfully submitted,
Benjamin M. Veldkamp
Grand Rapids, Michigan

From: Sara Ewing
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/5/2013 2:47:10 PM
Subject: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to express my support for the consent decree for Lake Michigan Carferry, the SS Badger. The Badger plays a vital role in the economy of my hometown of Ludington, MI, as well as the Badger's other port of Manitowoc, WI. If the Badger was not able to sail for a period of time, or shut down entirely, I can only imagine the dramatic effect it would bring to our towns. The hotels, restaurants, gas stations, and small businesses visited by the Badger's thousands of passengers each year would be hit hard. After the initial hit, there is a trickle-down affect. My husband owns a small home improvement store in Ludington, which you normally wouldn't think would be affected Badger passenger travel. However, the same hotels, restaurants, etc. that would be affected are his customers. If they aren't bringing in revenue, they certainly aren't going to be spending money within the community. In addition, if the 200 or so Badger employees are laid off, this hurts our local businesses as well.

I am afraid for my beloved town of Ludington if this consent decree is not approved.

Please approve this consent decree: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Case Name:

United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and S.S. Badger

Sincerely,
Sara Ewing
Ludington, MI

From: pete [REDACTED]
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/5/2013 12:55:04 PM
Subject: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Address to:

Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division

Case Name: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

I and my family have traveled on the Badger, the Spartan and the City of Midland since the 1950s.

In my view it is very wrong for this company to be dumping in the lake, which they have been doing for decades.

My family and I will not travel on the Badger until they fix the problem

From: Murphy [REDACTED]
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/5/2013 10:50:28 AM
Subject: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Dear Sir

Although I am pleased that a tentative agreement was reached, I believe that after 100 years or more of great coal powered vessels traveling the Great Lakes with No obvious deterioration the there water quality, nor to the wildlife living in or around the lakes, the minimal amount of coal ash discharged in such a short season from only 1 steamship would not effect the eco-system .

With the importance of the SS Badger to the economies of both port cities, I hope that this agreement requiring ash capture within 2 yrs will be approved.

sincerely an SS Badger fan
Tim Murphey

From: [REDACTED]
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/5/2013 9:51:09 AM
Subject: U.S.S. Badger, Ref # D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

April 5, 2013

To Whom It May Concern:

I have been a Michigan resident for the past 17 years, however, my parents still live in Wisconsin where I grew up. As a result, I typically go across Lake Michigan at least twice a year, always on the Badger. I have ridden this old ferry ship probably 35 times and the trip is always a thrill for my family and me. The ship is both beautiful and unique, a time capsule into the past. We like to rent the staterooms, virtually unchanged in 60 years and really enjoy staying aboard overnight in the Fall when they offer the "Boatel" as crossings drop to once a day. What other ship has brass skeleton keys to their staterooms?

When we go during the high season, we always stay at local Luddington hotels and eat at local restaurants the night before as we take the early morning ferry service. We usually strike up conversations with many people during our stay who are similarly travelling on the Badger. The ferry dock is always bustling with passenger traffic, passengers, crew and lots of oversized and heavy trucking, usually carrying substantial loads that are hard to believe fit into a ship and which I can't imagine travelling around the freeways of Chicago.

If you choose to shut down this beautiful and historic old ship before they can arrange the resources to change from coal to another fuel source, the impact would be quite large. Luddington business would suffer, hotels would close and hundreds of people would be unemployed. Thousands of people like me would instead have to drive hundreds of extra miles around Chicago wasting tons of petroleum and all the associated pollution. Michigan and those travellers passing through would miss the opportunity to enjoy a four hour cruise that harkens back to the days of World War II, in those times there were once many mighty steamship ferries like the Badger, which I believe was built back in 1953. Furthermore, those trucks that use the ferry would have to haul these huge oversize loads of all kinds around Chicago's freeway system, another gazillion tons of petroleum burned and all the associated traffic congestion trying travellers' patience and burning even more fuel.

I am imploring you to grant the two year extension, they are not asking for a permanent free pass. There just aren't any more ships like this one left operating in the entire country. I believe this is the last one, I know it is the last remaining coal fired passenger steamship left in this country.

Thank you for your consideration.

Philip Durocher, MD
Clarkston, MI
[REDACTED]

From: Barbara
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/5/2013 9:48:24 AM
Subject: Badger comments

I would like to comment in support of the operation of the SS Badger. I've traveled on the Badger many times over the years. The experience itself was wonderful, and the savings in time and cost to me in comparison to driving around the lake was immeasurable.

The amount of pollution discharged by the Badger is minimal in comparison to some of the other polluting companies around the lake, including in Illinois. Those should be cleaned up before the Badger is forced to stop running.

The Badger will not last forever. Eventually, it will be too old to run. Hopefully by then another large ship can take its place.

I wonder at the competition, are they behind a lot of the push to end the Badger. Please let it not be so.

Barb Young

From: Barbara
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/5/2013 9:43:15 AM
Subject: SSBadger ludington michigan comments

MY COMMENT IS IN SUPPORT OF THE OPERATION OF THE SS BADGER , THE BADGER WILL NOT LAST FOREVER AND WHAT EVER IMPACT IT HAS HAD ON THE ENVIRONMENT IS MINIMAL WHEN YOU CONSIDER AIR POLLUTION AND MASSIVE OIL SPILLS OF RECENT HISTORY, THE MONEY PUT INTO OUR ECONOMY AND THE JOBS RESULTING FROM THE OPERATION OF THE BADGER HAS TO BE TAKEN INTO CONSIDERATION , I AM SURE MORE POLLUTION IS CAUSED BY LEAVES FALLING INTO THE LAKE AND BREAKING DOWN, IT IS ALL A PART OF THE NATURAL PROCESS THE EARTH DOES A GOOD JOB FO TAKING CARE OF THINGS THANK YOU

DAVID M YOUNG LUDINGTON MICHIGAN

From: Grant_Kriz [REDACTED]
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/8/2013 8:51:16 AM
Subject: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Assistant Attorney General
Environmental and Natural Resources Division

I am in support of the Consent Decree allowing the SS Badger to continue operations for the next two years. The boat and it's service is an integral part of our community and valued service. In addition, I do not believe the coal ash is having any environmental impact on Lake Michigan.

To that effect, I do not believe that the boat needs to change its coal ash discharge system in two years. Where is the data, not opinion, that shows this ash in these small quantities is an environmental issue? Let the boat continue to operate.

Thanks,
Grant Kriz
Area resident.

From: Bunny Para
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/8/2013 9:32:00 AM
Subject: The Badger

i believe the Consent Decree should be approved.

The Badger is a treasure, linking two great states.

Please consider passing this with your approval.

Thank you,
Barbara Para

From: Tom Ammann
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/8/2013 9:33:37 AM
Subject: car ferry

Please approve the decree to retain the ferry, thank you. Tom Ammann , Lakeview, MI

From: Jack L Johnson
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/8/2013 9:34:23 AM
Subject: The S.S. Badger
Attachments: Jack L Johnson.vcf

I want to express my support for the continued operation of the SS Badger across Lake Michigan. It is a useful and economically important service, especially so because it saves fuel and time and the horrors of having to drive through or around Chicago just to get to the eastern shore of Lake Michigan. It would be a tragedy if the service were to end.

Jack L Johnson



Brown Deer WI 53209

From: [REDACTED]
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/8/2013 9:36:08 AM
Subject: ss badger

I strongly support the SS Badger and their attempts to stay running on the Great Lakes. We cannot afford to lose, in many ways, this classic ship and all it means to many cities along the lakes.

From: Tom Postmus
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/8/2013 9:38:21 AM
Subject: THE BADGER

IT IS INPERITIVE THAT THIS SHIP KEEPS SAILING.ITS IS THE LIFE BLOOD OF LUDINGTON AND MANITOWAOC
TOURIST BUSINESS.JUST BECAUSE A ELECTED OFFICAL FROM THE CHICAGO AREA THINKS HE KNOWS IT ALL.
PLEASE GIVE THE OWNERS OF THE BADGER A FAIR TIME TO MAKE THE CHANGE OVER AND KEEP RUNNING THIS
BEAUTIFUL TOURIST AND FREIGHT SHIP.

THANKING YOU FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION.
TOM POSTMUS
GRAND RAPIDS MI

From: Bruce
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/8/2013 9:39:05 AM
Subject: 90-5-1-1-10771

We have used the car ferry several times while crossing the U.S. on car trips. It is an important service for both the local folks and travelers such as we. We firmly encourage you to approve the Consent Decree. To do otherwise would be a huge disservice putting lots of folks out of work and creating a tremendous burden for those who use the ferry for business trips and commuting between Wisconsin and Michigan.

Bruce B. Clark
[REDACTED]

Hopkinton, MA 01748

From: Lori Malmstrom
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/8/2013 9:41:50 AM
Subject: D. J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Dr Sir,

The S.S. Badger is a vital part of our Great Lakes tourism and should continue for many generations to come. It's one of the last bits of true boating history left for family enjoyment and adventure and it needs to be preserved.

Thank you

Sent from my iPad

From: charlie baumann
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/8/2013 9:45:21 AM
Subject: D.J. ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771 SS Badger

Assistant Attorney General, Environment and Natural Resources Division

Case Number:

D. J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Hello

I have used the SS Badger in the past and intend to use it in the future.

It cuts our travel time to visit family in WI in half.

For the past 50+ years the SS Badger has been using this and similar routes across Lake MI.
How many ppm of Hg is being added to the lake by the Badger? Is coal the only pollutant adding Hg?

We have a much bigger problem looming, and it's the Asian Carp.

The damage this species could to the Great Lakes far more that the SS Badger could ever do.

I see priorities here. Let tackle the big ones first.

Thank you

Charles Baumann
Traverse City, MI

Address to:

Assistant Attorney GeneralReferenceCase Name:

Email to: pubcomment-ees.enrd@usdoj.gov

From: john mintier
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/8/2013 9:45:36 AM
Subject: Approve the Badger Consent decree

The S. S. Badger is a historic treasure and the Assent Decree should be approved. The pollution is negligible compared to the historic value, and it saves a great deal of truck pollution by it's transport of the wind blades.

John F mintier

[REDACTED]
Evanston, Il 60201

My Sen Durbin does not know what he is voting against.

From: George Bain
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/8/2013 9:46:00 AM
Subject: SS Badger

This is to request continued service of the SS Badger across Lake Michigan. Ref. D. J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771.
thank you.

George Bain [REDACTED] Plymouth Minnesota 55442

From: Randy Peterson
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/8/2013 9:46:00 AM
Subject: D. J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Assistant Attorney General, Environment and Natural Resources Division:

United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

We are residents of western-northern Michigan and I can't believe there is an issue about this car ferry. This service provides a valuable transit service, that saves commuters and vacation travelers considerable time along with fuel costs. It never ceases to amaze me that the financial impacts can not and/or will not be included in the EPA reviews. The concern of soot fallout into Lake Michigan is so minor compared to the loss of the last steam powered ferry is not worthy of any discussion. Please don't let this remaining piece of American History die.

Edwin R. Peterson
Honor, Michigan 4940

From: John Stedge
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/8/2013 9:47:32 AM
Subject: D. J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

D. J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

I would like to express my support for the consent decree involving LMC and the SS Badge in the case of United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger. I think that the decree should be approved.

Thank you

John Stedge


Kalamazoo, MI 49009

From: John Konkel
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/8/2013 9:49:03 AM
Subject: D. J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

TO: Assistant Attorney General, Environment and Natural Resources Division

RE: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

**I wish to support the continuation of the S.S. Badger Car Ferry service.
I have used this ferry over many years and it is a great service transporting citizens between
Manitowoc, WI and Ludington, MI.
Please support efforts to ensure this fine service continues.**

Regards,

John Konkel

--

John Konkel
Konkel Associates International LLC
3604 Wintergreen Ct.
Eau Claire, Wisconsin 54701 USA
Email: john@konkels.com
Phone: 715-864-4944
Skype: jkonkel

From: TT
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/8/2013 9:49:23 AM
Subject: SS Badger

So, Illinois is allowed to let Asian Carp escape into Lake Michigan but dumping ash into the vastness of the lake is forbidden?
Makes no common sense.

From: Melvin C. Hunt
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/8/2013 9:48:29 AM
Subject: D. J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Case Name:

United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

Melvin Hunt here, from Kansas.

We have used this Lake Michigan CarFerry numerous times to get from family in central Michigan to family in central Wisconsin. It is a tremendous PUBLIC SERVICE.

The alternative is to drive around the southern shores of Lake Michigan and through Chicago. This trip takes longer, is equally costly, much more inconvenient, and is certainly more dangerous by car than on the SS Badger. Another alternative is the ferry near Milwaukee, but this too is expensive, less reliable, and is too far south.

Bottom line is that we support continued operation of the SS Badger Car Ferry Service and we encourage EPA to allow this to happen. Please listen to the people it affects and had economic impact for!

MC Hunt

████████████████████
Manhattan Kansas

66502

From: [REDACTED]
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/8/2013 9:54:08 AM
Subject: D. J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

To whom it may concern;

It was my pleasure to cross the Lake on the Badger to Michigan last summer. I joke with others, that this was my first cruise on a cruise ship. In all actuality, this was a cruise on a cruise ship. Many can not afford to take a cruise on an ocean liner. The Badger gives families in the tri-state areas an opportunity to see what it is like to cross a large body of water on a ship. There are also many vacationers traveling the country who take advantage of this service. I will not get into specifics, because I am certain that every option has been considered to keep this ship operational. What a very sad day it will be if families no longer have the opportunity to give their children the experience that comes from riding on this ship across lake Michigan.

Sincerely;

Larry Stees

[REDACTED]
Freeport, IL 61032
[REDACTED]

From: Greg Schmid
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/8/2013 9:59:21 AM
Subject: D. J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771 Support the consent decree

Case Name:

United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

Dear Assistant Attorney General, Environment and Natural Resources Division,

My family supports the consent degree, and asks that it be approved. The Badger saves time, money, and even lives of northern Michigan travelers. We are ill equipped to safely travel through Chicago, and that is a fact. We travel to the Dakotas at least twice every year, and we never miss a chance to take the ferry. It has become a tradition for 4 generations of our families, and would be sorely missed if it discontinued.

Thank You,
Greg Schmid - Attorney
Direct Cell (989) 239-9000
Office/Message: (866) 373-0685
Direct Line (989) 799-4642

From: Peter Vander Veld
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/8/2013 10:05:17 AM
Subject: D. J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Attn: Assistant Attorney General, Environment and Natural Resources Division

Re: **Case Name:** United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger.

The SS Badger is an operating museum ship demonstrating obsolete marine propulsion machinery. The impact on the environment by this single vessel is minimal to null. Further, there have been no additional vessels employing similar propulsion machinery launched on the Great Lakes since SS Badger entered service in the 1950's and it is virtually certain that none will be introduced in the future.

I am therefore adding my "voice" to those of other supporters in requesting that the "Consent Degree" be approved allowing continued operation of this unique and historic vessel.

Peter Vander Veld
Malvern, PA 19355
[REDACTED]

From: Beryl Striewski
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/8/2013 10:08:41 AM
Subject: badger
Attachments: farm.jpg

i would like to see the badger comply with all environmental regulations.

thankyou,

beryl

Beryl Striewski

bstriewski@me.com

Beryl Striewski Photography

traverse city 231.933.3971

houston 713.927.5931

bstriewski@mac.com

www.berylstriewski.com

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From: Trobaugh, Phillip (DEED)
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
CC: ealake@hotmail.com
Sent: 4/8/2013 10:09:36 AM
Subject: D. J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger
SS Badger Consent decree

To: Assistant Attorney General, Environment and Natural Resources Division

Dear sir or madam:

I am writing in strong support of the consent decree that would allow the SS Badger carferry to continue operating. My family lives in Minnesota and we travel several times a year to the northern lower peninsula of Michigan, to visit my wife's family. We have been loyal and longtime customers of the ferry. It significantly reduces the amount of time we spend driving, by 6 hours. This cuts down on our fuel costs and is safer as we avoid tired driving and is one less car on the road. I am aware, through many years of travel, of the positive impact the ferry has on the local communities of Manitowoc and Ludington. For example, we always make a stop at the family-owned bakery in Ludington, McDonald's is its name, that is right off the port. The ferry promotes tourism between the two states and the upper Midwest. The ferry is an important aspect in our lives, allowing us to see family more frequently.

I strongly urge that the carferry be allowed continued operation.

Respectfully submitted,

Phillip J. Trobaugh
Unemployment Law Judge
Minnesota Dept. of Employment
& Economic Development
651-259-7254 (o)
651-284-2520 (f)

Phillip.trobaugh@state.mn.us
www.uimn.org
Public Notary

From: Joe Hall
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
CC: info@ssbadger.com
Sent: 4/8/2013 10:09:47 AM
Subject: D. J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

To whom it may concern,

I've grown up on Lake Michigan avoiding the S. S. Badger coming as we were fishing near Ludington. I live in Colorado now, and on a trip back to Michigan our way put Lake Michigan directly in our path. I personally was overjoyed that the ship was still running, not only to save the time and fuel needed to drive around the lake and through Chicago yet another time, but I was also glad to share the experience of the crossing with my family. It was one of the highpoints of our trip.

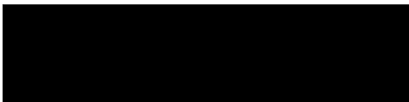
The S.S. Badger is an operating piece of the history of transportation on the Great Lakes; it would be a shame to see it pass completely into history. As an instructor and a Lead Safe Renovator, having to find acceptable processes to upgrade Historical buildings to make them more energy efficient and continue their useful life, one would think the same effort could go into maintaining this historic vessel.

Where is all this clean coal I keep hearing about in the energy industry?

In closing please take some time and make an effort to explore options to keep this ship in operation.

Sincerely,

Joe Hall



MICHAEL ROSTER

[REDACTED], Pasadena, CA 91105
[REDACTED] | [REDACTED]

April 8, 2013

Assistant Attorney General
U.S. DOJ - ENRD
P.O. Box 7611
Washington, DC 20044-7611

Re: D. J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771; U.S. v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

Ladies and Gentlemen:

I am a strong supporter of environmental protection and have been involved in a number of historical preservation efforts around the country. Fifty years ago when I was growing up in Chicago and my grandmother had a summer home in Michigan, we took the Badger or the Spartan across Lake Michigan on a regular basis and I took the Badger two years ago to avoid a long drive while sightseeing in the Midwest and in order to save on gas.

I believe it is very important to keep the Badger functioning:

- The historic significance of the last of the major railroad, truck, and car ferry services cannot be discounted. This used to be the primary way of travel. My grandfather, for example, used to take coal-fired passenger boats every weekend between Chicago and Holland, Michigan. The ability to show ongoing generations this type of travel, just like the preservation of historically significant railroad locomotives and historic aircraft, is important to our heritage.
- A reasonable approach is being developed as to the handling of the Badger's coal waste. As the Department of Justice well knows, our federal and state governments have made major accommodations to preserve other historically significant sites and activities. The same accommodations should be allowed here, for all the same reasons.
- There is significant benefit to everyone when trucks and cars are kept off our clogged Interstate and other highways. We're about to spend billions here in California to try to implement high speed rail as another way to get cars off the road. In the Lake Michigan situation, it is a private entity that is trying to accomplish the same goal.

I strongly support maintaining the Lake Michigan Carferry Services and believe the federal, state and local governments have an obligation to support these efforts as well.

Sincerely,

Michael Roster

From: gayle clouse
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/8/2013 10:15:35 AM
Subject: SS Badger... floating history!

Please let us keep our single remaining piece of history, floating on our great lakes. I want my grandsons to sail on it and they are too small now (3yrs & NB). The ash is not the issue - it is the politics that stink! Save our Ship!

Sincerely,
Gayle Clouse

From: [REDACTED]
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/8/2013 10:18:33 AM
Subject: (no subject)

Please approve the consent decree for the S.S. Badger. It is a major employer, a piece of history, and of great convenience for those of us who have family who live across the big lake. Thank you. George Gregory, [REDACTED] Traverse City, MI 49684

From: Rick and Janet
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/8/2013 10:19:08 AM
Subject: Assistant Attorney General, Environment and Natural Resources Division D. J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Dear Assistant Attorney General,

I'm writing on behalf of myself and my wife as we are very concerned about the SS Badger. This ship is one of the last great Ladies on our Great Lakes.

I do understand about the dumping of ash, however, here in Petoskey, just one small town of many that continue to dump tons of road salt through the catch basins which are connected to storm drains all routed to Bear River that flows into Little Traverse Bay on Lake Michigan.

This has been this way since all of my 60 years of living and working here in Petoskey. Yet because of the enormous expense of capturing all of this water and stopping it from flowing into the Great Lakes would be 100 million if not more. To big a problem to fail I guess.

I have brought this up as the Badger does have competition as I'm sure you are aware of. To put the Badger on moth balls and put many out of jobs, and frankly there are many tourists that prefer this type of vessel, also it is a cheaper way of crossing.

Janet and I as tax payers are also in favor of protecting the Great Lakes, and we commend you for looking into the impact this vessel may have on Lake Michigan. I believe as a Scuba Diver for over 12 years in this area, now retired, I have seen the difference in quality, mainly the destructive Zebra mussels, and now the Asian Carp. You do not see the Badger bringing in this type of pollutants. We urge you to keep this old gal afloat and to continue service on the Great Lakes.

I have no doubt that there are many more problems that must be much higher on the list of pollutants other than this Great Ship. I find it amazing that since the (new) vessel was put into operation that the attack on the Badger came to light. In my opinion this is simply a ploy of the (other) ferry that is in service and would like to be the monopoly of the passage to Wisconsin and Michigan.

Please consider the impact of the jobs and the tourist attraction and the good people that rely on this Great Ship and its services, there must be an intelligent solution to keep her afloat and in service. In closing, My wife and I are in no way affiliated, nor do we know the owners and operators of the SS Badger, however it is clear that this has come to light since a new ferry service came into service. We truly feel that decommissioning this Great Ship would be a mistake in so many ways. There must be a Grandfather clause in there somewhere.

Thanks So Much for your time and consideration;

Richard and Janet Moore
Petoskey, Michigan 49770
Springvale, Twp

From: Shoemaker, Susan
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/8/2013 10:20:09 AM
Subject: D. J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Dear Assistant Attorney General, Environment and Natural Resources Division:
RE: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

I believe that the SS Badger Lake Michigan carferry is such a valuable asset to both Michigan and Wisconsin for many people, tourists and businesses. My family & I live in Wisconsin and the rest of our family lives in Michigan and we all use the carferry for making trips to see each other. It's a huge convenience, as we are all very busy, and using the ferry makes it so much easier to see each other, far more than we would if we had to drive it without the ferry. I truly believe the Consent Decree should be approved and certainly hope it will be.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Susan K. Shoemaker
414 [REDACTED]

From: Last, Robert
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/8/2013 10:23:39 AM
Subject: D. J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771
Attachments: image001.gif

April 8, 2013

Ms. Ignacio S. Moreno, Esq.
Assistant Attorney General
U.S. DOJ - ENRD
P.O. Box 7611
Washington, DC 20044-7611

Re: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

Dear Ms. Moreno:


The SS Badger has been an intrinsic part of the Great Lakes summer experience since I was a child. For many years, children, many of whom today are parents and even grand-parents have, together with their families, enjoyed the experience of ferry travel across Lake Michigan, enabled by the SS Badger.

While the goal of preventing the discharge of coal ash slurry into the Great Lake should be an environmental imperative, it is my belief that we must balance ideology and reason in implementing such policies. It is my belief that the Consent Decree that has been filed in this case provides and ensures this balanced approach and provides an acceptable resolution for both parties that will allow continued operation of the Badger while ensuring continued progress toward the elimination of coal ash slurry deposits and protection of one of our countries most significant natural resources. As such, please consider this letter of support and my request and recommendation that the pending Consent Decree in this case be accepted and entered, as currently drafted.

It would be a true shame if thousands of young children were unable to experience travel on the Great Lakes, as I did (and continue to). It is equally important that we maintain and protect the Great Lakes environment for future generations to enjoy.

Sincerely,



Robert J. Last


Lake Orion, MI 48360

From: Carolyn
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/8/2013 10:26:48 AM
Subject: Michigan Carferry

I support the agreement made with the EPA and the Michigan Carferry, the Badger. I have enjoyed rides on the ferry since my childhood. I would like to see this service at these ports continued.

Carolyn Schmidt


Grand Marais, MN 55604


From: Don Coates
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/8/2013 10:31:31 AM
Subject: D J Ref No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Assistant Attorney General
Environmental and Water Division

Re: US vs Michigan Trans-Link Shortcut Inc Et al

Dear Sir or Ms:

We support the application for an extension of the operation for the SS Badger. From an environmental viewpoint the ship's operation is minimal compared to the economic and historic importance of this vessel.

We are tourists who used the service when visiting Manitowoc to purchase a vessel for sale. The SS Badger is a gem which needs to be preserved in its present operating state. Thankyou!

Don and Helen Coates, [REDACTED] Bracebridge ON. P1P1V8

From: Barbara Dibble
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/8/2013 10:33:24 AM
Subject: P.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Dear Sirs,

I am writing in support of the Badger Car Ferry out of Ludington MI into Manitowoc WI. We live in Michigan and have family in Minnesota so take regular ferry rides to see one another. I can't imagine this ferry not operating on this important route. We are in total support of whatever is necessary to keep this resource in our lives. Also, loss of the Badger would be extremely devastating to the communities that it serves on each side of the lake. The Lake Express Car Ferry out of Muskegon is nice but cannot go out in rough weather and can't take very many vehicles. Barbara and Dan Dibble, Greenville MI

From: Mark Williamson
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/8/2013 10:38:00 AM
Subject: S.S. Badger

Please DO NOT let the EPA continue this harassment of the S.S. Badger! This is a very viable and valuable asset for the States of Wisconsin and Michigan. I will not be able to continue doing business between the two states if the Badger is shut down! If the EPA wants to attack something about Lake Michigan, how about finding out where all of the water is disappearing to! How are the Cities of Milwaukee and Chicago being allowed to steal this valuable resource!!!

Best Regards,
Mark Williamson
GLOCK LE District Manager
Wisconsin/Michigan/Chicago Area (Cook, Lake, Will & Du Page Co's)
P.O. Box 503
Antigo, WI 54409
Mark.Williamson@glock.us
715-610-1284 (c)
715-627-7344 (o)

When the people fear the government, there is tyranny. When the government fears the people, there is liberty.

Thomas Jefferson

-----Disclaimer-----

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From: Mark Dulmes
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/8/2013 10:42:57 AM
Subject: D. J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

I support the continued operation of this ship. The environmental impact is insignificant.

Mark Dulmes


Oostburg, WI 53070

From: Tom
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/8/2013 10:51:25 AM
Subject: D. J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

To the Assistant Attorney General, Environment and Natural Resources Division,

I feel the EPA should approve the Consent Decree being considered for the S. S. Badger. The changes that are being considered to modify the Badger to meet EPA standards are significant. The proposed modifications to the Badger will require more time than has been allowed. As a frequent user of this ferry service I want to see them succeed in their efforts to continue this historic business and meet the EPA standards. A reasonable solution to this problem needs to be reached. I am asking that after all aspects are considered a Consent Decree should be approved for a length of time that both parties agree on. Compromise is going to be important if the S. S. Badger's service is going to continue.

Thank You!

Tom Sanders

[REDACTED]
Iola, WI 54945

From: Robert Bohjanen
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/8/2013 10:52:25 AM
Subject: CASE#: D. J. REF. NO. 90-5-1-1-10771

DEAR ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL, ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES DIVISION:

REGARDING CASE # D. J. REF. NO. 90-5-1-1-10771 U. S. v LAKE TRANS-LAKE SHORTCUT, d/b/a LAKE MICHIGAN CARFERRY SERVICES AND SS BADGER I AM IN AGREEMENT WITH THE CONSENT DECREE WHICH WOULD ALLOW THE SS BADGER TO CONTINUE TO SAIL BETWEEN THE PORT CITIES OF LUDINGTON, MICHIGAN AND MANITOWOC, WISCONSIN FOR THE PERIOD OF AN ADDITIONAL TWO YEARS AT WHICH POINT A FINAL DETERMINATION ON THE OPERATIONS OF THE SS BADGER WOULD BE RENDERED.

THE LAKE MICHIGAN CARFERRY SS BADGER IS A VITAL LINK BETWEEN TWO (2) CITIES THAT MEET THE TRANSPORTATION NEEDS OF BOTH COMMERCE AND IT'S CITIZENS PROVIDING CROSS LAKE SERVICE TO BOTH EAST AND WEST DESTINATIONS IN THE UPPER MID-WEST REGION. TO DISRUPT THIS VITAL LINK BETWEEN MICHIGAN AND WISCONSIN AND THEIR PORT CITIES WOULD CAUSE FINANCIAL STRESS AT A TIME THAT IS IN THIS DAY AND AGE UNEQUALED IN OUR COUNTRIES HISTORY.

AGAIN, I SUPPORT THE CONSENT DECREE IN IT'S PRESENT FORM AND AGREE WITH IT'S POSITION REGARDING LAKE MICHIGAN CARFERRY SS BADGER OPERATION.

I THANK YOU SO VERY MUCH.

RESPECTFULLY,

ROBERT BOHJANEN


GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN
49508-6050

From: Robert Grove
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
CC: greg@ssbadger.ccsend.com
Sent: 4/8/2013 11:03:29 AM
Subject: USS Badger

I use the Badger twice and would like to see it continue in service for years to come. I understand about the use of coal to power the boat is a concern. But I have used the Lake Express to the south. I used that service a few years ago that when looking off the stern of the boat coming across the lake that I could see quite a cloud of Diesel exhaust hanging in the air behind the boat as it traveled across the lake. If I had a choice I would use the SS Badger over the Lake Express every time.

Sincerely
Robert Grove

From: Frederick Becchetti
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/8/2013 11:23:22 AM
Subject: Lake Michigan Ferry service

I am a regular user of the Lake Michigan Car ferry (from Ludington to Wisconsin and then onward West) and support the continued operation (and EPA variance as needed)

The car ferry saves many of us hundreds of miles and avoids the 24-7 traffic congestion at Chicago and the associated pollution those congested highways contribute, when an alternate straight path across lake Michigan exists. There is also a safety factor, as ferry provides a nice , restful break from driving, especially on long trips, and the path to from the ferry is much safer than the heavily traveled/accident-prone highways through Chicago.

I also note that the ferry is often carrying cargo not practical to ship via truck (windmill components for Western Michigan wind farms fro example)

Certainly this must be considered and having the ferry in operation should be viewed as **a net gain** in reducing carbon emmissions.

(with the eventual conversion to an alternate fuel....)

I also suspect that the thousands of pleasure boats/ charter boats operating in Lake Michigan are far more polluting than the ferry !!

It appears the main objection comes from Chicago-area politicians, but they of course have a vested interest in keeping

all west bound traffic going through Chicago and its expensive toll way system

(expensive in both money and time spent going through Chicago traffic, and with safety issues, etc.)

Thank you,
Fred Becchetti, PhD.
Ann Arbor Michigan

From: Tom & Kim Cubberly
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/8/2013 11:25:35 AM
Subject: D. J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Assistant Attorney General, Environment and Natural Resources Division:

Case Name:

United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger.

Dear Sirs:

Thank you for reviewing my comments concerning the continuance of the SS Badger Carferry serving Lake Michigan.

I think the Consent Decree should be approved as the Badger is important to our economy and livelihood of at least Michigan and Wisconsin.

I have sailed on her every year since 1982 and can attest to the rich Heritage the Badger represents as a Historic Vessel.

The Badger saves many travel miles and gasoline/diesel fuels and serves its purpose well.

Thank you,

Sincerely,

Tom Cubberly

From: Fred Lynch
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/8/2013 11:30:07 AM
Subject: Reference Case Number: D. J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Hello

My name is Fred Lynch. I live in Wisconsin and grew up in Michigan. I take the Badger with my family (there are six of us, four kids 13-9 ages) and our car to visit and camp in Michigan with the rest of my family (brothers and sisters, nephews and nieces).

The four hour trip is always something we all look forward to on the Badger. The movie, the starry nights on the deck and the overall history of a voyage over water.

Too slowly steam away from the horizon till it disappears and see a full moon rise or a dark sky of stars is amazing. To seemingly drift across the water like an invited guest of Lake Michigan is something hard to describe. To have an outside, a place where literally you can step back in time and know history is very rare. Not a book, not a video, but an experience.

I have been travel the world Paris, France, Italy.. ect. I have seen the master pieces, Eiffel Tower, Louvre Museum, Rome and its attractions, Germany and its skills. I would not error on this issue, and urge you to let The Badger continue its passage in History.

Yours Sincerely

Fred Lynch

From: John Enos
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/8/2013 11:32:33 AM
Subject: D.J. Ref.No. 90-5-1-1-1-10771

To; Assistant Attorney

This email is to request approval of the consent decree for the SS Badger. The Badger is a magnificent vessel, and should be allowed to operate for the benefits of its employees, the traveling public, and the economies of both port cities.

Sincerely
John Enos

From: Todd, John
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/8/2013 11:32:55 AM
Subject: Lake Michigan Car Ferry BADGER

As a past user of the ferry service between Manitowoc and Ludington, I am NOT in favor of continuing the blatant disregard for anti-pollution regulations by the BADGER. Until this ship is brought into compliance with current standards and is no longer content with dumping waste product into the air and water I am in favor of shutting down this obsolete, albeit historical ship. If other companies are willing and able to comply I see no rational for providing the BADGER with a free pass.

John Todd, Director of Sales, Florida Markets
Burger Yacht Sales, Inc.
1515 SE 17th Street, #129
Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33316
Ph: 954 463 1400
Fax: 954 463 3100
Cell: 561 329 0850
E-mail: johntodd@burgerboat.com

From: Jerry Cole
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/8/2013 11:34:17 AM
Subject: concent decree for s.s.badger

<META HTTP-EQUIV="Content-Type" CONTENT="text/html; charset=us-ascii">
By all means, yes on the concent decree,D,j. ref.no.90-5-1-10771.

From: Donald Whirlow
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/8/2013 11:51:07 AM
Subject: D. J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

We are writing in support of the continued operation of the S. S. Badger. For years, ever since our daughter moved to Manitowoc we have made one or two round trips per year on the Badger. We find this a pleasant way to travel, avoiding the congestion around Chicago. Additionally, Ludington is a charming small resort town and we very much enjoy spending a couple of days there en route.

Surely some solution, whether ash remediation or conversion to natural gas, can be found to preserve this Great Lakes treasure. Please continue to do your best to work with the Badger's operators to find a solution that will satisfy both environmental concerns and the valuable services provided by the ship.

Sincerely,

Don & Milly Whirlow
Murrysville, PA

From: Salim Serrano
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/8/2013 11:59:05 AM
Subject: Thank you for enabling a piece of Americana to keep educating the next generation

The S.S. Badger Lake Michigan ship ferry is worth saving & keeping in function as it serves not only as a vital link between the lake shores but also as an educational way for generations to come.
May the Lord continue to bless your efforts in this regard,

Salim Serrano, CPH, MPH, RRT, RCP, DrPH
SASerrano@LLU.edu
Loma Linda University School of Public Health
Ventanilla de Salud associate
San Bernardino Consulado de Mexico
293 north D st.
San Bernardino, CA 92401
909-381-7616
www.Ventanillas.org

"Lying is trying to steal someone else's truth"

From: William Reining
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/8/2013 12:00:57 PM
Subject: D. J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771 - SS Badger

IN: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Car-ferry Services and SS Badger

The SS Badger is a living bit of history and deserves continue operations. I support the approval of the consent decree.

William Reining
Intellectual Property, LLC

From: Don Socks
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/8/2013 12:01:28 PM
Subject: United States v. Lake Michigan Tran-Lake Shortcut, Inc. d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and S.S. Badger

Dear Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division;

I sincerely hope that you will make every effort to save the S.S. Badger and allow her to continue services to vacationers and businesses that utilize this wonderful ship to cross Lake Michigan. I believe with some cooperation between our government and this business we will be able to enjoy the S.S. Badger for years to come. This ship provides a relaxing way to traverse Lake Michigan and also provides a great means for trucking companies to haul oversize loads conveniently to their destination. We hope the EPA will approve the Consent Decree. Thank you in advance for your kind consideration.

Best regards,
Don Socks

From: Diane Smith
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/8/2013 12:10:19 PM
Subject: Stop Badgering our lake

"You can tell the EPA that it's time for the S.S. Badger to end their excuses, clean up their act, and take real steps to stop dumping coal ash."

http://durbin.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/hot-topics?ContentRecord_id=8d0ff425-9315-436a-a8c7-506ef364a332

Thanks for all your hard work, workers at the EPA! Keep fighting the good fight for a healthy planet!

Diane Smith

Design99
Kendall Marketplace
961 Erica Lane
Yorkville, IL 60560

630-553-3647
630-553-3691 fax

Design99home.com

[Facebook](#)

[Pinterest](#)

Mon-Wed 10-5
Thursday 10-8
Fri-Sat 10-5
Sunday 12-5

From: Schmitz, Stacey L
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/8/2013 12:10:45 PM
Subject: Badger

Our family has enjoyed riding the Badger for over 20 years. It is a great family experience and puts a lot of tourism dollars into both the Wi and Mi economy. We so hope you allow it to continue!

Sincerely,
Stacey Schmitz

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From: Kimberly Hasenbank
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/8/2013 12:14:23 PM
Subject: Support of the Consent Decree in United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc.

For many years, my family has enjoyed not only the experience of traveling on the S.S. Badger but also the convenience of visiting family and friends 'across the lake' without having to drive all the way around (either up through the U.P. or down through Chicago).

It is with great pleasure that I support the Consent Decree, which will hopefully keep the Badger up and running, and continuing to support our local communities into the foreseeable future.

Kimberly Hasenbank


From: Brian Brooks
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/8/2013 12:24:15 PM
Subject: D. J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Dear Assistant Attorney General, Environment and Natural Resources Division-

Thank you for your interest in public comments on the Consent Decree for the S.S. Badger Ferry servicing Lake Michigan. I have been using the S.S. Badger to travel between Michigan and Wisconsin for over a decade. I believe it is in the best interest of the taxpayers that the Consent Decree be approved. I have taken the S.S. Badger well into the double digits (very close to 20 times) now. I have used it for both business and personal travel. As a former engineer working for a large auto company in emission testing, I suspect shutting down the S.S. Badger would have a net negative impact on our environment and infrastructure. Each of the vehicles making the crossing would be burning fuel and taxing our highways. In addition, the ship usually near or at capacity in the freight level and there were significant and special loads that would be traveling on our highways and the oversized loads pose a larger safety risk to traffic. It is with this that I urge you to approve the Consent Decree for the S.S. Badger.

Thank you for your time and consideration for this important service,

Brian Brooks

From: Dorothy Sevie
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/8/2013 12:27:22 PM
Subject: Reference Case Number: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Case Name: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger
Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division

The Lake Michigan Car Ferry is both a wonderful service and treasure. I hope that you will approve the consent decree to keep the Badger operating.

Dorothy Sevie

[REDACTED]
Athelstane WI 54104
[REDACTED]

From: Todd Beitzel
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/8/2013 12:31:16 PM
Subject: consent decree

Dear Environmental Protection Agency Representatives,

I am writing this letter in support of the consent decree that is being considered for the continued operation of the Wisconsin Badger, essentially the car ferry service that runs between Ludington, MI and Manitowoc, OH. This car service has both historical value and significance. It also continues to serve a viable service in transporting both cargo and passengers to and from a variety of destinations. Although, because it is a historical vehicle with historical technology, it does not meet modern day environmental standards does not mean it should be shutdown, which forcing it to retrofit its engines would culminate in because it would be cost prohibitive.

The care ferry is an anomalous form of transportation that has a very minimal impact on the environment. This is even further bolstered by the fact that the earth has been cooling for the past ten years and that CO2 emissions as a significant cause of global warming (or as it is now called climate change) is being significantly challenged by leading scientists. Further, even if you eliminated the Badger from service because of an illogical and oppressive application of the law, all it would take is for one major volcano to erupt that would spew more CO2 into the air in one day than the car ferry would in 200 years. Further, in calculating its costs to the environment, by eliminating the car ferry service, you would have to subtract the environmental impact of more cars on the road, more traffic congestion (resulting in even more CO2), and the loss of life due to increased traffic accidents, a statistical fact with more cars on the road. Let government use some uncommon common sense for once and let the Wisconsin Badger continue its historical journey into the future.

A concerned citizen,

Todd Beitzel

From: Tom Allen at Allen Realty
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
CC: greg@ssbadger.ccsend.com
Sent: 4/8/2013 12:40:15 PM
Subject: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771
Attachments: 100_0995.JPG

I think the badger is an important part of Michigan-Wisconsin tourism. I've been crossing the Lake on the Badger since I was a small child in the 50s. Before The Bridge was built my parent would take us on the ferry to the UP on our way to Green Bay where they had a farm. On the way home to Michigan we would take the Badger. Some of my best memories as a child. In the last few years my wife and I have tried to make the Badger trip once a year and it's something we talk about all winter to help us make it through the Michigan winters. Great fun, and we meet interesting people from all over the world who have come to see the Great Lakes and make the crossing after having bought some Michigan wine on there way to taste some Wisconsin cheese. It would be a shame to eliminate such an interesting part of Lake Michigan's past and present. Tom and Carol

From: [REDACTED]
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/8/2013 12:46:48 PM
Subject: D. J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Please keep the Badger gong, It's great for the State of Michigan.
MMrozek

<http://myplace.frontier.com/~emrozek>

From: Robert Skingley
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/8/2013 12:50:06 PM
Subject: D. J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

D. J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Assistant Attorney General; Environment and Natural Resources Division

I am writing to support the continued operation of the S.S. Badger that operates in Lake Michigan. The continued operation gives great service for traveling across the Lake, the discharge of coal ash is not all bad as many good minerals are returned. Respectfully Robert Skingley

Robert H. Skingley

[REDACTED]
Westland, Michigan 48185

From: Brian Vanden Bosch
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/8/2013 12:57:13 PM
Subject: D. J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Please be advised I support the SSBadger and feel this ship should be grandfathered in under the old rules and strongly recommend you allow it to continue operations...

Thank You,

Brian Vanden Bosch


Branch, MI 49402


From: Steve Herrick
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/8/2013 12:58:47 PM
Subject: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Dear Sir or Madam;

In regards to to case D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771, I wanted to urge you to approve the consent decree developed in this case. The Badger provides a valuable service to the communities of Michigan and Wisconsin economically and environmentally (through the transport of vehicles that would have caused considerably more pollution than Badger does if they were forced to travel around Lake Michigan.) Add to this the historical value of this boat and it is clear the consent decree makes sense.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Steve Herrick

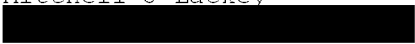

Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494

From: Mitchell Lackey
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/8/2013 1:06:35 PM
Subject: Lake Michigan Car Ferry

Dear Sirs:

Every summer I need access to the Michigan and Wisconsin fresh vegetable growing areas. The ferry saves me countless miles and time. I strongly urge you to give them the time they need to convert to an alternative source of fuel. If no alternative is available then they should be allowed to continue as is.

Mitchell J Lackey


Tarpon Springs, FL 34689

Sent from my iPhone

From: JS Ward
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/8/2013 1:09:53 PM
Subject: D. J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771 United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut

Assistant Attorney General, Environment and Natural Resources Division

Please do not hinder the SS Badger from running the shortcut across Lake Michigan as a motorcycle rider it allows me the option of going around the Chicago area when traveling out West, Which I always take.

It's so nice to relax and take a breather from the road, I hope the wife and I can continue to enjoy the SS Badger for years to come.

Yours, Thankfully

John S. Ward
Cleveland, OH

From: [REDACTED]
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/8/2013 1:17:37 PM
Subject: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Re: Lake Michigan Carferry Services & U. S. S. Badger:

To Whom it May Concern:

I am strongly in favor of keeping the Badger sailing on Lake Michigan. They are in the process of solving the problem of their coal ash disposal and I'm sure they will have a solution in the near future to solve the problem. Taking the Badger is a great way to cut 4 hours off the driving time between MI and WI. We have taken it often through the years. It is fun and relaxing, the crew is extremely helpful and polite and it's a good stress-reliever when on a trip. Captain Dean Hobbs trains his crew very well and there is a good "family feeling" while onboard. There are activities for all ages if desired, one can walk around the ship, have good food or just sit, relax and enjoy the ride. ,

I feel it is most important to keep the Badger sailing across Lake Michigan. It's a valuable tradition and it provides employment for many - including the tourism business in both states and beyond. It would be a huge economic and employment loss for Ludington and Manitowoc if the Badger were not allowed to continue sailing. It is also excellent training for cadets at the Great Lakes Maritime Academy in Traverse City who tour the ship and learn a lot about it. This knowledge benefits all ship travel on the Great Lakes.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Janet E. Bay
Judith C. Bay

From: Leon & Judy
Sent: 4/8/2013 1:16:52 PM
Subject: Re: S.S. Badger

Reference Case Number:

D. J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771 **(must be included in subject line)**

Case Name:

United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

Email to: pubcomment-ees.enrd@usdoj.gov

Our family lives in west central Ohio, and we have taken the carferry from Ludington to Manitowoc many times. We have friends in Wisconsin near Madison, and this is how we usually travel to their home once a year since we hate going around or through Chicago. We love taking the S.S. Badger, the Lake Michigan Carferry. Please allow them to continue with their wonderful and fun services.

Sincerely, Leon and Judith Snyder


From: Jeff Meulemans
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/8/2013 1:30:44 PM
Subject: SS Badger

While we understand the need to curtail the dumping of coal ash into Lake Michigan, I firmly believe the pollution from cars driving around the lake is much more harmful to the environment.

We take the Badger at least once every season to visit friends and family. It is truly an asset to our region, especially the communities of Ludington and Manitowoc.

Sincerely,

Jeff Meulemans


Reedsville, WI. 54230

From: Lois Hrabrich
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/8/2013 1:37:34 PM
Subject: Case 90-5-1-1-10771 Lake Michigan Car Ferry

We totally support the Lake Michigan Badger Car Ferry extension to enable the ferry to determine the best way to stop the dumping of the coal ash slurry into the lake. The Car Ferry is so important to the communities of Manitowoc, WI and Ludington, MI during warmer months to transport cars and tourists along with business trucks. It brings millions of dollars to those communities. In addition, the Badger is the last steam engine ferry to run on the Great Lakes and has significant historical background. The two year extension will result in an excellent way to preserve this treasure of the Great Lakes!

Vincent and Lois Hrabrich


Cleveland, WI 53015

From: Gerry Burrows
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/8/2013 1:41:42 PM
Subject: Badger

This ship has given my grandchildren great memories.
Crew & vessel accommodations gave them something to write about - which they did.
Boat was clean & very much enjoyed.

a Historical experience - keep her working as a key to our Great lakes Shipping. Make upgrades reasonable - as with all classics. We are lucky to have such a historic vessel riding the Great Lakes

Thanks -

From: Yahoo email
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/8/2013 1:55:59 PM
Subject: SS Badger Consent Decree

Address to:

Assistant Attorney General, Environment and Natural Resources Division

Reference Case Number:

D. J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771 **(must be included in subject line)**

Case Name:

United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

I would like you to know that I want and support the efforts of the SS Badger with regards to the Consent Decree. Please know that this is a huge asset to the state of Wisconsin and

Michigan. My family and many friends have sailed on the SS Badger and continue to recommend this sailing opportunity across the great lakes. Please uphold the high standards and quality of life in this effort to keep the SS Badger sailing and creating many awesome memories for families alike! Thank you for your time.

Sincerely, Michelle Holtrop and Family

From: Mark Kay Smith
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/8/2013 2:05:03 PM
Subject: Retaining the S.S. Badger
Attachments: ATT00001

May God's blessings be yours.  *Kay*

--Forwarded Message Attachment--

From: mark_kaysmith@hotmail.com

To: ees@usdoj.gov

Subject: Retaining the S.S. Badger

Date: Mon, 8 Apr 2013 14:01:12 -0400

In reference to case number DJref.no. 90-5-1-1-10771; I am writing to beseech you to retain the S.S. Badger as a craft on Lake Michigan. To discontinue this would be a grave tragedy for those who are advocates of wind power and historic transportation as well.

Historically Yours--

Mark A. Smith, Board Member, Carroll County Wabash-Erie Canal, Inc.; Coordinator, Carroll County Historical Society Museum.

May God's blessings be yours.  *Kay*

From: Carl Beien
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/8/2013 2:22:12 PM
Subject: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

I see no reason to continue to allow this filthy ship to continue polluting. They have been given many opportunities to change their ways, and have made commitments to do so, which they have failed to keep. Revoke their privileges, for the good of us all.

--

Carl Beien

Sent from my regular laptop on the plain old Internet

From: Bob Gassman
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/8/2013 2:24:45 PM
Subject: USS Badger

Please do whatever's possible to stop this vessel from polluting Lake Michigan as soon as possible. The government has done a great job in reducing PCB's in the lake, this coal ash dumper should be your next target.

Best Regards,

Bob Gassman

Vernon Hills, IL

From: [REDACTED]
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/8/2013 2:28:08 PM
Subject: D. J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10777 SS Badger

Assistant Attorney General, Environment and Natural Resources Division

Reference Case Number:

D. J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771 **(must be included in subject line)**

Case Name:

United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

Email to: pubcomment-ees.enrd@usdoj.gov

Or Mail to:

Assistant Attorney General
U.S. DOJ - ENRD
P.O. Box 7611
Washington, DC 20044-7611

I would like to give a recommendation for the continued operation of the S. S. Badger ferry.

Our family has enjoyed the use of this ship many times. My husband's uncle and his friends used to come from Michigan to Wisconsin then on the Oshkosh for the fly-in and then make the return trip once a year. They have all since died but the stories they had to tell about their trips and the good times they had enjoying each others company for hours when no one had to be driving.

My family would take our grandchildren from Wisconsin to Michigan to visit family and friends. It would give us time to visit with the children as they grew up and not be stuck in a car for the entire trip from Iowa to Michigan. These young children are in their mid twenties and still ask when we all can go again. My husband has since had a stroke and wants to go back on the ferry, we will see; but that would be wonderful.

I must say I was very disappointed in the change from coal to diesel. Some things should be left alone; and really, what is worse coal or diesel? Believe your department made a wrong choice in changing that over to the other fuel. Coal made this country and it was a good teaching moment with the children on the use of coal and what it did for this country.

Please let the ferry continue operation without any shutdown period. Don't be the "wicked" Federal department we all hear about and thunk our heads and say, "WHAT WERE THEY THINKING!"

Sincerely,

Mary Suzanne Vance
(Mrs. James P. Vance, Sr.)
[REDACTED]
North Liberty, Iowa 52317-9202

From: Sonja Collier
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/8/2013 2:29:43 PM
Subject: Re. Lake Michigan Car Ferry

Ludington MI and all the communities involved on Both sides of the lake need the jobs connected with the boat. We enjoy taking the boat and so do many others instead of driving around the lake. The boat is very important for transportation.

Thank you,
Sonja Collier
Ludington MI

From: Worthington, Ross
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/8/2013 2:33:09 PM
Subject: Lake Michigan Carferry, Inc., S.S. Badger

The toxic pollution from the S.S. Badger car ferry must no longer be dumped into Lake Michigan. I live right on the shore of this beautiful fresh water lake and don't want my family poisoned by toxic waste. Put a stop to this now. This isn't a time for nostalgia, it's a time to save our environment. Thank you for your consideration.

Ross Worthington, M.D.
Sheboygan, WI

From: Mary Huckins
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
CC: info@ssbadger.com; Dennis
Sent: 4/8/2013 2:38:34 PM
Subject: S.S. Badger D. J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

To: Assistant Attorney General, Environment and Natural Resources Division

Re: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

Dear Assistant Attorney General:


I am writing this email in support of the SS Badger. I live in Manitowoc, Wisconsin. My family enjoys using the Badger often. We have relatives and friends in Michigan, and they use it to come here and we use it to go there. Much gasoline is saved in our vehicles, and in all of the trucks, buses and cars that use the Badger, by not driving around Lake Michigan. Surely the gasoline saved must help offset the environmental impact of the ash. I care about the quality of the water in Lake Michigan because we live on the Lake. If I thought it was that detrimental, I would not be supportive.

The Badger also has a huge economic impact to Manitowoc as well as to communities in both Michigan and Wisconsin. It would create a hardship to local businesses in Manitowoc and Ludington if you succeed in your ill-advised and foolish efforts to shut it down.

With all of the tremendous environmental problems facing our country today, I would think you would have bigger issues to spend your time and efforts on than picking on the SS Badger.

You are wasting the taxpayers' money, as well as wasting money that the Badger owners have had to spend defending your ridiculous lawsuit. That is money that could have been put back into the business and could have helped to create much-needed jobs in both Manitowoc and Ludington.

Sincerely,
Mary Huckins


Manitowoc, WI 54220

From: ETWorking
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/8/2013 2:50:31 PM
Subject: D. J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771 S.S. Badger . . . — — — . . .

Address to:

Assistant Attorney General, Environment and Natural Resources Division

Reference Case Number:

D. J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771 (must be included in subject line)

Case Name:

United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger



SOS

The S.S. Badger warrants approval of the Consent Decree predicated in consideration of continued commercial viability and evident historical merit alone, not-with-standing it's relatively insignificant impact on contemporary environmental issues precipitated in consequence of several previous generations of dubious Great Lakes Region governance.

From: Brevitt Stump
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/8/2013 2:52:16 PM
Subject: SS Badger

I strongly recommend that emissions/dumping by the SS Badger in Lake Michigan be stopped as soon as possible. As a Illinois resident who gets my water supply from the lake, I find this continued practice to be not in the best interests nor health of the residents that get their water from Lake Michigan. Please don't give the Badger an extension. In addition, please increase the fines enough to force the owners to stop this practice. Thank you for your consideration.

Brevitt D. Stump


Lombard, IL 60148

From: Stan Lins
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/8/2013 2:53:15 PM
Subject: Badger ferry

Madame or Sir,

We ask that you allow the Lake Michigan carry ferry **Badger** to continue operation as it has for many years. We have used and enjoyed this ship over the past years with our children and then recently in our old age. We here in Minnesota have already lost the river steamer **Delta Queen** to rigid regulations. We ask that you show deference to the last steam ship on Lake Michigan and allow the operation to continue.

Here is the pertinent information for the case:

Reference Case Number:

D. J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771 **(must be included in subject line)**

Case Name:

United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan

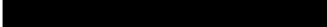
Best regards, Stanley Lins

From: jantastic
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/8/2013 2:57:21 PM
Subject: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Please end the discharge of coal ash into Lake Michigan. Stop pay-to-pollute permits issued to corporations such as Lake Michigan Carferry, Inc.

Sincerely,

Jan Cohn


Chicago, IL 60625

From: Schafer, Kurt
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/8/2013 3:01:46 PM
Subject: Re: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771.

To whom it may concern,

In regards to United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771, I am against any deal that would allow the Badger to continue polluting Lake Michigan with coal ash in 2013 and 2014.

I say no to an extension – no to allowing continued pollution. They have had plenty of time to comply with previous agreements and chose not to. Time to stop this nonsense!

Regards,

Kurt Schafer

From: Tom Samata
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/8/2013 3:02:42 PM
Subject: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

The comments should refer to *United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc.*, D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

This is ridiculous. They should stop sailing today, not in 2 more years. The fact that they tried to get the ship landmark status shows they are not serious about fixing the problem. They will get 2 more years worth of revenue and then just close up shop. They have no intentions of every stopping unless they are forced to.

Do we need another 1000 tons of poison dumped into the lake!

How about we do this. We'll collect water from behind the ship and put it into your water coolers at the EPA!

Thanks
Tom Samata

IMPORTANT: The information contained in this transmission may be privileged, proprietary and confidential and protected from disclosure. It is intended only for the intended recipient. If you are not the intended recipient or a person responsible for delivering this transmission to the intended recipient, you may not disclose, copy or distribute this transmission or take any action in reliance on it. If you received this transmission in error, please notify us immediately by replying to this message and please dispose of and delete this transmission.

Thank you.

Yaskawa America, Inc.

From: Chris Siek
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/8/2013 3:04:41 PM
Subject: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771
Attachments: image001.gif

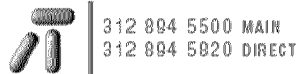
Please take strong action on this ferry company. Either make them update ASAP to stop the massive pollution this ferry creates, or shut them down. There's no reason for letting this go on any longer. They've been getting away with it way too long.

Thank you .

Christopher Siek

[REDACTED]
Naperville, IL 60563

Christopher Siek
SENIOR COPYWRITER



AbelsonTaylor

From: tim later
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/8/2013 3:15:34 PM
Subject: Badger

Dear EPA,

I swim in Lake Michigan from both Illinois and Wisconsin. I am appalled that the owners of this ship are allowed to continue to pollute at current levels. They have gamed the system and ignored their own pledges to clean up the Badger. No more extensions, no more deals. Make them clean up before they sail again. Thank you.

Tim Later

[REDACTED]

Chicago, IL 60660

From: Patrick Heyboer
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/8/2013 3:17:14 PM
Subject: Tie this POS to the dock. Then cut it up and recycle it.

From: Richard Schultz
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/8/2013 3:22:03 PM
Subject: Ref.No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Dear Sirs, I would like to register my strong endorsement for the continued operation of the S.S.Badger in Lake Michigan. She serves a much used and needed purpose. Richard Schultz, M.D.

From: James Stickley
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/8/2013 4:17:15 PM
Subject: Consent

To whom it may concern :

The Badger Car Ferry Service is a valuable asset to both Wisconsin and Michigan and a wonderful way to obviate having to go around Chicago with its heavy traffic. It is a natural and enjoyable access to the West coast of Michigan and it is also valuable as an historical icon.

The effect on the environment has been exaggerated with its steam power witness the thousands of tons of fish that are taken out of the lake in the nearby environment. The slag is not toxic and does no damage to the lake.

It would be wonderful to preserve this historic and valuable asset.

Sincerely,

Dr James J Stickley

From: david lafferty
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
CC: [REDACTED]
Sent: 4/8/2013 4:20:39 PM
Subject: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut Inc. 90-5-1-1-10771

Dear Agency: I strongly support modifications to the agreement which would require the owners of the S.S. Badger to promptly install equipment that will retain ash from burned coal on board the vessel, later to be disposed of in an environmentally safe manner.

The vessel must not be permitted to continue its practice of dumping toxic waste in Lake Michigan.

Sincerely,

David S. Lafferty

[REDACTED]
Chicago, IL 60613
[REDACTED]

From: Robert Bohjanen
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
CC: greg@ssbadger.ccsend.com
Sent: 4/8/2013 4:38:06 PM
Subject: RE: CASE#: D. J. REF. NO. 90-5-1-1-10771

From: rabbohjanen@hotmail.com
To: pubcomment-ees.enrd@usdoj.gov
Subject: CASE#: D. J. REF. NO. 90-5-1-1-10771
Date: Mon, 8 Apr 2013 10:52:25 -0400

DEAR ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL, ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES DIVISION:

REGARDING CASE # D. J. REF. NO. 90-5-1-1-10771 U. S. v LAKE TRANS-LAKE SHORTCUT, d/b/a LAKE MICHIGAN CARFERRY SERVICES AND SS BADGER I AM IN AGREEMENT WITH THE CONSENT DECREE WHICH WOULD ALLOW THE SS BADGER TO CONTINUE TO SAIL BETWEEN THE PORT CITIES OF LUDINGTON, MICHIGAN AND MANITOWOC, WISCONSIN FOR THE PERIOD OF AN ADDITIONAL TWO YEARS AT WHICH POINT A FINAL DETERMINATION ON THE OPERATIONS OF THE SS BADGER WOULD BE RENDERED.

THE LAKE MICHIGAN CARFERRY SS BADGER IS A VITAL LINK BETWEEN TWO (2) CITIES THAT MEET THE TRANSPORTATION NEEDS OF BOTH COMMERCE AND IT'S CITIZENS PROVIDING CROSS LAKE SERVICE TO BOTH EAST AND WEST DESTINATIONS IN THE UPPER MID-WEST REGION. TO DISRUPT THIS VITAL LINK BETWEEN MICHIGAN AND WISCONSIN AND THEIR PORT CITIES WOULD CAUSE FINANCIAL STRESS AT A TIME THAT IS IN THIS DAY AND AGE UNEQUALED IN OUR COUNTRIES HISTORY.

AGAIN, I SUPPORT THE CONSENT DECREE IN IT'S PRESENT FORM AND AGREE WITH IT'S POSITION REGARDING LAKE MICHIGAN CARFERRY SS BADGER OPERATION.

I THANK YOU SO VERY MUCH.

RESPECTFULLY,

ROBERT BOHJANEN


GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN
49508-6050

From: bill and nora
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/8/2013 4:41:03 PM
Subject: D.J. Ref # 90-5-1-1-10771

To whom it may concern,

My name is Bill Clark I along with my wife Nora are Badger Volunteers. We have been volunteering for the last 3 years and we have met a lot of interesting people. We enjoy helping the people with their questions about the ship and also where to go for a good meal when they get off the ship in Ludington.

We both feel that if the ship had to shut down because of the coal ash, it would be tragic for a lot of folks who enjoy traveling on the Badger. The folks enjoy listening to the history of the ship being told by several different people on the ship. They also enjoy Badger Bingo, it is a great hit with young and old. Especialley when they win prizes and don't have to pay to win them. We both enjoy helping all the crew members and all of them are super people. I would hate to see them without a job.

Thanks for taking the time to read my message and hopefully the Badger will continue to run for many more years.

Bill and Nora Clark.... Badger Volunteers.

From: JOHN HENDRIXON
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/8/2013 4:41:32 PM
Subject: D. J. Ref. No0-5-1-1-10771

Re: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry

To:
Assistant Attorney General,
Environmental and Natural Resources Division

Regarding the consent decree in the above case, I believe the car ferry should be allowed to continue to dispose of their coal ash in Lake Michigan as I know of no environmental harm that has been done to the lake over the decades when many coal fired ships discharged coal ash into the lakes. As this is the only coal fired ship now plying the Great Lakes on a limited basis any negative environmental impact would be negligible.

Further, the car ferry provides jobs and income for the people of Michigan and Wisconsin; fuel and carbon footprint savings for shipping large bulky cargo; as well as a popular tourist adventure.

Respectfully Submitted,

John Hendrixon
Shelby, Michigan

From: Chad Pleiness
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/8/2013 4:43:00 PM
Subject: D. J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Hello Assistant Attorney General, Environment and Natural Resources Division,

The car ferry is crucial to the business of Ludington, MI and Manitowoc, WI. It has served as an opportunity for people from both MI & WI to travel across the lake safely and help tourism & travel of both states northern areas. It cuts down on traffic to Milwaukee and Chicago, keeping people safer as they travel. It has provided low-budget tourism options for people in these less urban areas that cannot afford the bigger vacations and/or want to stay closer to home or cant afford the gas anymore for longer trips.

I have been told that the amount of coal ash that is deposited or needed to be disposed of, is very, very minor compared to all of the pollution that is allowed to enter the great lakes from larger metropolitan areas, especially Chicago. Let us please focus on getting those larger pollutant violators in those areas first to make a much larger impact on the amount of pollutants that are entering our great lakes. I know the car ferry is looking for cleaner ways to operate and to dispose of the coal ash, let's help and encourage them to find those best practices to keep their carbon footprint down to a minimal amount.

Thank you for your attention to these matters.

Sincerely,

Chad Pleiness

From: [REDACTED]
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/8/2013 5:03:21 PM
Subject: The Lake Michigan Badger ferry

RE:
United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771.

I strongly, strongly disapprove of granting the ferry company additional time to cleanup their act and stop polluting lake Michigan. They have had ample time to comply and I do not want that vessel dumping any more poisonous waste into our nation's largest fresh water lake, and my source of drinking water.

Please do not allow it to sail until it's engines have been brought into compliance. Stop the coal ash dumping permanently.

Sincerely,

J. Peter Pohl

[REDACTED]
Wheaton, IL 60189
[REDACTED]

From: Andrew Fox
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/8/2013 5:03:49 PM
Subject: D. J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Re: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

Dear Sir or Madam:

I support the proposed consent decree between the US EPA and the Lake Michigan Carferry Service. It is unfortunate that this consent decree is even necessary because, as tests have confirmed, the SS Badger's coal ash is no more hazardous than sand. Never-the-less, the consent decree will allow a vital transportation link to continue in operation and will preserve hundreds of direct and indirect jobs.

Thank you

Andrew Fox

President
Chicago South Shore & South Bend Railroad
505 North Carroll Avenue
Michigan City, IN 46360
AFox@Anacostia.com
(219) 874-9000 x201
Fax (219) 879-3754

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From: Kathy
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/8/2013 5:15:37 PM
Subject: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

The S S Badger car and passenger ferry crossing from Manitowoc, WI to Luddington, MI should not be allowed to continue dumping ash into The Lake Michigan. Enough is quite enough! This has been going on too long and excused for too long.

Kathy Strickland

[REDACTED]
Manitowoc, WI. 54220

Kathy Strickland
Sent from my iPad

From: Linda Cihlar
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/8/2013 5:37:22 PM
Subject: 90-5-1-1-10771

I am writing to encourage you to approve the consent degree for the SS Badger. This is in re: the case U>S> V Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut. The Badger is important to the folks in Michigan. It provides a shortcut in our travels for business and pleasure and also for tourists coming here from Wisconsin. The Badger is an historical vessel with a great history and is important to us. They are working on environmentally friendly methods to dispose of the ash and when this discharge is compared to all of the other things that businesses dump it is truly a small amount. Please approve the consent degree.

From: [REDACTED]
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/8/2013 5:41:19 PM
Subject: USS Badger's Coal Ash Waste

To Whom It May Concern,

I would like to submit a comment in reference to United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771. As a Michigan citizen and college student, I fully support the EPA's effort to stop the USS Badger from dumping coal ash into Lake Michigan. It is unacceptable to continue to pollute our lake in this way, especially when it forms a part of the world's largest and best available freshwater source. This is an extremely significant resource not only in terms of fresh water, but it being my home! I grew up along the shore of Lake Michigan, and am outraged that the Badger is allowed to destroy it in this way. Please consider the long-term effects this case will have in either maintaining or ruining our Great Lakes.

Thank you,

Connor Meston

From: Timothy A. Fossa
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/8/2013 5:45:52 PM
Subject: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

I am commenting on the SS Badger agreement. I work in Chicago and drink water from Lake Michigan. I find it ludicrous that the EPA has negotiated to allow the company to continue to pollute the water for yet another two years. The company has had five years to change their ways and has done nothing. Here again a company pollutes, takes the profits, and sticks the cost to the commonweal.

The fine levels are too small. The company cannot be trusted. They are milking this to the bitter end. You should require a large non-disputable performance bond or letter of credit to ensure compliance. The government is choosing winners and losers by subsidizing inefficient polluting companies via pollution waivers when there are already less polluting alternatives like the ferry out of Milwaukee. Any job losses would no doubt be partially mitigated by hiring's in Milwaukee as transportation demand hasn't changed.

I recommend you renegotiate the entire agreement and not permit the company to dump coal ash into Lake Michigan at all beginning this year. Enough is enough. Thank you for your time.

Tim Fossa
Bartlett, IL

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From: John Cleave
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/8/2013 6:03:21 PM
Subject: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Susan Hedman stated she felt that the consent decree was the fastest and most certain path to EPA to stop the discharge of coal ash from the Badger. But it sounds like the decree is built around an untenable assumption, concerning a “new and more-encompassing approach to ash retention that ***may*** make that option for controlling the ash discharge more viable than previously thought” (my emphasis). This is the same group that had a previous agreement with the EPA, which it was able to side-step. What happens in 2014, when it finds that this new approach doesn’t work? The owners will again tap their congressmen friends in Wisconsin and Michigan and seek further delay. And the EPA will feel powerless to do anything but put out yet another extension.


My family swims in that lake almost every day in the summer, as do millions of other bathers. We pull our drinking water out of it. The Badger serves a very small population – a couple hundred automobile owners and a few dock workers on either side. So tens of millions of people are again denied access to clean water to accommodate the needs of a few? That’s unjust.

This consent decree may be the most expeditious means to stop the Badger’s discharge, but it’s a paper tiger. I urge the EPA to take a stronger stand. Surely there are other means available to bring about justice, ways to force more immediate compliance. What about showing direct health effects, eg, measure arsenic and other chemicals along the ship’s path? What about increasing the fines for dumping mercury in 2012 and 2013, from \$25,000 to, say, \$250,000, to make continued thumbing of noses at the EPA hurt? At the very least, the EPA needs to insert a legally-binding mechanism to prevent the owners from renegeing yet again when 2014 comes around.

It’s time to get this done. Now.

Thank you,

John Cleave
Evanston, Illinois



From: Thomas Teteak
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/8/2013 6:38:12 PM
Subject: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

RE:

Case Name: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

To Whom It May Concern:

Our family has traveled across Lake Michigan using the car ferry service for many years, and including 3 generations. We feel the car ferry has definite travel benefits, historical significance and has very important economic value to the ports of service. This, therefore, is to express our support for:

continuing service for the Lake Michigan Carferry following their signed Consent Decree agreement with the Department of Justice and EPA that will require the SS Badger to end the ash discharge within two years. Our understanding is that this agreement was the product of many months of working closely with the EPA. We think this Consent Decree is the best result under the circumstances. We strongly support continuance on the path to ending the discharge of coal ash from the Michigan Carferry while still serving the public and local communities.

Sincerely,
Tom and Sue Teteak

Tom and Sue Teteak

[REDACTED]
Oregon, WI 53575 (Oct.-May)

[REDACTED]
Frankfort, MI 49635 (June-Sept.)

From: Jeff
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/8/2013 8:52:58 PM
Subject: D. J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Case Name: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

Assistant Attorney General:

In regards to the forth coming Consent Decree concerning the Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS badger, please for the wellbeing of the local communities on both sides of Lake Michigan, grant this decree to the car ferry line. The amount of money and jobs they provide and the services they render to the public is a huge asset to the local communities. In addition this service saves consumers who use it, a lot of money on fuel and time and is a lot safer.

Many years ago there were many more ships that were burning coal & discharging their ash into the lake and it did not affect the lake adversely. Currently when there is a large rain storm the cities of Milwaukee & Chicago, just to name two, discharge raw sewage into the lake which seems to be a greater health hazard than coal ash.

Thank you for your time.

Jeffrey Dahlke

[REDACTED]
Sturgeon Bay, WI 54235

From: [REDACTED]
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/8/2013 9:37:06 PM
Subject: Badger Consent Decree

I support the consent decree. It strikes the right balance between preserving the heritage of Lake Michigan, and it's environmental health.

Thank you,

Laura Cullison
Chicago, Illinois

From: Mary Hinchman
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/8/2013 10:06:02 PM
Subject: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

I am adding my comments to the ongoing problem of The Badger car ferry dumping its coal ash into Lake Michigan. The defilement of Lake Michigan by the dumping of toxic coal ash must end. It has been going on for far too long. I am appalled that it has even been allowed at all. The health and beauty of the Great Lakes are being destroyed beneath the toxic ash discards of the Badger. We care far too much about our Great Lakes, not to mention our own health, to allow this to go on any longer.

Mary Hinchman
Grand Haven, Michigan

From: Bob Krautkramer
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
CC: Anne Krautkramer
Sent: 4/8/2013 10:07:11 PM
Subject: Reference Case Number: D. J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

To: Assistant Attorney General, Environment and Natural Resources Division
Reference Case Number: D. J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Case Name: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger
Please approve the above Consent Decree.

The Lake Michigan Car Ferry (S.S. Badger) is an important part of history that should be preserved and allowed to operate for another 60 years or more. The economic impact on the cities of Manitowoc, WI and Ludington, MI is very large and needs to continue.

The Badger is the last of the Great Lakes coal fueled ships and should remain in operation. One ship like the Badger has a very low acceptable environmental impact on the lake.

Thank you!

Robert E. Krautkramer

[REDACTED]

Combined Locks, Wisconsin 54113

[REDACTED]

From: Ron
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/8/2013 10:21:17 PM
Subject: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

Please keep our historic carferry running! I support the approval of the Consent Decree.

Ron Shimek

[REDACTED]
Manitowoc, WI 54220
[REDACTED]

From: Robert & Lynn Swan
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/8/2013 10:23:26 PM
Subject: D. J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Greeting,

Case Name:

United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

Reference Case Number:

D. J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

We just want to voice our appreciation for the Lake Michigan Ferry!

We live in NW Iowa but have grandsons at Cornell U. in NY whom we went to visit last year, and plan to return this fall and probably next spring for graduation.

We hate driving around the South end of Lake M., the traffic is insane all hours of the day.

Please keep up the good service!

Lynn Swan


Dickens, Iowa 51333

From: WILLIAM FLOYD
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/8/2013 10:37:58 PM
Subject: The Badger

Dear Sir or Madam:

I do not support any use of force to cause The Badger to stop their current use of coal.

I recommend that the company be able to proceed with their stated clean-up plan.

I am a boat owner with a powerboat in Montrose Harbor, Chicago. I have seen the Badger out on the lake in my own crossings.

Bill Floyd
Evanston, Il

Sent from my iPad

From: Rodney Willms
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/8/2013 10:42:42 PM
Subject: 90-5-1-10771

Good evening

Please spare the S.S. Badger ferry on Lake Mich. It being the last coal fired vessel still running on Lake Mich. should be left as is a national historic vessel. I feel it is as important to save it as a building. Just consider how many children can enjoy such a trip across Lake Mich. on the last vessel that they can do that on. Unless they go to a historic railroad site they can not have a ride on a steam powered train. With the S.S. Badger they can have a four hour ride across the lake and also consider all the other passengers and life stories they could have conversation with while being on a historic vessel.

Thank you

Rodney Willms
Brooklyn Park, Mn

From: Barb's Email
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/9/2013 1:01:57 AM
Subject: 90-5-1-1-10771

Please continue to keep the S.S. badger sailing between Manitowoc, WI and Ludington, MI. It has been a marvelous way of travel for many of our family members. It has been a major factor in providing transportation on our many family vacations to lower Michigan. Please help us continue to make memories and keep the Badger running.

Sincerely, Barbara Anderson

Sent from my iPad

From: Gary & Beth Schlinkert
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/9/2013 7:51:28 AM
Subject: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

To whom it may concern:

We support the consent decree to allow the Badger to continue to operate as it has for the next two years.

Sincerely,

Gary & Beth Schlinkert

From: Kathryn Bradbury
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/9/2013 8:58:01 AM
Subject: Lake Michigan Carferry Inc.

Dear EPA,

Please do not allow this company to continue to pollute our beautiful Lake Michigan. They should not get a special permit to pollute. They were already given a cut off date. It's not fair to the people of the Great Lakes region. No one should be given permission to pollute. There are alternative engines out there. I live in Michigan and I refuse to use the ferry because of this toxic sludge.

Thanks for doing your job.
Kathy Bradbury
Native Texan. Michigander by choice.

From: Suzanne Scaletta
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/9/2013 9:36:26 AM
Subject: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Dear Sir or Madam,

I am writing to support your efforts to stop the S.S. Badger from continuing to pollute the Great Lakes. The S.S. Badger cannot be allowed to continue to pollute our waters, without penalty and seemingly without regard for the damage being done to the environment we all share.

In this age of environmental awareness, it is inconceivable that one vessel is still allowed to dump 770 tons of coal ash into a major source of fresh drinking water for the entire region. All industries have to modernize, and the S.S. Badger has been given the time and opportunity to do this. Time is up. They need to fix the problem now, and stop polluting our waters.

As a resident of Illinois, I fully support Senator Dick Durbin's efforts to put an end to this pollution.

Suzanne Scaletta

Suzanne Scaletta
President
Scaletta Armoring Corp.
scscaletta@scaletta.com

From: Vic Erickson
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/9/2013 9:24:45 AM
Subject: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771 Carferry

Please approve the consent decree for the Lake Michigan Car-ferry for economic and historical reasons. 2 years to meet EPA standards is not unreasonable.

Sincerely,

Victor Erickson
West Bend, Wisconsin

Lifelong car-ferry traveler

From: Mary Watkins
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/9/2013 9:45:17 AM
Subject: United States v Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc

D.J. REF No 90-5-1-1-10771.

I am expressing my opinion again and hope the government will not put people out of work over this matter when many companies are dumping toxic waste into Lake Michigan. If it is necessary to stop the Badger's practices then every company along the lake needs to be converted to a clean company and all toxins need to be stopped.

Mary Watkins
Ludington, Michigan

From: JEFF HALICZER
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/9/2013 10:02:46 AM
Subject: D. J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771


United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

I have only ridden the SS Badger once, and that experience was such a pleasure to be part of something that made the traveling of the Great Lakes part of maritime history. Being able to enjoy the crossing at sunset and feel the vastness of Lake Michigan wrap around the ship as we pushed across the nearly smooth waters to go to Wisconsin on the other side.

I understand some of the concerns that the ship and EPA concerns on the emissions, but according to the SS Badger site they have a plan to work on this and with a ship of this size and the need for the power to move it along the task to develop the 'clean' energy to meet the standards takes time and I am sure they are doing everything in their power and budgets to keep things moving.

Allow the 'Consent Decree' pass and help to keep a piece of history live on for future generations.

Thank you,
Jeff Haliczer


Reno, Nevada 89521

From: [REDACTED]
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/9/2013 10:33:49 AM
Subject: Michigan's Badger/car ferry

The car ferry is a vital tool for transportation for many people. I believe the fuel saved by all the people using the ferry far surpasses the emission of their cars if they were to driving a vehicle to their designated area. You need to consider all the saving of that energy before making the ferry dock because of its emission.

Sincerely,

Vadia Carroll

From: [REDACTED]
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/9/2013 11:12:32 AM
Subject: S.S. Badger

Keep this important link between Wisconsin & Michigan running...This is an important short cut when traveling to Michigan...since the badger also carries car it does help cut down on car emissions...in a short time the ship will be converted from coal to an alternate fuel...I miss the car ferry service we once had here in Kewaunee...Dan Eckert ,Kewaunee, Wi 54216

From: Lamar Calewarts
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/9/2013 11:16:02 AM
Subject: Badger

Keep It running. It is needed.

From: b fagan
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/9/2013 11:24:34 AM
Subject: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771.

Hello.
I've been following stories of the Badger for several years in the Chicago and Wisconsin newspapers. It seems clear that the owners prefer delaying or dodging any commitments to clean up the vessel, failing to meet any previous deadlines they've agreed to.

Rather than go through the expenditures of trying again and again to get them to stick to their own word, I favor suspending their operation NOW until they finally live up to prior agreements. No 2013 sailing season. No coal residues dumped in the lake.

If they want to retain its unique characteristic of being the last coal-fired vessel dirtying the Great Lakes, then they should permanently dock it and turn it into a museum.

Regards,
Brian Fagan

From: Harold Boettger
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/9/2013 11:30:29 AM
Subject: D. J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Dear Sir:

I support approval of the Lake Michigan car ferry Consent Agreement. The SS Badger is a living piece of Michigan history that should be preserved for future generations to experience.

Sent from my iPad
Harold Boettger

From: Erik Kranzusch
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/9/2013 11:33:51 AM
Subject: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

RE: The S.S. Badger

Hello, I am writing in regards to the public comment period, and would like to share my opinion.

I ride the S.S. Badger at least once or twice a year with my family. We usually get a state room and pay for car passage, which is quite expensive. I love the experience, but sometimes history belongs in a museum.

I feel that the level of pollution that the S.S. Badger causes is absolutely unacceptable. Two years is not soon enough. LMC is a business (which I support), and I think they need to follow the same rules and regulations as any other pollution causing business. Failure to do so should have consequences, albeit heavy fines or mandated shutdown. The boat has been in service for 60 years, which is a very long time. As much as I love riding the Badger, I think that it needs to be replaced or upgraded to a modern diesel engine. It is up to us to protect Lake Michigan, which is a resource which we should leave usable for our children. To me, no amount of money or nostalgia is worth more than that.

Thank you,
Erik Kranzusch

From: Bob
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/9/2013 11:34:02 AM
Subject: D.J.Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

To whom it may concern;

You must allow the S.S. Badger to continue operation, it is a vital resource for both Michigan and Wisconsin. Hundreds of people use this resource to visit both Michigan and Wisconsin, who otherwise may never have visited these states, as well as transporting large products, such as turbines. We use the Badger to travel to the Cancer Treatment Center of America and have for a number of years, as do many other people. It is less expensive than flying and more enjoyable than driving thru Chicago. The S.S. Badger is an asset to both Michigan and Wisconsin's economy, stopping operation of the Badger would create an economic hardship on western Michigan as also Eastern Wisconsin and northern Illinois would also be affected. Many jobs would be lost and that in turn would affect local businesses, as well as the tourist trade.

When we conclude our treatment at Cancer Treatment Center and are returning home we visit northern Illinois and Wisconsin as a short vacation, this would no longer be possible if we had to fly.

So please give the S.S. Badger every consideration to continue operation's.

Sincerely,

Robert and Mary Rynicki

[REDACTED]
Sterling, Mi. 48659
[REDACTED]

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Version: 2013.0.3272 / Virus Database: 3162/6234 - Release Date: 04/09/13

From: Bob Kowal
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/9/2013 1:29:12 PM
Subject: SS Bader-Coal ash

This is clearly a difficult case. Noone wants to shut down a going business, and one that the customers truly value. Also, this business supports the two communities that it services.

However, pollution is pollution, and we do not want that either. It is my belief that a serious levy of a fine for not obliging with the mandate to clean up the pollution must be levied against the SS Badger, and this fine must be severe enough that the owners of the ship see that they cannot continue without investing in better technology to mitigate the pollution. Yes, this puts a severe burden on them, but they have been unwilling to act under past pressures, so new pressures and more intense pressure needs to be put on them.

I have sailed on the ship, and I like it. As a Michigan resident, it is important to me to see this company stay in business and success. Further, the ecological cost of all the passengers to drive around the lake is also high. Has the government done a study to find out how much pollution would be caused if the ship were shut down completely? This should be done, but done quickly to make a real determination of the value in shutting the ship down.

Again, I say levy a very serious fine against them, and not a small one, but one that very clearly tells them that they have to invest in better technology.

I would like to be notified of any public hearings to be held in Michigan or any forums where this issue is going to be addressed.

If possible, I would be willing to sit on an advisory board ro council to help negotiate a settlement.

Thank you,
Bob Kowal

[REDACTED]
Plainwell, MI 49080
[REDACTED]

From: JEFFREY WIEN
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
CC: media@ssbadger.com
Sent: 4/9/2013 1:50:18 PM
Subject: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Gentlemen:

I am writing to you to urge you to move ahead with the consent decree with Lake Michigan Car Ferry to permit them to operate the **S.S. BADGER** for two more years should give them the time that they need to develop a system for containing the residue coal ash. The **S.S. BADGER** is too valuable an asset to the Public to force it out of business at this time.

Thanks for allowing me to share my thoughts with you.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey L. Wien
Chicago, IL 60601

Addressed to:

Assistant Attorney General, Environment and Natural Resources Division

Reference Case Number: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771 (must be included in subject line)

Case Name:

United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and S.S. Badger

Comments to be EMAILED: pubcomment-ees.enrd@usdoj.gov

From: [REDACTED]
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/9/2013 2:02:00 PM
Subject: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

4/8/2013

Assistant Attorney General
U.S. DOJ - ENRD
P.O. Box 7611
Washington, DC 20044-7611

Reference:
D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771
United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry
Services and SS Badger

To Whom It May Concern:

Please acknowledge my full support for the Consent Decree regarding the Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger. Carferries have provided a vital service for our region for over 100 years and must be maintained.

I would like to further point out that if this one boat continued to dump coal ash for the next 100 years it would not even be noticeable on a scale in the total amount of ash that has been dumped into the lakes over the past century. For the EPA to be retroactively placing restrictions on such an historic vessel is a total waste of time, money, and worse a threat to jobs, an the economies of the port city's and surrounding areas. I truly find this case a disgrace of Government intervention. Without a doubt this boat has a pollution factor, but it pales when compared to the excess pollution that would occur if the boat did not exist.

Please provide some common sense in this case and then focus on the real threat to the Great Lakes that you have done nothing about, Invasive Species!

Sincerely,

Fred Oeflein

From: Carol Robinson
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/9/2013 2:06:54 PM
Subject: Badger Ferry

Please do all that is possible to continue the Badger summer service across Lake Michigan. I am handicapped and drive a small RV. The Badger has made my yearly trip to Buffalo, NY from Minneapolis so much easier and safer. Thank you

From: Gerald Krakowski
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/9/2013 2:48:59 PM
Subject: S.S. Badger

Comment: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771.

I am disgusted with the length of time that the EPA & DOJ have been kicking the can down the road with the dirty polluting S.S. Badger. Don't you see that you are not in control after all these years of ending this pollution by giving more and more time to these polluters. You are weak when it comes to polluting our lakes and drinking water when you give in to some lobbyists and Senators. End this nonsense now. Senator Dick Durbin IL, is right on this subject.

Gerald S. Krakowski

From: Nancy Solomon
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
CC: mhawthorne@tribune.com
Sent: 4/9/2013 3:19:07 PM
Subject: United States c. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc. D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

RE: United States c. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc. D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

I cannot believe that the EPA is giving the company that owns the S.S. Badger two more years to pollute the water my grandchildren, their parents and I drink. Shame on you. This dumping must stop NOW -- not two years from now.

I can only believe that it's cheaper for lobbyists to contribute to Congressional campaigns than it is for the company to do the right thing. Shame on them. And shame on you for allowing it.

What possible legitimate excuse can there be for the EPA to allow the Badger to continue to dump dangerous coal ash into the lake? Surely they can find something else to do with it -- or stop running the ship altogether.

Please don't pull that "it will lose jobs" chestnut out. What nonsense. I don't believe that for a second. Figuring out how to stop dumping coal ash and then doing it will create more jobs. The company just doesn't want to spend the money.

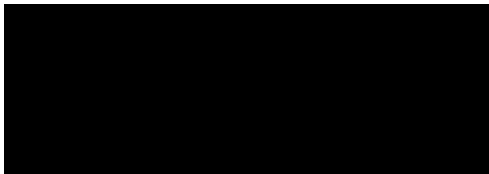
What water do they drink? What water do YOU drink?

We depend on you, the EPA, to make sure we are safe. Do your job. Stand up to the Congresspeople who are obviously owned by the company.

I am perfectly happy to talk to anyone about this issue. Do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,
Nancy Solomon

Nancy Solomon



Chicago IL 60626

From: Bill Gustafson
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/9/2013 5:46:22 PM
Subject: THE BADGER - D.J. Ref. No. 90-0-5-1-1-10771

We live in West Michigan and use the Badger when crossing Lake Michigan to visit friends in Wisconsin. It saves gas and travel time.

None of us care for the coal ash and it should eventually be changed.

We support continuing this service, but in the future recommend that the Ferry's power plant be converted to natural gas or another less offensive fuel.

Bill and Marge Gustafson
Muskegon, Michigan

From: Kim Thomas
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/9/2013 7:03:23 PM
Subject: Reference Case Number D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Case Name: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger.

Dear Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division,

This is to voice my desire to see that the SS Badger based out of Ludington, MI. be continued through the Consent Decree.

Although I don't agree with the Consent Decree, if this is what it will take to see that the SS Badger continues to sail Lake Michigan then I will go along with it. I support the SS Badger and would prefer that it stays the way it is currently and not be subject to the 2 year Consent Decree. With that said, I will take what is given to us the local citizens who depend on the tourism that the SS Badger brings in for our local economy i.e. jobs.

There is way too much politics being played in this case. The SS Badger is the only steam ship car ferry that still crosses the Great Lake. After all these years and many other coal burning steam ships dumping the ash, it is only now considered to be a major polluter? With all of the other steam ships gone the SS Badger is a historical ship. I don't want to see it go by way of progress. Many people ride this ship not just for fun, but for travel, business and family vacations. I think that Sen. Dick Durbin, the anti's and the environmentalists have gone above and beyond to single out the SS Badger. Like I said, "Too much politics!!!!"

Sincerely,

Kim M. Thomas

From: Mitchell Brown
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/9/2013 9:09:58 PM
Subject: 90-5-1-1-10771

I feel strongly that the Consent Decree 90-5-1-1-10771 should be approved.

Mitchell Brown

From: Kelli Teegen
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/9/2013 11:15:33 PM
Subject: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

To Whom It May Concern at the EPA and DOJ:

My family and I have lived in the City of Chicago and the Chicago suburbs for the past 20 years. I admit to being embarrassed by any of the elected officials of IL, WI, or MI (regardless of what side of the isle they are on) who would allow the Badger carferry to continue operating in its current state. I just want to make sure I have the facts straight:

- 1) This single ferry produces more than 5 times as much pollution than all other Great Lakes freighters combined.
- 2) Most other coal-burning ships were retired more than 60 years ago.
- 3) The ship's owners repeatedly say they will clean up the ship and "make it the greenest ship on the Great Lakes," yet they are constantly lobbying for extensions and exemptions from doing exactly that. In fact, since 2008 they have spent nearly \$300k lobbying for these exemptions.
- 4) The waste that comes from this ship is coal ash that contains arsenic, lead, mercury, and other toxic metals. Despite this, the Badger's owners suggest the ship poses no threat to Lake Michigan.
- 5) Other similar ships, like the Lake Express, comply with the environmental laws that the Badger does not.
- 6) The latest deal with the EPA goes against a deal they promised to meet by this sailing season, and instead gives them 2 more years to pollute the lake.
- 7) And now for my favorite: At one point in time the Badger's owners rejected state aid to convert to diesel engines because they wanted to run their business without governmental assistance.

I guess here is my question: What in the world is wrong with anyone who supports granting yet another extension to this ownership group? Like I said in the first paragraph, it is things like this that make normal citizens EMBARRASSED by politicians who cannot just look across the isle and do the right thing. This is simple common sense! MILLIONS of people drink from Lake Michigan and it doesn't take a genius to figure out that is a resource we need to protect. Yet we allow this single ship the ability to dump toxic garbage in Lake Michigan in massively concentrated quantities? You have got to be kidding me!

This is a joke that has gone on long enough. Do the right thing and enforce the EARLIER deal with the EPA that requires the ship's owners to comply NOW. Not in 2 more years -- NOW. People will figure out other vacation options and other ways to get across the Lake. The sliver of the population that likes the nostalgia of this ugly ship will GET OVER IT. The local economies will survive. Just please do everyone a favor -- DO THE RIGHT THING and stop prolonging this ridiculous set of circumstances.

Thank you.

From: Wendy Rowsam
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/10/2013 8:10:53 AM
Subject: Case Number: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

April 9, 2013

TO: Assistant Attorney General
Environmental and Natural Resources Division

SUBJECT: Case Number: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Case Name: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc.,
d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

FR: Wendy Rowsam
[REDACTED]
Denmark, WI 54208
[REDACTED]

I am opposed to the proposed consent decree that allows Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger to continue discharging coal ash into Lake Michigan through the end of the 2014 sailing season.

LMC was given five years to find a replacement for coal – ample time to find a new fuel source. Instead they chose to lobby and use public relations to bully their way through the process, putting the wants of their business before the protection of our natural resources.

Lake Michigan belongs to all of us. LMC should not be allowed to continue dumping coal ash into the lake and emitting coal exhaust into the air. There are other fuel solutions and five years was ample time to implement one of them.

I have sailed on the SS Badger many times to visit friends in Michigan. I do not want to see service discontinued but I believe enough is enough. It's time to live with the requirements or cease operations.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this very important issue.

From: Deborah Villegas
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/10/2013 9:13:34 AM
Subject: SS BADGER

I would like to express my concern for allowing the SS Badger to continue to dump coal ash into Lake Michigan. Regardless of the the new restrictions the SS Badger is continuing to pollute the Lake Michigan. The consent decree does not go far enough!!

It is long past the time this historical ship it made into a museum. Our family vacationed in Ludington for the period of 1985-1998. Enjoyed watching the ship coming into port in the evenings and heading out to sea in the mornings. Never could afford to ride on it. We were concerned back then about the pollution and we are still dealing with it today.

The ship should be stopped from running until brought up to 2013 standards!

Carlos & Deborah Villegas

[REDACTED]
Lansing, MI 48906
[REDACTED]

From: Val Stapleton
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/10/2013 9:47:47 AM
Subject: D.J.Ref.No.90-5-1-1-10771
Attachments: image001.jpg; Valerie Stapleton.vcf

Hello Assistant Attorney General, Environment and Natural Resource Division,

Thank you for taking the time to read my comment concerning the United States v. Lake Michigan Trans.-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger.

I am writing in support of acceptance of the Consent Decree. I live and work in In Ludington and feel the impact of losing the SS badger would be devastating to the community. I am a concerned citizen on the effects of not protecting our fresh water resources and I feel that accepting the decree will help both sides of the issue.

Respectfully,
Valerie Stapleton

	<p>Valerie Stapleton Gift Shop Manager</p> <p>(231) 843-1509 Work vstapleton@ssbadger.com</p> <p>701 Maritime Drive Ludington, MI 49431 http://www.ssbadger.com</p>
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From: GREG WEIERS
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/10/2013 10:03:50 AM
Subject: D. J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Assistant Attorney General, Environment and Natural Resources Division

Case Name:

United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

Let the Badger live !!!!!

Go fine the real polluters of the world.

Gregory Weiers

From: Jack Schafer - Schafer & Associates
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/9/2013 5:39:05 PM
Subject: D. J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771 United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

Assistant Attorney General
Environment and Natural Resources Division

I am writing in support of the continued operation of the SS Badger, serving the citizens of the states of Wisconsin and Michigan, and many other states as well, by connecting the cities of Manitowoc, WI and Ludington, MI.

The Badger has had an historic career as a Lake Michigan carferry. From her early days, safely and efficiently carrying railroad cars and passengers year round, to her current role transporting custom loads of heavy and oversize equipment on semi-trailers and thousands of vacationers and business passengers during the summer sailing season, she has saved her many customers hundreds of miles of road travel and gallons of costly fuel while providing a pleasant and entertaining lake voyage in the bargain. Her ongoing service enables a significant economic benefit to large areas surrounding Manitowoc & Ludington.

I support also the efforts to replace the existing use of coal to fire her boilers with a more environmentally friendly fuel. As an engineer, I can imagine that compressed natural gas (CNG) or similar natural gas technology may well prove to be the best solution to ongoing ash disposal issues while retaining the historic steam propulsion system. I understand that such a technology switch is currently being evaluated. This investigation should be afforded adequate time to fully confirm feasibility and insure safe and efficient operation can be achieved.

I perceive that much of the hue and cry dealing with the ash disposal issue is being fostered by the owners of the M/V Lake Express, the Milwaukee to Muskegon, MI high speed ferry, seeking to gain competitive advantage by attack on the Badger's disposal permitting. Although I live in Milwaukee, personally, I prefer the SS Badger to the Lake Express for esthetic reasons, a smooth passage with comfortable accommodations being my desire. Analogous to a trip on a classic steam train versus a ride on a Greyhound bus. However, others may prefer to avoid the Chicago traffic encountered while traveling "around the bottom of the lake" by taking the short cut across the lake to Muskegon. To each his own, I'm happy that the Lake Express operates out of the Port of Milwaukee and is available to those who elect to take that form of transportation to and from Muskegon. I'm certain she is an asset to the economies of our local areas as well.

But please, let's retain some perspective on the ash disposal issue!

SS Badger is the last of an bygone era. In past years, hundreds of coal burning freighters, ore boats and ferries traveled the Great Lakes daily. Many operating all year round. For over a century, they all disposed of tons of coal ash from their fireboxes in a similar fashion. I am not aware of any scientific study supporting evidence of long term damage to the aquatic ecosystem caused by those vessels. Think instead of the tragic and irreversible effects suffered from the ballast water discharge of oil-powered seagoing freighters which brought us the Zebra and Quagga mussels, the Round Goby and other invasive species. Does this not suggest a better target on which to focus in the effort to protect our Great Lakes?

Respectfully,

John S. Schafer
Milwaukee, WI

From: Barb Heiman LISW
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/10/2013 11:17:57 AM
Subject: The Badger

I grew up in Manitowoc Wis and the Badger -- and the sound of her approach and departure continue to be a part of my childhood memories. In the 70's we sailed with our children from Ludington to "home" in recent years we have enjoyed the refurbishment of the big ship and have sailed numerous times coming and going. We plan to utilize this "around Chicago" transportation again this July.

We understand times change, environment changes - but we strongly urge you to keep the SSBadger operating in the waters of Lake Michigan.

Barb and Gary Heiman, Columbus Ohio area

From: Jack Otteson
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/10/2013 10:36:56 AM
Subject: Reference Case Number: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

The SS Badger is probably the last coal fired steam ship in the country, but for sure the last on the Great Lakes, The Badger is in trouble now with the EPA for dumping coal ash in Lake Michigan. If for no other reason The Badger should be saved as a coal fired ship living museum.

Jack Owen Otteson
[REDACTED]

Rose City, MI 48654
[REDACTED]

From: Nancy Walch
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/10/2013 12:40:27 PM
Subject: S.S. Badger

Hello from a lifetime summer resident of Ludington, Michigan. The saga of the Badger has weighed heavily on my mind the last decade or so. I have read many of the articles written, pro and con, about the ecological impact the Badger has on Lake Michigan. I am one of many of the opinion that the ferry has not hurt the lake, but helped it. I walk the beach north of Ludington every day from May to October and do not see any evidence of dirty water besides the trash of rude fisherman and beachgoers who litter. The water is as clean and clear as it was 53 years ago when I was born. The Badger brings nothing but joy, convenience, tourism and history to a beautiful and pure part of our country. The amount of animosity the Badger has received from enviromentalists are people behind desks with computers who have not lived seeing the big ship in all it's glory, in every kind of weather, giving to our country a bit of the past in the present day.

The United States needs the Badger. We need history. We need to give the joy of something so rare to our children and their children. My son worked on the Badger for three summers. He could have worked anywhere, but he chose to be a part of that history, and I pray that the Badger will be ferrying families and helping with the transportation of many industries for decades to come.

Please save our history!

Nancy Deal Walch


From: Richard Ristine
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/10/2013 2:47:18 PM
Subject: D.J. Ref # 90-5-1-1-10771

TO Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division

Please count our family among those wanting to see the SS Badger service continue. We have enjoyed taking trips on the Badger and its former fleet mates for decades. We have loaded our RV or passenger car, typically on the Wisconsin side, and appreciated the relaxing ride across Lake Michigan as we headed for our ultimate destination of Leland, MI. We plan to take the Badger eastbound again this June.

Until recently, I was unaware of the environmentally unfriendly practice of dumping the Badger's combustion waste into the lake. As an conservationist greatly interested in the health of the Great Lakes, I recognize that this needs to change. I sincerely hope that the operators of the Badger will be given a sufficient window of opportunity to develop a broadly acceptable alternative to this practice. Until then, it is appropriate for the economic and recreational benefits of operation of the Badger to continue.

Richard O. Ristine, Jr.


Indianapolis, IN 46260

From: Cynthia K. Thomas
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/10/2013 3:24:59 PM
Subject: Enforcement Agreement re Lake Michigan Car Ferry

I am fully supportive of the enforcement agreement and appreciative of the insight to take this speedy course. I only wish the end date was 2013 rather than 2014.

Thank you!

--

Cynthia Thomas, M.Ed.



From: Julene Baars
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/10/2013 3:51:12 PM
Subject: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Case Name:

United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

PLEASE approve the consent decree to keep our historic steamship, the SS Badger, running and serving our communities during the next 2 years while it works toward ending the discharge of coal ash. This vehicle provides Ludington, Michigan and Manitowoc, Wisconsin with a tourist based, economic boost that we as business owners, cannot survive without. The Badger is an integral part of Ludington's history as a maritime port and is a defining icon of our city.

We have been very dismayed by all the negativism surrounding the Badger. They have proven to the EPA and the public that the coal ash discharge is well within legal limits. We feel that there is a negative campaign being spearheaded and funded by the Badger's competitor, Lake Express, based in Muskegon, Michigan.

PLEASE SAVE OUR SHIP and our livelihood! Approve the consent decree to keep the SS BADGER working on Lake Michigan!

Thank you in advance for a positive outcome...

Julene Baars

[REDACTED]
Ludington, MI 49431

From: Brad Rosenberg
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/10/2013 5:18:05 PM
Subject: U.S. v Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc

The dumping of coal ash into Lake Michigan by the S.S. Badger must stop NOW. Not in 2 years time. It is disgusting to think of those extreme pollutants being allowed for 2 more years. Please consider the grave endangerments to "Pure" Michigan, it's inhabitants and wildlife, and all the affiliated waterways if this ferry continues to dump coal ash. We need to stop this now!!

Sharon Rosenberg
[REDACTED]

West Bloomfield, MI 48322

Sent from my iPad

From: juliet birnbaum
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
CC: julietbirnbaum
Sent: 4/10/2013 6:10:13 PM
Subject: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771.

United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771.

Dear EPA,

Please do not allow the SS Badger to continue to dump coal ash for another 2 years into Lake Michigan. They have already been given a 5 year delay in cleaning up their vessel's pollution. I strongly oppose the dissent decree allowing for an additional 2 years of pollution. End the SS Badger's coal dumping now.

*Sincerely,
Juliet Birnbaum
Chicago, IL*

From: Chris Bishop
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/10/2013 6:22:24 PM
Subject: SS Badger

Really all of these emails and websites won't do too much until there is an economical reason for them to shut this ship down immediately. One of the reasons could be it effects another's business like say the fishing industry or maybe it affects fish migration killing off certain species. Really nobody gives a hoot about pollution in this country or this world anymore. Look at the salt we put down in wintertime that destroys much more than the ash does. Refocus and find someone or something that this ships passage in harming beyond the lake.

Chris

From: Brenda DeBruyn
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/10/2013 6:21:50 PM
Subject: DJ Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771 Lake Michigan Carferry

Friends at the Federal Court,

I am writing to ask you to approve the consent decree proposed to allow the SS Badger carferry to continue service on Lake Michigan while its owners work to end the discharge of coal ash into the lake. I believe that the ash discharge needs to stop for the health of the lake and the organisms that live in it or consume its water. But the Badger provides an important transportation role that needs to continue, while the company works to install an ash capture system or switches to another fuel source.

My wife and I use the ferry 3 to 4 times a year to travel from Manitowoc to Ludington in order to visit family in Michigan. We also see the volume of freight, especially oversize freight, that uses the ferry to bypass travel through Chicago's busy highways. The port cities of Ludington and Manitowoc enjoy significant economic benefits from travelers using the ferry, who buy meals, rent hotel rooms and shop while in the area. The experience of being on a boat in the middle of Lake Michigan is special, and many ferry users have an opportunity otherwise afforded only owners of sailboats or large yachts. The SS Badger is the last steamship still operating on the Great Lakes, and the history of the carferries is well presented by exhibits aboard the ship as well as in books for sale in the ship's gift shop.

I have also travelled on the Lake Express hydroplane ferry from Milwaukee to Muskegon, Michigan. I am glad that there is another ferry, but I find the Badger more convenient and comfortable for our family. We can bring our dog along and she stays in the car with the windows partway open. We can walk around and sit on deck when the weather permits on the Badger, which is not easy to do on the Lake Express due to its higher speed and smaller size. The more northern crossing is also more convenient for us, as it is for many travelling from Minnesota and northern Wisconsin or upper Michigan. I believe there is enough business for both ferries to survive.

I hope you will see fit to approve the consent decree which provides a solution which can be implemented in a timely manner while preserving the benefits of cross-lake ferry service. Thanks for listening.

Donald DeBruyn

Two Rivers, WI 54241

From: Denise Johnson
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/10/2013 6:37:51 PM
Subject: U.S. vs Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc

Regarding D.J. ref #90-5-1-1-10771

I believe the dumping of coal ash into Lake Michigan by the S. S. Badger has gone on far too long. Please see that this stops with no more delays. Thank you

From: linda hughes
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/10/2013 6:47:49 PM
Subject: D.J. Ref.No. 90-5-1-1-10771

April 10, 2013

Assistant Attorney General,

Environment and Natural Resources Division

U.S. DOJ – ENRD

P.O. Box 7611

Washington, DC 20044-7611

We need the Badger! My 93-year-old mother-in-law lives in Northern Wisconsin, and taking the Badger allows us to visit her several times during the sailing season, avoiding the long and dangerous route around Chicago, or the long and tedious trip through the Upper Peninsula. Our daughter, her husband and their 2 children live in Minneapolis, and we also use the Badger to cross through northern Wisconsin to see them. We have trips already scheduled and paid for, to celebrate birthdays and to visit our family.

We have traveled across Lake Michigan every season for many years, and we love it! It is a relaxing way to enjoy the natural beauty of the lake. The lake remains beautiful and clean, despite the fact that coal-fired steam ships have sailed the lakes for more than a century. At one time there were 700 such ships on the lakes, and the environment of the lake has been fine, and the fish are plentiful and healthy. Two more seasons of one ship sailing it's short season will make no difference.

The SS Badger saves more than a million gallons of gasoline annually, and keeps 4.3 tons of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, as it transports hundreds of vehicles, including large semi trucks, motor homes, trailers, and can hold almost 200 automobiles each trip! It also hauls hundreds of large wind-tower sections across the lake, empowering wind energy, which definitely saves on burning coal and petroleum products for energy for homes, businesses and factories. The trip across the lake is only 60 miles, but saves hundreds of miles of driving.

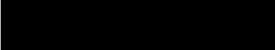
The Badger also generates hundreds of jobs: for the crew of the ship, for the restaurants, shops and hotels in the port cities of Ludington and Manitowoc, and in towns and cities along the routes as well.

In all our trips on the Badger, we have seen many interesting things transported, which could not have used the regular roads, such as enormous foundry machines, road-building equipment, construction parts and even horses. In fact, my father used the ferry in the late 1950s to cross from Wisconsin to Ludington to buy and bring back a piece of machinery he needed for his excavating business.

Please save our Badger! It means a lot to me and my family, and it is helping the environment in the very important ways mentioned.

If you want to help the environment, you might limit the hundreds of cruise ships which burn fuel and foul the atmosphere, and do no good at all, just give rich people something to keep them from getting bored!

Linda Hughes



Haslett, MI 48840



From: Matthew Edmonds
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/10/2013 6:52:55 PM
Subject: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Hello,

I am a Michigan resident who has used the SS Badger ferry over the years and I feel they have had enough time to upgrade their vessel. Please consider extending their waiver only through the end of this year. Additionally I feel the fine should have been higher if at all possible.

Matthew Edmonds
Grand Ledge, MI


From: spencer
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/10/2013 9:15:35 PM
Subject: S.S. Badger

I would like to enter comments into the public register in opposition to the proposed consent decree regarding the S.S. Badger. The previous agreement offered a clear deadline to LMC by which they needed to stop dumping coal ash into the lake.

It is unacceptable to me that EPA should continue to offer extensions to cover for LMC's negligence. Senator Durbin is right to demand larger fines and faster reductions in dumping.

This issue ought to be LMC's problem to fix. Under the proposed decree we all pay for LMC's delinquency through a degradation of our natural habitat and drinking water. That's not fair to me, my family, or anyone else in the Great Lakes region.

Sincerely,
Spencer Gardner


Chicago, IL 60625

From: Will Stites
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/10/2013 9:57:54 PM
Subject: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

-----BEGIN PGP SIGNED MESSAGE-----
Hash: SHA1

Dear EPA or DOJ officials:

I am glad to hear that a settlement has been reached that will sunset the pollution that the S.S. Badger has been allowed to discharge into Lake Michigan. I have crossed the Lake several times on the Badger, and I appreciate the convenience and unique experience. But these do not justify the large amount of noxious coal ash that the Badger has been putting into the Lake. My priority is to clean up this pollution. Please make sure no more delays are allowed.

Best regards,
Will Stites

[REDACTED]
Stevens Point, Wis. 54481

-----BEGIN PGP SIGNATURE-----

Version: GnuPG v1.4.10 (GNU/Linux)

Comment: Using GnuPG with Mozilla - <http://enigmail.mozdev.org/>

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2351437

PHYSICAL DOCUMENT

ENV_ENFORCEMENT-n2351437-v1

CITIZEN COMMENTS

Author: Maher, Robert

Document Type: LETTER

LSA(s): BDOUGLAS

Co-Counsel: SMAJUMDAR

Counsel LSA(s): ICOVINGT

Distribution List: Covington, Imogene (ENRD);Majumdar, Sumona (ENRD);Douglas Jr., Belton H (ENRD);Maher, Robert (ENRD);Rose, Robert (ENRD);Lattin, Sue (ENRD);Berman, Lisa (ENRD);ENRD, EESCaseManagement (ENRD)

Fileroom: EES - 6th Floor

DJ#: 90-5-1-1-10771

Case Name: U.S. V. LAKE MICHIGAN TRANS-LAKE SHORTCUT, INC., D/B/A LAKE MICHIGAN CARFERRY SERVICE AND S.S. BADGER

Court: MI W.D. Mich.; 6th Cir.

Notes:

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Bound Document:

Maher, Robert

Richard and Janet Moore
[REDACTED]
Petoskey, Michigan 49770

Reference Case Number:

D. J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Case Name:

United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

Assistant Attorney General
U.S. DOJ - ENRD
P.O. Box 7611
Washington, DC 20044-7611

13 APR 11 P 3:17

DEPT. OF JUSTICE - ENRD
ENVIRONMENTAL DIVISION

Dear Assistant Attorney General,

I'm writing on behalf of myself and my wife as we are very concerned about the SS Badger. This ship is one of the last great Ladies on our Great Lakes.

I do understand about the dumping of ash, however, here in Petoskey, just one small town of many that continue to dump tons of road salt through the catch basins which are connected to

storm drains all routed to Bear River that flows into Little Traverse Bay on Lake Michigan.

This has been this way since all of my 60 years of living and working here in Petoskey.

Yet because of the enormous expense of capturing all of this water and stopping it from flowing into the Great Lakes would be 100 million if not more. To big a problem to fail I guess.

I have brought this up as the Badger does have competition as I'm sure you are aware of.

To put the Badger on moth balls and put many out of jobs, and frankly there are many

corr
90-5-1-1-10771

tourists that prefer this type of vessel, also it is a cheaper way of crossing.

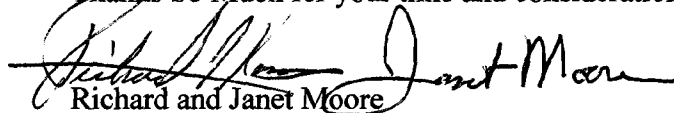
Janet and I as tax payers are also in favor of protecting the Great Lakes, and we commend you for looking into the impact this vessel may have on Lake Michigan. I believe as a Scuba Diver for over 12 years in this area, now retired, I have seen the difference in quality, mainly the destructive Zebra mussels, and now the Asian Carp. You do not see the Badger bringing in this type of pollutants. We urge you to keep this old gal afloat and to continue service on the Great Lakes.

I have no doubt that there are many more problems that must be much higher on the list of pollutants other than this Great Ship. I find it amazing that since the(new) vessel was put into operation that the attack on the Badger came to light. In my opinion this is simply a ploy of the (other) ferry that is in service and would like to be the monopoly of the passage to Wisconsin and Michigan.

Please consider the impact of the jobs and the tourist attraction and the good people that rely on this Great Ship and its services, there must be an intelligent solution to keep her afloat and in service.

In closing, My wife and I are in no way affiliated, nor do we know the owners and operators of the SS Badger, however it is clear that this has come to light since a new ferry service came into service. We truly feel that decommissioning this Great Ship would be a mistake in so many ways. There must be a Grandfather clause in there somewhere.

Thanks So Much for your time and consideration;


Richard and Janet Moore

Reference Case Number:

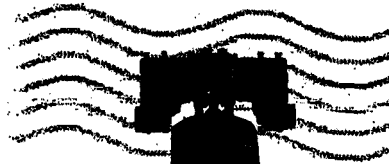
D. J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Case Name:

United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake-Michigan Ferry Services
and SS Badger

TRAVERSE CITY

497 496 1 L



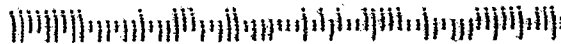
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Assistant Attorney General
U.S. DOJ - ENRD
P.O. Box 7611
Washington, DC 20044-7611

X-RAYED
APR 11 2013
DOJ MAILROOM

2004437611





2351440

PHYSICAL DOCUMENT

ENV_ENFORCEMENT-n2351440-v1

CITIZEN COMMENTS

Author: Maher, Robert

Document Type: LETTER

LSA(s): BDOUGLAS

Co-Counsel: SMAJUMDAR

Counsel LSA(s): ICOVINGT

Distribution List: ENRD, EESCaseManagement (ENRD); Lattin, Sue (ENRD); Rose, Robert (ENRD); Berman, Lisa (ENRD);Covington, Imogene (ENRD);Majumdar, Sumona (ENRD);Douglas Jr., Belton H (ENRD);Maher, Robert (ENRD)

Fileroom: EES - 6th Floor

DJ#: 90-5-1-1-10771

Case Name: U.S. V. LAKE MICHIGAN TRANS-LAKE SHORTCUT, INC., D/B/A LAKE MICHIGAN CARFERRY SERVICE AND S.S. BADGER

Court: MI W.D. Mich.; 6th Cir.

Notes:

Double-Sided:

Received Date: 4/11/2013

Urgent:

Oversize:

Bound Document:

Maheer, Robert

Robert D. Wire

[REDACTED]
Springfield, IL. 62712

Assistant Attorney General
U.S. DOJ-ENRD
P.O. Box 7611
Washington, D.C. 20044-7611

DEPT. OF JUSTICE - ENRD
ENVIRONMENT DIVISION
13 APR 11 P3:17

Re: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Short Cut, Inc.
D.J. Reference No. 90-5-1-1-10771

April 9, 2013

Gentlemen,

I support the endeavor of the Lake Michigan Car Ferry, [LMC] to return clean water to Lake Michigan and to emit clean air to the atmosphere.

However, I fail to see how requiring the LMC to pay a fine of \$25,000 in a civil penalty for alleged violations of Michigan and Wisconsin mercury standards in 2012, is helpful to anyone.

I strongly object to my Federal Government assessing a \$25,000 fine. In lieu of a fine, LMC needs a grant to help the design and construction cost of the ship board and land based facilities for improved and environmental safe operations. This winter LMC spent \$300,000 to rebuild the ship's engines. As a start, I suggest they should receive a monetary grant for this effort and NOT FINED.

Sincerely,


Robert D. Wire

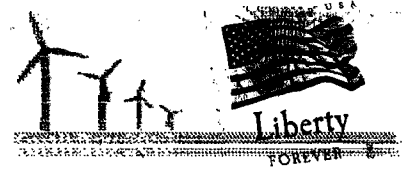
corr

90-5-1-1-10771

R.D. Wire
[Redacted]

SPRINGFIELD IL 625

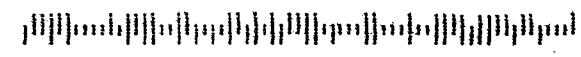
08 APR 2013 PM 1 T



Assistant Attorney General
U. S. DOJ-ENRD
P.O. Box 7611
Washington, D.C. 20044-7611

X-RAYED
APR 11 2013
DOJ MAILROOM

20044+7611





2351465

PHYSICAL DOCUMENT

ENV_ENFORCEMENT-n2351465-v1

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON THE PROPOSED CONSENT DECREE

Author: Maher, Robert

Document Type: LETTER

LSA(s): BDOUGLAS

Co-Counsel: SMAJUMDAR

Counsel LSA(s): ICOVINGT

Distribution List: ENRD, EESCaseManagement (ENRD); Lattin, Sue (ENRD); Rose, Robert (ENRD); Berman, Lisa (ENRD);Maher, Robert (ENRD);Douglas Jr., Belton H (ENRD);Majumdar, Sumona (ENRD);Covington, Imogene (ENRD)

Fileroom: EES - 6th Floor

DJ#: 90-5-1-1-10771

Case Name: U.S. V. LAKE MICHIGAN TRANS-LAKE SHORTCUT, INC., D/B/A LAKE MICHIGAN CARFERRY SERVICE AND S.S. BADGER

Court: MI W.D. Mich.; 6th Cir.

Notes:

Double-Sided:

Received Date: 4/11/2013

Urgent:

Oversize:

Bound Document:

Maier, Robert

April 6, 2013
Ella Damkoehler
[Redacted]
Ludington, Michigan 49431

Assistant Attorney General
Environment and Natural Resources Division
U.S. DOJ- ENRD
P.O. Box 7611
Washington, DC 20044-7611

DEPT. OF JUSTICE - ENRD
ENVIRONMENT DIVISION
13 APR 11 P3:02

Attention:
Assistant Attorney General, Environment and natural Resources Division

Dear Assistant Attorney General,

Reference Case Number D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Case Name:

United States v Lake Michigan Trans lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a lake Michigan
Carferry Services and SS Badger

Please approve the latest Consent Decree agreement with the Department of Justice and
EPA. Enough said, it shouldn't even be a question in anyone's mind.

I believe in their continuing efforts to end the ash dumping at the end of two years. The
SS Badger is a National Landmark and shouldn't have a question on the continuing
running of this Vessel.

Please allow the SS Badger to continue on..

Thank you.

Sincerely,
Ella Damkoehler

Ella M. Damkoehler

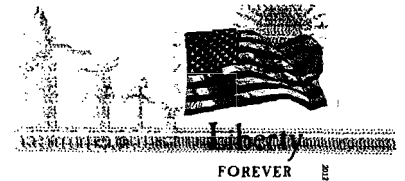
corr. 90-5-1-1-10771

Ella Dam Koehler

[REDACTED]
Ludington, Mi 49431

POSTAGE PAID PERMIT NO. 1000 LUDINGTON MI 49431

08 APR 2013 PM 1 L



Reference Case Number

D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

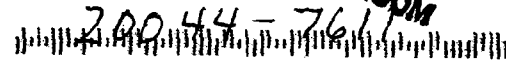
Environment and Natural Resources Div.

U.S. DOJ - ENRD

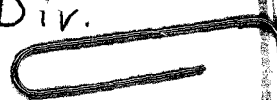
P.O. Box 7611

Washington, DC

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FRAMED
APR 11 2013
DOJ MAILROOM





2351468

PHYSICAL DOCUMENT

ENV_ENFORCEMENT-n2351468-v1

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON THE PROPOSED CONSENT DECREE

Author: Maher, Robert

Document Type: LETTER

LSA(s): BDOUGLAS

Co-Counsel: SMAJUMDAR

Counsel LSA(s): ICOVINGT

Distribution List: ENRD, EESCaseManagement (ENRD); Lattin, Sue (ENRD); Rose, Robert (ENRD); Berman, Lisa (ENRD);Maher, Robert (ENRD);Douglas Jr., Belton H (ENRD);Majumdar, Sumona (ENRD);Covington, Imogene (ENRD)

Fileroom: EES - 6th Floor

DJ#: 90-5-1-1-10771

Case Name: U.S. V. LAKE MICHIGAN TRANS-LAKE SHORTCUT, INC., D/B/A LAKE MICHIGAN CARFERRY SERVICE AND S.S. BADGER

Court: MI W.D. Mich.; 6th Cir.

Notes:

Double-Sided:

Received Date: 4/11/2013

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Oversize:

Bound Document:

Maher, Robert

April 7, 2013

Assistant Attorney General
U.S. DOJ - ENRD
P.O. Box 7611
Washington, DC 20044-7611

DEPT. OF JUSTICE - ENRD
ENVIRONMENT DIVISION
13 APR 11 3:02 PM

Reference Case Number: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Case Name: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan
Carferry Services and S.S. Badger

Dear Assistant Attorney General:

I write this letter in support of the operating consent decree for the car ferry S.S. Badger. My family and I use the transportation provided by the Badger several times each year, three this past year alone.

In my opinion the Badger provides a much needed transportation route for not only passenger vehicles but as I have witnessed firsthand, semi trailers and large oversize vehicles which otherwise would be forced to add to our already congested highway system. Many of these oversize vehicles are transporting wind turbine parts which will eventually add to this countries energy mix. It is in a way ironic that technology from the past has a hand in building the technology of the future. The fact that a vessel such as the Badger is available as a mode of transportation allows industries in Wisconsin and Michigan to be more competitive.

I hold a United States Coast Guard MMD and have sailed primarily on the Great Lakes starting at a time when the United States Great Lakes fleet's ships numbered in the hundreds with over 50% of them burning coal and of course disposing of ashes. We have come a long way, today there are about 50 United States Great Lakes ships left and there is only one left burning coal. In my present position as a planner in an industrial facility I can attest to the reality of one and two year lead times for planning and materials, these are frustrating but not at all uncommon and this is for items which one would think should be readily available. In my opinion it would be a travesty of justice to not allow a company which does not rely on operational government subsidies the time requirements required to put its house in order. This during a time when the remaining United States Great Lakes shipping companies struggle to remain competitive against the new Canadian ships being built in China.

Last I would ask that consideration be given to the jobs provided not only on the Badger but in support of the Badger and industries for which the badger is an important transportation link. The Badger carries a full crew unlike other ferries on the Great Lakes which slip through loopholes in the Coast Guard staffing requirements. The Badger's union crew makes family supporting wages, something elusive in today's economy.

As I bring this to a close I very much support the consent decree extension of the Badger's operating permit. As stated we have come a long way, we certainly cannot rest here but I feel that a company with a vision for the future should be given the support needed to make that future a reality.

Thank You for your time,

Jeffrey J. VerVelde

Howards Grove, Wisconsin
53083

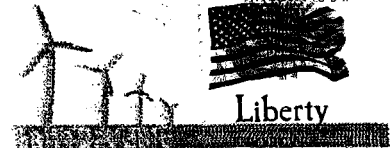
CORR. 90-5-1-1-10771

VerVelde

Howards Grove, WI 53083

MILWAUKEE WI 532

02 APR 2013 PM 4 L



Assistant Attorney General
 U.S. DOJ-ENRD
 P.O. Box 7611
 Washington, DC 20044-7611

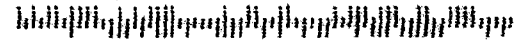
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APR 11 2013

DOJ MAILROOM

Reference Case No.: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-
 10771

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2351470

PHYSICAL DOCUMENT

ENV_ENFORCEMENT-n2351470-v1

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON THE PROPOSED CONSENT DECREE

Author: Maher, Robert

Document Type: LETTER

LSA(s): BDOUGLAS

Co-Counsel: SMAJUMDAR

Counsel LSA(s): ICOVINGT

Distribution List: ENRD, EESCaseManagement (ENRD); Lattin, Sue (ENRD); Rose, Robert (ENRD); Berman, Lisa (ENRD);Maher, Robert (ENRD);Douglas Jr., Belton H (ENRD);Majumdar, Sumona (ENRD);Covington, Imogene (ENRD)

Fileroom: EES - 6th Floor

DJ#: 90-5-1-1-10771

Case Name: U.S. V. LAKE MICHIGAN TRANS-LAKE SHORTCUT, INC., D/B/A LAKE MICHIGAN CARFERRY SERVICE AND S.S. BADGER

Court: MI W.D. Mich.; 6th Cir.

Notes:

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Received Date: 4/11/2013

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Maheer, Robert

April 6, 2013
Bud Nickelson

[Redacted]
Ludington, Michigan 49434

DEPT. OF JUSTICE - ENRD
ENVIRONMENT DIVISION

3 APR 11 P3:02

Assistant Attorney General
Environment and Natural Resources Division
U.S. DOJ- ENRD
P.O. Box 7611
Washington, DC 20044-7611

Attention:
Assistant Attorney General, Environment and natural Resources Division

Dear Assistant Attorney General,

Reference Case Number D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Case Name:

United States v Lake Michigan Trans lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a lake Michigan
Carferry Services and SS Badger

Please approve the latest Consent Decree agreement with the Department of Justice and EPA.

I am a firm believer in the SS Badger. I believe in their continuing efforts to end the ash dumping at the end of two years. Although this states this has to happen, I also believe these trace amounts are not hurting the Great Lakes at all. This Vessel should be grandfathered in as it's the last of its kind and has been nominated as a National Landmark.

Please allow the SS Badger to continue on and my hopes for many more years.

Thank you.

Sincerely,
Bud Nickelson

Bud Nickelson

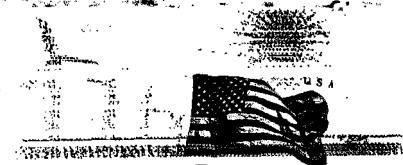
copy. 90-5-1-1-10771

Bud Nickelson



Ludington, Mi. 49431

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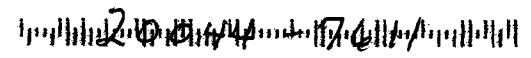


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X-RAYED
APR 11 2013
DOJ MAILROOM

Reference Case Number D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771
Assistant Attorney General
Environment and Natural Resources Div.
U.S. DOJ-ENRD
P.O. Box 7611
Washington, DC

20044761111



From: Dorothy Greiner
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/11/2013 10:55:51 AM
Subject: Fw: D.J. Ref.No. 90-5-1-1

From: Dorothy Greiner
Sent: Thursday, April 11, 2013 10:42 AM
To: <mailto:Pubcomment-ees-enrd@usdoj.gov>
Subject: D.J. Ref.No. 90-5-1-1

Assistant Attorney General
U.S. DOJ-ERND
P.O. Box 7611
Washington, DC 20044-7611

RE: D.J. Ref. No 90-5-1-1-10771

Dear Assistant Attorney General, Environmental & Natural Resources Division,

I am writing in regards to the following case: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Car ferry Services and S.S. Badger. As a life time resident and business owner in Ludington, MI, I respectfully request that you approve the Consent Decree.

Please help the States of Michigan and Wisconsin keep the S. S. Badger operating. It is crucial to many of the employees for support of their families. Is also offers great summer employment to several young folks trying to earn their way through college. In addition to the economic impact the S.S. Badger has on both of the port cities, it is a huge piece of our Ludington community. It presents a great connection to our history. To lose the S.S. Badger would to us be like losing a family member. Over time we have lost so much of our local color and history, it would be a shame not to keep this one productive piece in operation, for those of us who relate to it and for our future families as well.

The Badger is a great tourist attraction and draws enumerable travelers from across the U.S.A. It saves a multitude of weary travelers the anguish of traveling the over crowded roadways, preventing accidents, saving on fuel, pollution, and making the roadways safer. Not to mention it provides many travelers a fun and relaxed ride across Lake Michigan.

Thanking You in advance,
Have a great day!
Lewis & Dorothy Greiner
[REDACTED]
Ludington, MI 49431

From: Carl Schlaack
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/11/2013 10:52:38 AM
Subject: Fw: D.J.REF. NO.90-5-1-1-10771

----- Forwarded Message -----

From: Carl Schlaack <[REDACTED]>
To: "ees.enrd@usdoj.gov" <ees.enrd@usdoj.gov>
Sent: Thursday, April 11, 2013 10:47 AM
Subject: D.J.REF. NO.90-5-1-1-10771

United States v.Lake Michigan Trana-Lake Shortcut.d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and S.S. Badger.

Please allow the Badger to run. it means so much to me. I love to see the Badger sail into the sunset on a warm summers night.

It is real sight to see and brings me and my wife much peace and pleasure.

Thank You,
Carl R. Schlaack
Ludington,Mi

From: Russell B Peterson
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
CC: info@ssbadger.com
Sent: 4/11/2013 11:04:15 AM
Subject: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

To whom it may concern

I have been a resident of Ludington, MI for over 27 years. I have fished in Lake Michigan for nearly 40 years. I have seen a "trash line" where currents on the lake intersect and debris, mostly natural organic materials, concentrate. On multiple occasions there have been areas of floating materials after floods in Wisconsin. There is always a plume of "dirty water" where rivers discharge into the lake. Any weather event generates haze in the lake. But I have never seen any evidence of ash discharge in Lake Michigan from the Badger Carferry. The lake is clearer than it has been historically due invasive species, zebra mussels and quaga mussels.

There is an EPA mass balance of mercury in Lake Michigan http://www.epa.gov/med/grosseile_site/LMMBP/mercury.html

This study shows more than 100,000 times more mercury entering Lake Michigan from other sources compared to the quantity reported by the Badger.

In my opinion, eliminating the ash discharge from the Badger Carferry will not result in any measurable improvement in Lake Michigan water quality and the water that I drink every day is drawn from the lake. That said, I do support the Consent Decree as the best option to allow the continuation of the carferry service between the ports of Ludington, MI and Manitowoc, WI. The cessation of this operation is not supported by science. It would be very disappointing if the political process is allowed to stop this important service.

Thank you for allowing the opportunity for public comment.

Russell B Peterson

[REDACTED]
Ludington, MI 49431

From: [REDACTED]
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/11/2013 11:42:23 AM
Subject: S.S. Badger

Please approve the consent decree to save the SS Badger. She is a priceless piece of history. I have sailed on her many times and it would be a disaster to have her sidelined.

Thank you.

Paul Riedel
Creative Stitching
1155 Purdy Lane
Howell, Mi 48843
517-546-6488
248-210-9584

From: Christina Mitchell
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/11/2013 11:58:07 AM
Subject: D. J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Dear:

Assistant Attorney General, Environment and Natural Resources Division

I am e-mailing you in reference to the case: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger.

Please allow the Badger to continue to do business. I have been on the SS Badger many times and I have enjoyed my experience everytime. It has made our trips across the lake more efficient allowing us to get to our destination faster. The SS Badger has been here for a long time. It is a land mark to the Lake Michigan Shore line. I would like my son to be able to experience the same things I have experienced over the years. The SS Badger is apart of our Michigan Family just like the Mac. Bridge.

Thank you for your time.

Christina Carmichael

From: Danielle_Comstock@[REDACTED]
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/11/2013 12:57:38 PM
Subject: consent decree

I think that the Badger has been a great addition to the Ludington Tourist attraction, but that does not make it okay to litter our beautiful great lake. I cannot give an educated opinion, but I'd say that their dumping has had to have some negative effect on our local environment. I'm disappointed in the fact that the Badger has KNOWN that they litter nasty ash into our source of food and water. I'm disgusted that anyone of power at the badger has brushed off" the EPA's warning, now they get an extension. I hope this extension is held firm in place and not expanded out further. Like I said before, I am merely an uneducated opinion....but I'm an environment lover and avid organic eater. I'm afraid to know what that ash could be doing to myself and my family, including our water and food.

From: [REDACTED]
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/11/2013 1:11:58 PM
Subject: SS Badger

Good Morning on a rainy day,

Please keep the SS Badger running, it's always a great trip across the big pond. Speed is not why you take the Badger and speed (Lake Express \$\$\$\$) should not be the decision. It is just like the Washington Island Ferry, the trip is 90% of the fun.
Are we going to shut down our power plants because they use coal?

Thank you for your time,

Dan Hilinske

From: Chuck Chambers
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/11/2013 2:19:28 PM
Subject: D. J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

I am letting you know that I support The S.S. Badger and the service it provides to the communities and passengers that rely on it every year. Lake Michigan Carferry Service from Ludington, MI to Manitowoc, WI reduces travel around and through Chicago saving congestion and gas emissions as well as an economic boost to the port cities it serves. To take the S.S. Badger out of service would be a terrible and devastating decision. Please do not shutdown this link across Lake Michigan. Thank you.

From: Tony Woodruff
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/11/2013 2:20:48 PM
Subject: Fwd: S/S Badger

To Whom it may concern:

This brief note is to voice my concern regarding the issue surrounding the operation of the Lake Michigan carferry, S/S Badger. I am in total support of its continuing service in transit between Ludington, MI and Manitowoc, WI. The discontinuance of this service based on the purported pollution of Lake Michigan would be a disturbing and unnecessary action that would negatively impact the economies of both communities, the many truck companies that utilize this short-cut opportunity of transportation, and the thousands of individuals that take advantage of this fun (and educational) voyage. Do not stop the S/S Badger!

Tony Woodruff
[REDACTED]

Cutler, IN 46920
[REDACTED]

From: karen arden
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/11/2013 2:40:02 PM
Subject: S.S. Badger Dilemma/D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

To Whom it may concern,

I am somewhat in the dark about the whole political side to this dilemma that the S.S. Badger faces, but I do know that while the environment is of the utmost importance, there must be a way to maintain the service of the car ferry as it is a fundamental part of Lake Michigan's rich history. History should also be an abiding concern, as without it and its lessons we would be lost; living in a time when this fact has often been ignored, I think it only right to do what can be done to both protect the environment and allow a historic episode in the lake's life carry on. Thank you for your consideration~

Sincerely,

Karen Arden

From: Barb Beckstrom
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/11/2013 3:27:33 PM
Subject: SS Badger

Love the Badger in Ludington. Hope it continues to run for many years to come.

From: Dave McIntire
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/11/2013 4:35:26 PM
Subject: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771.

RE: NPDES Permit Application for S.S. Badger by Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc. A/K/A Lake Michigan Carferry Service

In 1952, the S.S. Badger began polluting the air and water in and around Lake Michigan with coal ash containing toxic chemicals such as mercury, lead, chromium and arsenic that are unquestionably detrimental to human health and the environment. In fact the solid waste emissions of the S.S. Badger alone equate to six times that of all the other 125 commercial vessels combined that sail on Lake Michigan. Finally, after 60 years of dumping an average of 600 tons of coal ash a year, enough to coat the bottom of Lake Michigan with 2 inches of coal ash, the S.S. Badger is no longer legally permitted to pollute the lake as its permit under the Vessel General Permit (VGP) expired on December 19, 2012.

With the expiration of the S.S. Badger's permit under the VGP, the S.S. Badger is now seeking to continue operating on Lake Michigan pursuant an individual NPDES permit under the Clean Water Act (CWA) even though it has failed to retrofit the ship to stop these discharge for many decades. For the reasons set forth below and based upon the information contained herein, USEPA should refrain from issuing a NPDES permit to the S.S. Badger to continue dumping coal ash into Lake Michigan. If a permit is granted by USEPA it should, at a minimum, require the S.S. Badger to install the Best Available Technology (BAT) as set forth in the CWA to prevent further coal ash discharges into the lake prior to any future operation by the ship. No other vessel that sails the Great Lakes is permitted to discharge coal ash and the S.S. Badger should not be the exception.

to prevent discharging coal ash into the lake. The S.S. Badger has not been retrofitted and as the record reflects, LMC has opted instead to invest in seeking a permanent exemption from the Clean Water Act, while simultaneously seeking an individual permit.

It appears that LMC operates under the assumption that the S.S. Badger because of its age would be grandfathered from any and all environmental regulations. "Up until 2008 it was believed that the Badger's historic importance as the last coal-fired steam powered ship in the U.S. would continue to make her exempt for existing environmental regulations." Statement of LMC in application documents to the State of Wisconsin, Project Narrative, p. 2 (Appendix at Tab K). Given the technological constraints of converting to natural gas and the unwillingness to convert to diesel, LMC is pursuing an alternative option - - obtain a permanent exemption from the Clean Water Act for the S.S. Badger.

LMC has sought to: 1) pass federal legislation that allows vessels of historical significance to operate under the Vessel General Permit and 2) designate the S.S. Badger as a National Historic Landmark. Designating the S.S. Badger as a Historic Landmark is under review with the Department of Interior. According to Mr. Manglitz "Landmark status would be invaluable when working with the EPA to find a solution for meeting the requirements of the agency's Vessel [General] Permit that is due to expire in December of 2012." See letter to National Park Service from Bob Manglitz, June 21, 2011 and email from National Park Service dated June 20,

2011 “EPA ... threatens the economic stability of the [Badger] operation.....owners feel that in several possible strategies that NHL would be very valuable” also (Appendix at Tab L). As to federal legislation, on November 4, 2011, the U.S. House of Representatives approved an amendment to the Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Act of 2011 (H.R. 2838), offered by Representative Huizenga of Michigan and Representative Petri from Wisconsin that would eliminate the December 19, 2012 deadline and allow the S.S. Badger to operate in perpetuity under the conditions of the Vessel General Permit. (Appendix at Tab M). The Coast Guard Reauthorization bill that passed this past December and was signed into by President Obama does not contain the S.S. Badger earmark language. Such actions by LMC, as well as past its past history of recalcitrance, cast serious doubts on their intention to ever bring the S.S. Badger into compliance with the Clean Water Act.

In addition, the owners of the S.S. Badger have benefitted economically from not installing pollution control equipment on the S.S. Badger. By not having to invest in pollution control equipment or pay for proper disposal of the coal ash in a landfill, the owners of the S.S. Badger have been able to keep their operating costs and tickets prices below its market competitors. (Appendix at Tab N). The S.S. Badger also gains financially by being powered by coal rather than oil or diesel like all the other ships that operate on the Great Lakes. The S.S. Badger under an agreement with a Wisconsin power utility pays below market rate for its coal supply. (Appendix at Tab G). This allows the S.S. Badger to run cheaper thereby undercutting its competition.

In order to aid and inform the NPDES permit process, please find the attached information . The appendix of information tracks the requests set forth in USEPA Region 5’s letter dated February 24, 2012 to Lake Michigan Carferry Service (LMC) the current owner of the S.S. Badger.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Sincerely
Dave McIntire


Irons, Mi 49644

From: Dave McIntire
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/11/2013 5:06:13 PM
Subject: Fwd: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771.

RE: NPDES Permit Application for S.S. Badger by Lake Michigan Trans-Lake
2013
Shortcut, Inc. A/K/A Lake Michigan Carferry Service

April 10,

In 1952, the S.S. Badger began polluting the air and water in and around Lake Michigan with coal ash containing toxic chemicals such as mercury, lead, chromium and arsenic that are unquestionably detrimental to human health and the environment. In fact the solid waste emissions of the S.S. Badger alone equate to six times that of all the other 125 commercial vessels combined that sail on Lake Michigan. Finally, after 60 years of dumping an average of 600 tons of coal ash a year, enough to coat the bottom of Lake Michigan with 2 inches of coal ash, the S.S. Badger is no longer legally permitted to pollute the lake as its permit under the Vessel General Permit (VGP) expired on December 19, 2012.

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the Department of Interior. According to Mr. Manglitz “Landmark status would be invaluable when working with the EPA to find a solution for meeting the requirements of the agency’s Vessel [General] Permit that is due to expire in December of 2012.” See letter to National Park Service from Bob Manglitz, June 21, 2011 and email from National Park Service dated June 20, 2011 “EPA ... threatens the economic stability of the [Badger] operation.....owners feel that in several possible strategies that NHL would be very valuable” also (Appendix at Tab L). As to federal legislation, on November 4, 2011, the U.S. House of Representatives approved an amendment to the Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Act of 2011 (H.R. 2838), offered by Representative Huizenga of Michigan and Representative Petri from Wisconsin that would eliminate the December 19, 2012 deadline and allow the S.S. Badger to operate in perpetuity under the conditions of the Vessel General Permit. (Appendix at Tab M). The Coast Guard Reauthorization bill that passed this past December and was signed into by President Obama does not contain the S.S. Badger earmark language. Such actions by LMC, as well as past its past history of recalcitrance, cast serious doubts on their intention to ever bring the S.S. Badger into compliance with the Clean Water Act.

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In order to aid and inform the NPDES permit process, please find the attached information . The appendix of information tracks the requests set forth in USEPA Region 5’s letter dated February 24, 2012 to Lake Michigan Carferry Service (LMC) the current owner of the S.S. Badger.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Sincerely

Dave McIntire


Irons, Mi 49644

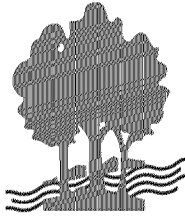
From: Dave McIntire
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/11/2013 5:09:42 PM
Subject: Fwd: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771
Attachments: BADGER.SubmissionTo EPAJanuary2013.docx

United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771.

To whom it may
concern,
April 10, 2013

As a Michigan resident I want to let you know that I am opposed that the E.P.A. may allow the SS Badger to continue polluting Lake Michigan by burning and dumping coal ash into the lake.
It is also a fact that disposing of any pollutant in Lake Michigan violates Michigan state law.

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ENVIRONMENTAL LAW & POLICY CENTER

APPENDIX
INFORMATION RELATING TO THE NATIONAL
POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM PERMIT
APPLICATION OF THE S.S. BADGER FOR COAL ASH
DISCHARGES INTO LAKE MICHIGAN



Enclosure 1: Additional Information to Develop Effluent Limitations

1. Provide specific details on the age of the vessel and equipment installed on board the vessel association with the generation and transport or discharge of coal ash. Please specify any equipment that has been installed, replaced or substantially modified since January 1991 and the date of installation, replacement or modification.

In 1952, the dumping of coal ash into Lake Michigan by the *S.S. Badger* begins. The *S.S. Badger* and its sister ship the *S.S. Spartan*, are christened by the Chesapeake & Ohio railroad car ferry. C&O opts to power the *S.S. Badger* and the *S.S. Spartan* with coal rather than diesel because of the plentiful and cheap coal holdings by the railroad (Tab A). The *S.S. Badger* has two Skinner Unaflo 4-cylinder steam engines rated 3,500 hp at 125 rpm. And four boilers that are Foster-Wheeler D type burning domestic bituminous coal. See the Public Submission of Robert Manglitz, Lake Michigan Carr Ferry to the United States Department of Interior, National Park Service dated June 17, 2009. (Tab B). The *S.S. Badger* operated all year round for the first 30 years of its operation.

During this same time period other coal-burning ships were being retired or converted to cleaner-burning diesel fuel.

In the 1960s, complaints about wafting coal smoke into Manitowoc and Ludington and black viscous liquid being discharged into the Lake Michigan began becoming more numerous. Senator Gaylord Nelson began efforts to eliminate ship pollution on the lakes, focusing on the *S.S. Badger*.

In 1972, C&O was cited and fined \$500 by the Milwaukee County for local air pollution violations by the *S.S. Badger*. The C&O railroad indicates that it will seek permission from the Interstate Commerce Commission to terminate ferry service because of a steady decline in cross lake freight traffic, increasing operating costs, availability of better service and the “the inability to assuredly meet future air quality restrictions.” (Tab C). The company feared that more restrictive federal air pollution laws could force a conversion to diesel by 1975. (Tab C).

In 1978, C&O made formal application to the Interstate Commerce Commission to abandon the lake ferry service. The reasons cited for discontinuing service included the cost of converting to from coal to diesel an estimated \$5 million per vessel not including the installation of shore facilities to store the diesel in tanks. Also “smoke and water contamination was a major issue.” (Tab D).

In 1983 C&O sells its remaining three ferries, the *S.S. Badger*, *S.S. Spartan* and *City of Midland* to a group of investors, the Michigan-Wisconsin Transportation Company (MWT) for \$1. As part of the terms of sale all the coal for the ship (more than 12,000 tons annually) is provided cost-free as part of the terms of sale with C&O. (Tab E).

MWT seeks exemption from Clean Air Act for the *S.S. Badger* to continue emitting air pollution from its stack. The cost to put in air pollution control equipment would have cost \$2 million. In 1989 Wisconsin passes an exemption for them into law and in 1995 Michigan grants them an exemption as well. (Tab F).

In 1990, MWT ceases operations and in 1991 declares bankruptcy.

In 1991, Charles Conrad, a Ludington Native and father-in-law of the current owner, Robert Manglitz, purchases the car ferries from MWT and the *S.S. Badger* returns to service under the umbrella of the Lake Michigan Carferry Company (LMC).

In 1992, the City of Manitowoc enters into an agreement with LMC to provide coal to power the *S.S. Badger* at a discount of market rates. Coal is purchased and supplied via the Manitowoc Public utility. (Tab G).

2. Provide a detailed description of the processes required for daily operations and discuss how coal ash is handled onboard the vessel from the loading of coal to the discharge of the coal ash into waters of the U.S. This should include at a minimum, boiler operation, ash handling systems, ash collection/transport systems and the coal ash discharge system.

The total contaminant load of coal ash discharged into Lake Michigan by the *S.S. Badger* over its 50 plus years of operation is quite significant ranging somewhere in the neighborhood of 60,000 tons. During the first 30 years of operation, the *S.S. Badger* dumped coal ash into Lake Michigan all year round. Since the LMC has owned the *S.S. Badger* it only runs during the tourist season on Lake Michigan from May to October. A review MPU invoices (coal totals), coal vendor analytical reports (ash content), *S.S. Badger.com* (count of operating days) for the past 11 years indicates that the total amount of ash generated dumped into Lake Michigan by the *S.S. Badger* varies from 462 tons to over 720 tons in 2011. (Tab H). These numbers comport with those cited in *Evaluation of the Potential Ecological Impacts of Coal Ash Slurry Discharges from the S.S. Badger to the Open Waters of Lake Michigan* by Great Lakes Environmental Study, June 3, 2011.

As to the issues of Total Suspended Solids and turbidity, as the Great Lakes Environmental Study notes and rightly so, more precise evaluation of *Badger* slurry is needed as well as site specific data.

3. EPA is aware of a number of technologies that have been explored for use on the *S.S. Badger* for controlling the discharge of coal ash. Please describe the engineering aspects of the application of the following technologies/control techniques for the *S.S. Badger*.

- a) Retention of the ash onboard the vessel.
- b) Conversion of the existing boilers to an alternate fuel.
- c) Repowering with alternative engines.

Despite numerous opportunities to convert the *S.S. Badger* from coal to diesel over 50 years, the various owners of the *S.S. Badger* have chosen not to. The primary reason appears to be economics. Presently there appears to be no realistic alternative power source that *S.S. Badger* which is now more than 50 years old, could undertake that will not involve huge capital cost and an increase in operating costs. Currently, the *S.S. Badger* enjoys the luxury of operating on an ample supply of low cost fuel - - coal- - without having to control any of the air pollution or coal ash discharges that emanates from it. This puts the *S.S. Badger* at a competitive advantage with its competitors, the other ferry boats that operate between Michigan and Wisconsin and no real impetus to change. (Tab N).

As indicated in its DOI filing for National Historical Landmark status, the *S.S. Badger's* consultant states that “converting to oil firing would significantly increase operating costs, installing diesel propulsion units would be expensive, and retention of coal ash on board for on-land disposal present almost insurmountable obstacles given the limited space.” See Tab B, page 16. Additionally, LMC has chosen to seek further reprieve from complying with the Clean Water Act by seeking National Landmark Status and federal legislation.

a) Retention of Ash on Board

LMC says this alternative is not economically feasible for the *S.S. Badger*.

In 2009, coal ash discharges by the *S.S. Badger* become permitted under the federal Vessel General Permit until December 2012. LMC published a time line for switching to a new power source or capturing the ash and trucking to a landfill. (Tab J). As of this date there is no information that indicates that any of the events of the timeline have been met. In fact in their November 2, 2011 letter to USEPA Region 5, Counsel for the *Badger* states that “LMC had spent over \$250,000 trying to develop that technology, only to conclude that it was not economically practicable or achievable to store hot coal ash on board, and unload it each time the *S.S. Badger* entered the port in Ludington on Manitowoc.” Indeed, it’s much cheaper to dump the coal ash into Lake Michigan than to pay to have it transported and landfilled.

b) Converting Existing Boilers to Alternative Fuel

In 2011, LMC began pursuing the option of replacing the coal with either clean natural gas (CNG) or liquid natural gas (LNG). This technology has not been adopted in the United States and is not readily available. The Joint Transportation Commission of Washington State Report that investigated the use of liquefied natural gas (LNG) on existing Washington State Ferry (WSF) vessels as well as the new 144-car class vessels, concluded that there are no shipyards in the United States have either the expertise to build LNG powered passenger vessels or the necessary fuel and storage infrastructure. *Evaluating the Use of Liquefied Natural Gas in Washington State Ferries, Final Report*, and January, 2012. The Study also addressed compressed natural gas (CNG) usage, finding that CNG “has not been found to be a viable marine fuel for vessels of WSF size and fueling requirements because it is not volume efficient. However, recent local developments may make it a possibility for WSF. While CNG has

advantages (it is a non-cryogenic product and does not have the potential to create a vapor cloud) it would require daily fueling, which may not be feasible.”

In addition to the technological and infrastructure problems, there are currently no applicable Coast Guard regulations for CNG or LNG propelled vessels.

c) Repowering with Alternative Engines

Currently, the BAT for marine vessels like the *S.S. Badger* is diesel. It should be noted that contrary to the *S.S. Badger* assertions it is not the last U.S. coal fired ship. The *SS Energy Enterprise* (formerly *SS Energy Independence*) runs on coal but only when it sails to South America. When in U.S. waters the ship runs on oil and diesel firing. http://ww.intship.com/wp-content/uploads/2009/09/BeltBulk_Specs_ISH.pdf.

The LMC refuses to make retrofit from coal to diesel. In 2001, Michigan State Senator inquired as to whether Lake Michigan Carferry wanted state financial assistance to convert the *S.S. Badger* from coal to diesel. In a Letter to the Editor, Robert Manglitz, President of LMC, states that would be against the philosophy to conduct business without governmental assistance.¹ (Tab I).

In 2010, in connection with applying for federal funds from the U.S. Department of Transportation TIGER II program to retrofit the *S.S. Badger*, Representatives Tom Petri, Pete Hoekstra and EPA agreed that diesels were the BAT and the engine supplier and shipyard confirmed that engines were ready to go. However, LMC was not awarded a grant and appears to have abandoned efforts to retrofit to diesel. Bank documents indicate that LMC was only able to muster more than \$2 million towards the cost of retrofitting.

¹ Sometime thereafter, that sentiment changed. In 2011, LMC applied for TIGER II funding but was not awarded a grant. More recently the LMC also accepted a \$75,000 grant from the State of Wisconsin through a DOE State Energy grant to pursue converting to natural gas, not diesel (Tab K).

From: John Wesley
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/11/2013 9:15:13 PM
Subject: The Badger

Dear EPA,

I have been distressed that the Company that owned The Badger ferry has been allowed to pollute the Great Lakes all these years while they were trying to find a legal way to prevent their spending the money to clean themselves up. Other companies working on the Great Lakes took action - The Badger was not redesigned! Do not allow the Badger to continue to pollute. BE FIRM with the deadlines - no extensions - insist on correction earlier!!!

The EPA has a very important job. Correcting pollution gives us healthy life options and creates jobs by the process of cleaning up and designing new ways to do things.

Thank You,

Connie Wesley [REDACTED]

From: Debbra Eckhout
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/11/2013 9:24:38 PM
Subject: The USS Badger on Lake Michigan

Leave it alone. We need the jobs. It's part of our history. Lawn fertilizer has coal ash in it and is used on most coastal lawn property in America. Mr. Durbin does not live in Michigan nor does he make his living here. He should keep his nose in his own back yard and stop his own "filthy" mouth! The Badger is an asset and needful in our community.
LEAVE IT ALONE!

Debbie Eckhout

From: Erik Lillya
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/11/2013 10:20:38 PM
Subject: US v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut Inc., D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Do not do this deal. This pollution should have stopped a long time ago. The Badger's owners are not trustworthy. They have had years to fix this problem and all they do is seek to be exempt from the rules. They won't make progress in the future. They will just go behind your back and keep seeking a permanent exemption.

From: Donald Lopatka
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/11/2013 10:47:23 PM
Subject: S.S. Badger

Dear friends, Tonight we ask that you preserve an historic vehicle that is so much more than just an old carferry. Here in the little towns of Ludington, MI and Manitowoc, WI, the S.S. Badger is to us what the Statue of Liberty is to NY, what Mt. Rushmore is to S. Dakota, what the Hollywood Sign is to California. The S.S. Badger is the last coal-fired carferry in operation anywhere. It would be hard to find a restaurant, office, home or place in Ludington that does not have pictures, paintings, memorabilia, and artifacts from the carferry heyday. It represents the marine-based history of our harbor town.

Ludington is a small town but our history is intrinsically intertwined with the carferry transportation industry that graced Lake Michigan for about a hundred years. Our town surrounded the harbor, and captains and sailors from Ludington have worked the Great Lakes here for generations. Our town is peppered with historic artifacts of the carferries of and many of our people are directly related to and have many memories of the time when seven or eight carferries ran 24/7, year-round from our shores. Many of our fathers, grandfathers, and relatives tell stories of dangerous crossings, "dipping the stacks" and other harrowing experiences, many of them never returned from the sea, many are memorialized for their courage and sacrifice here on our shores. The S.S. Badger is the heart and soul of this town. Please save it for us and allow it to operate as the historic vehicle and the living symbol of our contribution to the marine history of the Great Lakes.

We are aware that the Badger does deposit coal ash, although it is within the standards set by our two states. It is not an insurmountable problem, but we also feel it is not significant enough to stop the operation of the last coal-fired carferry in America. We, in Mason County are not insensitive to clean energy and it's significance in America's future. We have a huge wind farm in our county that is in operation, we have many recycling programs and participate in efforts to preserve endangered species of plotted plovers and other wildlife in the area. We are proud of having the best state park in Michigan which has many teaching opportunities and preserves a beautiful lighthouse which was commissioned by Abraham Lincoln. Our harbor maintains another significant lighthouse and provides nautical education to many. We in Ludington are avid hunters, fishermen, sport-lovers and respecters and preservers of our natural resources. We are working with the Federal government every day to honor our environment. Is this dedication to the environment not proof that we will be good stewards of the Great Lakes, and that the operation of the Badger is only a small part of our overall commitment We urge you to consider this one exception because this ship is so

much a part of the heart and soul of this town.

No doubt there are many who will tell you of the economic advantages brought to W. Michigan, and to our state that has been so ravaged by the decline of the automobile industry and all of the economic "branches" that extended from that "tree". Our state needs and values every job and every company large and small. The S.S. Badger provides over 200 jobs and enormous tourism revenue to Michigan. How many other historical landmarks are still operating plus earning money and employing people in the capacity for which they were first created? The Badger is unique in that respect. It is the Life of this community in more ways than one.

We urge you to have compassion and mercy for the populations of our town, Ludington, and for the people of Manitowoc by allowing the S.S. Badger to operate for the rest of it's natural life. Thank you. Mr. & Mrs. D. Lopatka, Ludington, MI

From: Mark or Jean Fellows
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/11/2013 11:01:22 PM
Subject: D. J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Dear Sir or Madam

RE:

United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services
and SS Badger

The *SS Badger* is an important-- vital-- historical link to our maritime history. You can't imagine the thrill children get the first time they see her and marvel at her size and capabilities. The window to the past opens for them and they can experience first hand what sailors of the past experienced. She's not a static museum, tied up at a dock or pulled up on the shore. The *Badger* is a living, sailing link to the magic and rich history of our maritime past. The past comes alive every time she pulls out from the shore.

Keep the *SS Badger* sailing. In fact, she should be designated a National Historic site.

My family goes back over 100 years in Michigan. My great-grandfather sailed a packet boat around Lakes Huron and Michigan, delivering freight. My grandfather and his brothers were commercial fisherman for over 50 years.

I share the concerns over the coal ash from the *SS Badger*, but my perspective is shaped by this history. In the early years of this past century, the Lakes were much different, filled with coal-powered rail and later car ferries, including ones operated by the state of Michigan. Waterways were fouled by the discharge from numerous tanneries, manufacturing and cement plants, and later, nuclear power plants. As industry changed and we became more concerned with the health of our ecosystems, many of these sites were cleaned up.

New threats emerged.

It's been over 60 years, so people forget. The lamprey simply destroyed commercial lake fishing. My families fishing business was decimated by the sea lamprey. Over the years, the DNR has spent billions to "control" (not eradicate) this threat, with limited success. The beast is in the garden to stay.

Non-native species have been introduced intentionally-- salmon--and otherwise. Once-pristine beaches are fouled by dead alewife, algae blooms clog waterways and wash shore to reek and rot, and every surface is crusted with zebra mussels. Even the very sand is changing, as the mussel shells replace the native sand.

Would I support a coal-ash free *Badger*? Yes. Do I think the coal ash from this **one** ship, all that remains of the 100's that once plied these waters, as significant as the other threats to this ecosystem? **I do not.**

- Significant pollution is blown into our waters from Gary and Chicago. **Stop that first.**
- The greatest threat since the lamprey is teaming in the Mississippi and rivers and canals in Chicago. **Stop that first.**

While politicians argue about where they did or didn't find carp DNA, we who have lived with the lamprey, the gobie, the zebra mussel know it's only a matter of time. Unless the access is permanently closed, silver and big-headed carp *will* find their way to all the Great Lakes and the lakes (and the rivers that flow into them) will *never* be the same.

Stop those huge, significant threats first. Then talk to me about the coal ash from the *Badger*.

From: Thomas Frame
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/11/2013 11:14:20 PM
Subject: D. J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771


Assistant Attorney General
Environment and Natural Resources Division

Re: United States vs. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc. d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry
Services ans SS Badger

I want to express my support for preserving the unique and historical service provided by the
SS Badger

Sincerely,

Thomas M. Frame


Sacramento, Ca 95864

From: Tom Mason
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/11/2013 11:59:33 PM
Subject: Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger (D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771)

Case No. D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Case Name: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

To: Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division

I support the Consent Decree agreement between Lake Michigan Carferry Services and the Department of Justice and EPA that will require the SS Badger to end the ash discharge within two years. This is a true win-win outcome where environmental concerns are addressed, while allowing the SS Badger to continue to operate.

The SS Badger:

- Is a vital part of the economy of both Wisconsin and Michigan, generating millions of tourist dollars.
- Provides a unique form of mass transportation.
- Saves energy by transporting vehicles that would otherwise be burning fuel.
- Is a functioning representative of Great Lakes history.

Thank you,
Tom Mason
Appleton, WI

Subject

From: Ravi Sharma
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/24/2013 4:24:07 PM
Subject: 90-5-1-1-10771
Attachments: image001.gif

I am writing in reference to United States v Lame Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc. D.J. # 90-5-1-1-10771

I support the consent decree. Please keep the heritage (of car ferry service) here in Ludington MI. We not only love having it here, but we NEED it here.

Ravi Sharma
GIS Specialist



WESTERN LAND SERVICES

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Ludington, MI 49431

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From: Mary Warmington
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/24/2013 2:44:24 PM
Subject: 90-5-1-1-10771

I am taking the Badger (Boat) across Lake Michigan next month and look forward to the trip. It saves a lot of time and emissions due to all the cars and trucks that are not traveling for hundreds of miles to go from Mid Michigan to Wisconsin. I have my doubts about the effect this boat is having on Lake Michigan. I have not seen any evidence from scientists diving into the depths of the Lake that would be affected. I have not seen any scientific evidence there is damage to the shore line areas in both states serviced by the Badger. At least let them explore other types of fuel while continuing transporting those many vehicles destroying our roads.

Mary Warmington



2351461

PHYSICAL DOCUMENT

ENV_ENFORCEMENT-n2351461-v1

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON THE PROPOSED CONSENT DECREE

Author: Maher, Robert

Document Type: LETTER

LSA(s): BDOUGLAS

Co-Counsel: SMAJUMDAR

Counsel LSA(s): ICOVINGT

Distribution List: ENRD, EESCaseManagement (ENRD); Lattin, Sue (ENRD); Rose, Robert (ENRD); Berman, Lisa (ENRD);Maher, Robert (ENRD);Douglas Jr., Belton H (ENRD);Majumdar, Sumona (ENRD);Covington, Imogene (ENRD)

Fileroom: EES - 6th Floor

DJ#: 90-5-1-1-10771

Case Name: U.S. V. LAKE MICHIGAN TRANS-LAKE SHORTCUT, INC., D/B/A LAKE MICHIGAN CARFERRY SERVICE AND S.S. BADGER

Court: MI W.D. Mich.; 6th Cir.

Notes:

Double-Sided:

Received Date: 4/11/2013

Urgent:

Oversize:

Bound Document:

Maheer, Robert

April 6th, 2013

Assistant Attorney General
U.S. DOJENRD
P.O. Box 7611
Washington, DC
20044-7611

13 APR 11 P 3:02

DEPT. OF JUSTICE - ENRD
ENVIRONMENT DIVISION

Dear People:

This is in reference to public comment on United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc. D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771. I assume that any statement that I make will be considered by a group and not just dismissed. In 2006 I went to the Office of the Badger in Ludington and we talked for a little over a half an hour. I gave them a three page report that I had typed up on how they could use the electrolysis of water and save the Badger from any future legal problems. It was a complete waste of my time. Two months later I sent a copy to the chief engineer of the Badger and then I dropped off an exact copy to the Ludington Daily News. I have spoken with an aide for Huizenga and an aide for Benishek, another waste of my time.

You lower a boom off the stern of the Badger with multiple electrical generators into the water, after the Badger is moving under coal power. You produce electricity, then the electrolysis of water, let the oxygen go back into the atmosphere, but the low pressure hydrogen gas is pulled by the forced draft fan into the duct work and into the boiler and is burned. You have all the fuel you need in Lake Michigan, you do not have to burn very much coal because you only need the vessel to be moving to produce electricity. Instead what I hear is that pressurized natural gas will be used or is considered in this equation for compliance. Yeah, a pressurized tank of gas. Does this sound stupid to any of you??? I assume that if you believe me, that the people at the Badger have taken my proposal from 6 ½ years ago and studied the concept. You could also contact the Ludington Daily News or the retired chief engineer. I gave them in my opinion a very good idea that doesn't include air pollution or ash dumping into the Lake. I also assume they did absolutely nothing with the information.

Anyway, I just wanted to express myself in a comment. Thank you for your time, good luck on your decision but I also assume that the solution has already been made, but only a few know about the final outcome. Sincerely, Rick

Richard Biers

Freesoil, Michigan, 49411



CORR. 90-5-1-1-10771

R. Biers



Free soil, Michigan

49411

GRAND RAPIDS MI 495

08 APR 2013 PM 4 L



FOREVER

Assistant Attorney General
U.S. DOTENRD
P.O. Box 7611
Washington, D.C.

X-RAYED

APR 11 2013

DOJ MAILROOM

20044-7611

20044761111





2351465

PHYSICAL DOCUMENT

ENV_ENFORCEMENT-n2351465-v1

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON THE PROPOSED CONSENT DECREE

Author: Maher, Robert

Document Type: LETTER

LSA(s): BDOUGLAS

Co-Counsel: SMAJUMDAR

Counsel LSA(s): ICOVINGT

Distribution List: ENRD, EESCaseManagement (ENRD); Lattin, Sue (ENRD); Rose, Robert (ENRD); Berman, Lisa (ENRD);Maher, Robert (ENRD);Douglas Jr., Belton H (ENRD);Majumdar, Sumona (ENRD);Covington, Imogene (ENRD)

Fileroom: EES - 6th Floor

DJ#: 90-5-1-1-10771

Case Name: U.S. V. LAKE MICHIGAN TRANS-LAKE SHORTCUT, INC., D/B/A LAKE MICHIGAN CARFERRY SERVICE AND S.S. BADGER

Court: MI W.D. Mich.; 6th Cir.

Notes:

Double-Sided:

Received Date: 4/11/2013

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Bound Document:

Maier, Robert

April 6, 2013
Ella Damkoehler
[Redacted]
Ludington, Michigan 49431

Assistant Attorney General
Environment and Natural Resources Division
U.S. DOJ- ENRD
P.O. Box 7611
Washington, DC 20044-7611

DEPT. OF JUSTICE - ENRD
ENVIRONMENT DIVISION
13 APR 11 P3:02

Attention:
Assistant Attorney General, Environment and natural Resources Division

Dear Assistant Attorney General,

Reference Case Number D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Case Name:

United States v Lake Michigan Trans lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a lake Michigan
Carferry Services and SS Badger

Please approve the latest Consent Decree agreement with the Department of Justice and EPA. Enough said, it shouldn't even be a question in anyone's mind.

I believe in their continuing efforts to end the ash dumping at the end of two years. The SS Badger is a National Landmark and shouldn't have a question on the continuing running of this Vessel.

Please allow the SS Badger to continue on..

Thank you.

Sincerely,
Ella Damkoehler

Ella M. Damkoehler

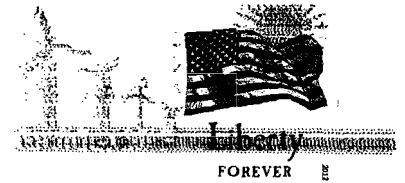
corr. 90-5-1-1-10771

Ella Dam Koehler

[REDACTED]
Ludington, Mi 49431

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05 APR 2013 PM 1 L



Reference Case Number

D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

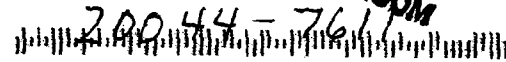
Environment and Natural Resources Div.

U.S. DOJ - ENRD

P.O. Box 7611

Washington, DC

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APR 11 2013
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2351468

PHYSICAL DOCUMENT

ENV_ENFORCEMENT-n2351468-v1

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON THE PROPOSED CONSENT DECREE

Author: Maher, Robert

Document Type: LETTER

LSA(s): BDOUGLAS

Co-Counsel: SMAJUMDAR

Counsel LSA(s): ICOVINGT

Distribution List: ENRD, EESCaseManagement (ENRD); Lattin, Sue (ENRD); Rose, Robert (ENRD); Berman, Lisa (ENRD);Maher, Robert (ENRD);Douglas Jr., Belton H (ENRD);Majumdar, Sumona (ENRD);Covington, Imogene (ENRD)

Fileroom: EES - 6th Floor

DJ#: 90-5-1-1-10771

Case Name: U.S. V. LAKE MICHIGAN TRANS-LAKE SHORTCUT, INC., D/B/A LAKE MICHIGAN CARFERRY SERVICE AND S.S. BADGER

Court: MI W.D. Mich.; 6th Cir.

Notes:

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Received Date: 4/11/2013

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Bound Document:

Maher, Robert

April 7, 2013

Assistant Attorney General
U.S. DOJ - ENRD
P.O. Box 7611
Washington, DC 20044-7611

DEPT. OF JUSTICE - ENRD
ENVIRONMENT DIVISION
13 APR 11 3:02 PM

Reference Case Number: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Case Name: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan
Carferry Services and S.S. Badger

Dear Assistant Attorney General:

I write this letter in support of the operating consent decree for the car ferry S.S. Badger. My family and I use the transportation provided by the Badger several times each year, three this past year alone.

In my opinion the Badger provides a much needed transportation route for not only passenger vehicles but as I have witnessed firsthand, semi trailers and large oversize vehicles which otherwise would be forced to add to our already congested highway system. Many of these oversize vehicles are transporting wind turbine parts which will eventually add to this countries energy mix. It is in a way ironic that technology from the past has a hand in building the technology of the future. The fact that a vessel such as the Badger is available as a mode of transportation allows industries in Wisconsin and Michigan to be more competitive.

I hold a United States Coast Guard MMD and have sailed primarily on the Great Lakes starting at a time when the United States Great Lakes fleet's ships numbered in the hundreds with over 50% of them burning coal and of course disposing of ashes. We have come a long way, today there are about 50 United States Great Lakes ships left and there is only one left burning coal. In my present position as a planner in an industrial facility I can attest to the reality of one and two year lead times for planning and materials, these are frustrating but not at all uncommon and this is for items which one would think should be readily available. In my opinion it would be a travesty of justice to not allow a company which does not rely on operational government subsidies the time requirements required to put its house in order. This during a time when the remaining United States Great Lakes shipping companies struggle to remain competitive against the new Canadian ships being built in China.

Last I would ask that consideration be given to the jobs provided not only on the Badger but in support of the Badger and industries for which the badger is an important transportation link. The Badger carries a full crew unlike other ferries on the Great Lakes which slip through loopholes in the Coast Guard staffing requirements. The Badger's union crew makes family supporting wages, something elusive in today's economy.

As I bring this to a close I very much support the consent decree extension of the Badger's operating permit. As stated we have come a long way, we certainly cannot rest here but I feel that a company with a vision for the future should be given the support needed to make that future a reality.

Thank You for your time,

Jeffrey J. VerVelde

[Redacted]
Howards Grove, Wisconsin
53083

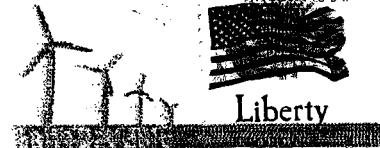
CORR. 90-5-1-1-10771

VerVelde

Howards Grove, WI 53083

MILWAUKEE WI 532

02 APR 2013 PM 4 L



Assistant Attorney General
 U.S. DOJ-ENRD
 P.O. Box 7611
 Washington, DC 20044-7611

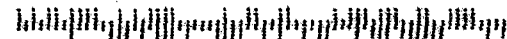
~~X-RATED~~

APR 11 2013

DOJ MAILROOM

Reference Case No.: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-
 10771

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2351470

PHYSICAL DOCUMENT

ENV_ENFORCEMENT-n2351470-v1

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON THE PROPOSED CONSENT DECREE

Author: Maher, Robert

Document Type: LETTER

LSA(s): BDOUGLAS

Co-Counsel: SMAJUMDAR

Counsel LSA(s): ICOVINGT

Distribution List: ENRD, EESCaseManagement (ENRD); Lattin, Sue (ENRD); Rose, Robert (ENRD); Berman, Lisa (ENRD);Maher, Robert (ENRD);Douglas Jr., Belton H (ENRD);Majumdar, Sumona (ENRD);Covington, Imogene (ENRD)

Fileroom: EES - 6th Floor

DJ#: 90-5-1-1-10771

Case Name: U.S. V. LAKE MICHIGAN TRANS-LAKE SHORTCUT, INC., D/B/A LAKE MICHIGAN CARFERRY SERVICE AND S.S. BADGER

Court: MI W.D. Mich.; 6th Cir.

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Maheer, Robert

April 6, 2013
Bud Nickelson

[REDACTED]
Ludington, Michigan 49434

DEPT. OF JUSTICE - ENRD
ENVIRONMENT DIVISION

3 APR 11 P3:02

Assistant Attorney General
Environment and Natural Resources Division
U.S. DOJ- ENRD
P.O. Box 7611
Washington, DC 20044-7611

Attention:
Assistant Attorney General, Environment and natural Resources Division

Dear Assistant Attorney General,

Reference Case Number D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Case Name:

United States v Lake Michigan Trans lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a lake Michigan
Carferry Services and SS Badger

Please approve the latest Consent Decree agreement with the Department of Justice and EPA.

I am a firm believer in the SS Badger. I believe in their continuing efforts to end the ash dumping at the end of two years. Although this states this has to happen, I also believe these trace amounts are not hurting the Great Lakes at all. This Vessel should be grandfathered in as it's the last of its kind and has been nominated as a National Landmark.

Please allow the SS Badger to continue on and my hopes for many more years.

Thank you.

Sincerely,
Bud Nickelson

Bud Nickelson

copy. 90-5-1-1-10771

Bud Nickelson

[REDACTED]
Ludington, Mi. 49431

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Reference Case Number DJ, Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771
Assistant Attorney General
Environment and Natural Resources Div.
U.S. DOJ-ENRD
P.O. Box 7611
Washington, DC

20044761111



From: [REDACTED]
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 3/30/2013 10:33:50 AM
Subject: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Having been a passenger on the SS Badger, I was impressed with the immensity of their service to the area—not only as a passenger carrier, but also as a provider for business transportation. With a resolution to convert from discharging coal ash in Lake Michigan within two years, I believe that the Badger would continue in their capacity to provide this valuable service. Compare the amount of coal ash in two years to the emissions of vehicles to provide the transport around the lake through WI, IL, IN and MI.

In addition, the Badger is a landmark which is an invaluable piece of history. I believe that it would definitely be in the public interest for the court to approve the decree.

Sincerely,

Gina Thiessen

From: [REDACTED]
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/14/2013 10:07:27 PM
Subject: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc D.J. Ref. No 90-5-1-1-10771

I want to endorse the consent decree reached by the EPA and Lake Michigan Carferry. The economic impact of the Badger sailings can not be underestimated with the exodus of manufacturing jobs from Mason County and its increasing reliance on the tourism industry. Also the value of being able to transport very large windmill parts directly across Lake Michigan from Wisconsin in the spacious hold of the Badger rather than trucking them through Chicago just makes sense.

Growing up in Mason County in the 1950's when 7 carferries ran year round out of the Ludington Harbor I consider the environmental impact of running the Badger for the summer months to be very minimal.

The historical significance of the Badger, it's safety record ,it's rugged construction, it's economic impact are all things we can preserve by allowing this decree to stand and give the Badger the time it needs over the next 2 years to stop the discharge of coal ash.

Sincerely,

Dr Robert L Dornbos

From: Joseph Reinders
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
CC: Lake Michigan Carferry Service; Sharon & JJ
Sent: 4/14/2013 8:29:51 PM
Subject: Reference Case Number: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Address to:

Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division

Case Name: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

PLEASE keep help this valuable service alive! I can appreciate there is an environmental impact but believe it can be prudently controlled by the operator. I also think the service offsets some, perhaps significant, highway vehicle exhaust emissions by use of the ferry service to cross this part of Lake Michigan. It also has a positive effect on the economy on both sides of the lake and to local commerce. In short, the benefits outweigh the negatives in my opinion. Besides, it's a great way and very enjoyable experience to ferry across the lake on the last coal fired ship of it's kind on the Great Lakes that I am aware of!

Thanks,

Joe Reinders, Waukesha, WI.

From: James Peters
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
CC: mccarthy@ssbadger.com
Sent: 4/14/2013 8:03:49 PM
Subject: 90-5-1-1-10771

Re. U.S. v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc. d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger.


Attn: Ass't Attorney General, Environment & Natural Resources Div.

I write in support of the Consent Decree pending in this case, and to urge its final approval. I am a resident of Ludington, Michigan, home port of the SS Badger, and volunteer during the summer months to help staff the community's downtown Visitor Information Center. We talk to tourists every day who are either coming or going by Badger.

I am 78 years old and have been riding one ship or another across Lake Michigan since I was a toddler. This is an historic port, and conveyance across the lake by ferry has been a part of Michigan-Wisconsin tradition for generations. It simply defies common sense to end a convenient and enjoyable alternative to driving around the lake -- particularly in the name of improving our environment or saving people money. In my opinion, it would do neither.

Since the EPA and Badger owners have apparently come to a workable legal agreement to preserve this service, I urge both parties to accept it and continue with the important business of transporting people, goods and services across Lake Michigan by ship.

/s/ James M Peters


Ludington, MI 49431

From: [REDACTED]
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/14/2013 6:26:48 PM
Subject: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc, D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

I strongly OPPOSE the consent decree that would allow the SS Badger to sail and discharge coal ash for the 2013 and 2014 seasons. The coal ash is a contaminant containing mercury, arsenic and lead that potentially if not demonstrably has an adverse effect on the Lake Michigan ecosystem. Coal ash in any quantity is not natural to the lake, so its continued discharge should not be allowed. The SS badger is a coal-burning dinosaur that pollutes not only the WATER of Lake Michigan but also the AIR over it by emitting pollutants through its smokestack. Contaminants are additive; they continue to increase with time. The time is long overdue for the SS Badger to modernize or stop sailing. There should not be any exceptions to contaminating the lake or air. Ecosystem health and human health depend on a strong rejection to the consent decree.

Robert H. Morman

[REDACTED]
Ludington, MI 49431

From: Ron Nowicki
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/14/2013 6:20:30 PM
Subject: S.S. Badger

Why wait till 2015 to stop the pollution of Lake Michigan and my drinking water by the Badger. Stop it now!

From: [REDACTED]
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/14/2013 6:03:52 PM
Subject: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

To Whom It May Concern:

With the consent decree for the SS Badger to end the ash discharge within two years, our family feels that the continued operation of the SS Badger is vital and must go on. This shortcut linking the west coast of Michigan to the east coast of Wisconsin is a vital link.

We often take the carferry back and forth across the lake. It takes away the long drive either through the Upper Peninsula or the arduous travel through the Chicago area in order to either visit our family cottage in Wisconsin or to travel westward to Montana which we also do on a yearly basis.

In addition, the carferry is a wonderful boost to the economy of the Port of Ludington. The option of taking the carferry out of Muskegon is not a good one for us. The Ludington carferry meets our needs so much better. It is a far more reliable, relaxing experience. Please let it continue.

We urge you to approve the Consent Decree and allow the carferry to continue to serve all those who have come to rely on it for so many years.

Sincerely,
David and Charlene Borgeson and families

From: [REDACTED]
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
CC: [REDACTED]
Sent: 4/14/2013 3:41:24 PM
Subject: Reference Case Number: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Case Name: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

I am writing to express my support to Approve the decree for Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger. We have utilized the SS badger for the past two years and found it to be a HUGE reduction in burning imported petroleum and find that to be great for our country. Also a huge reduction in the emission of greenhouse gasses.

Also to mention the Great quality "Family Time" we have while transporting across Lake Michigan.

We are in agreement with the Badger stopping the dumping of coal ash into Lake Michigan however feel they should be able to provide services during the two year transition as stated in the Decree.

Thank you for you listening to our opinion,

Daniel and Vickie Woodbeck.
Fenton, MI

Juanita Pierman
[REDACTED]
Pentwater, MI 49449

April 15, 2023

Assistant Attorney General,
Environment and Natural Resources Division
U. DOJ – ENRD
P. O. Box 7611
Washington, DC 20044-7611

Reference Case number: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Case Name: United States v. Lake Michigan Tran-lake Shortcut, Inc. d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

To Whom It May Concern:

The Village of Pentwater is 12 miles south of Ludington and there are numerous summer residents, vacationers and visitors who travel across Lake Michigan on the SS Badger to our area. The Pentwater's economy would feel a significant impact if the SS Badger is forced to stop operating.

Ludington has been the home of SS Badger and many other coal-fired lake ferries and freighter since 1874. My husband and I started fishing for salmon and trout in 1975, one hundred years later. The fishing was terrific and still is. I have not seen any evidence that coal ash discharge has harmed the lake or the environment.

We purchased a home in Pentwater in 1984 and commuted between our home in Wheaton, Illinois and Pentwater before retiring in Pentwater. My husband and I worked in downtown Chicago for many years. The pollution problems in Chicago deserve your attention much more the one carferry in Lake Michigan!

Please allow the SS Badger to continue operating. It is a huge part of the history and economy of this area. Many of us who have families and friends in Wisconsin and Northern Illinois count on the SS Badger for a pleasant ride across the Lake Michigan instead of fighting the heavy traffic and congestion on I-96 and I-80 through Indiana.

Thank you for giving this request your serious consideration and allow the SS Badger to continue to operate.

Sincerely,

Juanita Pierman

From: Joe Herzog
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/14/2013 2:03:04 PM
Subject: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Good Afternoon

We travel to Michigan via the car ferry. I hope you can keep it running.

Thank You

Joe Herzog

Minnetonka, MN

From: Jack Corcoran
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/14/2013 1:57:02 PM
Subject: D.J. Ref. No 90-5-1-1-10771 U. S. V Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc.,d/b/a Lake Michigan car ferry Services and SS Badger

Dear Assistant Attorney General,Environment and Natural Resources Division, please do not stop the SS Badger from running between Ludington, MI and Manitowac, WI. This is the life blood for our communities which depend largely on tourism. Please cut the pollution drifting across Lake Michigan from coastal IL, especially Chicago, which will do far more damage for our environment than very small, if not undetectable, amounts of mercury. If senator Durbin or other politicians seem to think that dry docking our SS Badger is a smart move , we fervently hope and pray they will see the reasonableness of keeping the SS Badger afloat and looking to "greener" areas for pollution decreases. Sincerely, Jack Corcoran, Ludington citizen

From: steve and kathy zylstra
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/14/2013 9:27:37 AM
Subject: Lake Michigan Car Ferry

D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771 Due to the economic impact to the Lake Michigan area I think the Ferry should be allowed to continue operating in its current form. The economy of this area relies heavily on this form of transportation. Thank You. Steven J. Zylstra

From: Ron
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/13/2013 6:51:31 PM
Subject: FW: SS Badger D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771
Attachments: RO Signature blue4.bmp

Subject: SS Badger D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Assistant Attorney General, Environment and Natural Resources Division

SIR - please do whatever is necessary to keep this historic icon running its normal route on Lake Michigan.

It would be a great disservice to future generations to do otherwise.

Thank you!

Sincerely;

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ron Odenwald". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely;".

Ronald W. Odenwald

Novi MI 48376

From: Christine Esposito
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/13/2013 6:42:15 PM
Subject: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut

To whom it may concern:

I am writing with regard to *United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc.*, D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771.

For too long, the Lake Michigan Car Ferry, Inc.'s S.S. Badger ship has dumped too much coal ash into Lake Michigan. It's time for this pollution to come to a stop. The S.S. Badger should clean up its operations and stop polluting our Great Lakes.

While I understand the U.S. Department of Justice and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's view that a consent decree may offer a quicker resolution to this pollution issue, I request that you consider the following ways of strengthening the proposed consent decree:

- There should be an explicit agreement stated by both parties that they will not request any further extensions to the cessation of coal ash pollution by the S.S. Badger following the 2014 summer season.
- The U.S. DOJ and the U.S. EPA should consider increasing the civil penalties for the S.S. Badger's continued pollution.
- The U.S. DOJ and the U.S. EPA should consider providing for steeper percentage reductions in the S.S. Badger's coal ash dumping over the next two years in order to have a stronger path towards compliance.
- The S.S. Badger should provide monthly reporting of how much coal ash is being dumped into Lake Michigan, and that information should be must be made publicly available on an easily accessible website.

Thank you for your consideration of these provisions to strengthen and improve the proposed consent decree.

Christine Esposito

[REDACTED]
Chicago, IL 60707

From: [REDACTED]
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/13/2013 5:25:45 PM
Subject: Badger

I want to go on record, with Sen. Dick Durbin, as being against allowing the owners of the "Badger" ferry any further extensions allowing pollution of Lake Michigan. No more breaks for the owners, and no more dumping of their polluting toxins into the lake!

Kris McKinnon

[REDACTED]
Lake Bluff IL 60044

From: Thomas van der Linden
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/13/2013 3:55:12 PM
Subject: Regarding D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

The SS Badger should be required to comply with the consent degree that would stop coal ash dumping in Lake Michigan.

Sincerely

Tom van der Linden
La Crescent, MN

From: Bill Bluhm
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/13/2013 10:26:57 AM
Subject: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

United States v. Lake Michigan Tans-trans-Lake short, Inc.
D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

I support the above consent degree. The Lake Michigan Cross-Lake ferry system was established as a valuable link in commerce and is a historic page in the development of the towns of Ludington and Manitowoc for over 70 years. Private individuals and the two cities now has supplied resources to keep this ferry operating. The system is a valuable commercial and tourist link across Lake Michigan and supplies millions of dollars to the economy of both cities. Even though the amount of toxic materials added to the waters of the lake is within the limits of the E.P.A., the owners of the car ferries have consistently researched with time and money a long term solution to these environmental concerns. This cannot be said of cities and states that border Lake Michigan. This is a private company with limited resources making a difference in difficult times economically for the citizens of both communities.

I support the proposed consent decree before the federal court D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771. This continuation of time to allow a long term solution is in the best interests of all.

Sincerely,

Gail L. Bluhm

[REDACTED]
Pentwater, Michigan
49449

Phone: [REDACTED]

From: Walt Maner
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/13/2013 12:59:38 AM
Subject: Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

We support the consent decree allowing the SS Badger to continue operating.

The Badger is an integral part of our community and an economic engine driving creation of jobs. This area needs all the help it can get.

Walter & Linda Maner
[REDACTED]
Ludington, MI 49431

From: John Sturdy
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
CC: shariv@ssbadger.com; [REDACTED]
Sent: 4/13/2013 12:44:04 AM
Subject: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771 Action on Concert Decree

As a frequent passenger of the SSBadger, I plead with you to do the right thing in the public's interest, and grant approval for continued operation of this historic and honorable vessel. Continued service by the dependable SSBadger is essential, and approval of the Concert Decree is vital to the economic stability of the region being serviced. Hundreds of foreign vessels which transit our Great Lakes each sailing season carry and discharge far worse materials proven to be harmful, yet the benign coal ash has been chosen as the mark of the SSBadger to become a poster child for baseless environmental arguments. The high speed ferry operating out of Milwaukee, in their attempt to eliminate competition, has pointed fingers, where they should in fact be investigated themselves for their diesel pollutants as well as other discharge which appear to have been ignored. Competition is good for the economy. Having reliable options is even better. More than fifty years of safe transit history across Lake Michigan should be celebrated and supported by the approval of the Concert Decree. Thank you for your support!

Sincerely,
John C. Sturdy

[REDACTED]
Marinette, WI 54143
[REDACTED]

From: Katie Fleer
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/12/2013 11:46:08 PM
Subject: FW: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

To whom it may concern,

I am writing in regards to the tentative agreement between the EPA and S.S. Badger regarding the coal ash disposal. While I believe the EPA and LMC have come to an acceptable solution, I also have to disagree that it is truly necessary. As the Badger is the last coal-powered steamship on the Great Lakes, the small amount of ash discharge it releases into the lake is miniscule when compared with the environmental benefits it provides. As an alternative to the hours-long drive through Chicago, IL, the Badger reduces traffic congestion, fuel consumption/emissions, traffic accidents, and wear-and-tear on these over-used interstates. LMC is leading the way in clean energy solutions as it transports wind turbines across the lake- the Badger being the only passenger vessel large enough to provide this service. Imagine the traffic consequences if that freight had to be transported through the highway system.

In addition to environmental benefits, the Badger also provides significant economic impact to the communities it serves and is a source of pride for the residents of those communities. As the Badger enters and leaves the harbor in both Ludington and Manitowoc, the piers are consistently lined with people- young and old, tourists and locals- waving and cheering the ship's arrival and departure. In Ludington, a restaurant overlooking the harbor clangs a bell to signal to its patrons the Badger's departure. These unique experiences bring visitors to the region from throughout the United States and Canada.

As one of the last active coal and steam powered passenger ships, it is also an icon of a past era. In this day of tablets and smartphones, it provides us not with just a "walk down memory lane" but also an educational experience, which should be treasured and preserved for future generations to enjoy. The ship is a floating museum, teaching its passengers about the coal and steam powered era. While on board, passengers can test their steamship knowledge with "Badger Bingo" or rent a stateroom in the "boatel". What other mode of transportation can boast such a history lesson? Too often we as a society take an "out with the old" approach; instead let this be an opportunity to embrace and appreciate our past.

While I understand we all need to do our part to protect the environment, focusing the government's resources, through the EPA, on small business is not the solution. The EPA should be focusing on the massive corporate offenders; unfortunately it's often easier to go after the little guy. What is the saying... can't see the forest through the trees? Furthermore, I believe this coal ash issue directly stems from a regional politician's personal connection to a competitor and personal benefit should the Badger no longer be operational; which is shameful.

If allowing the Badger to continue operations unaltered is not an option, then the only reasonable decision is to approve the two year exploration and retrofit period; thus allowing LMC the opportunity to preserve this historic landmark while accommodating the environmental concerns. I urge you to approve the consent decree for the SS Badger.

Thank you,

Katie Fleer

From: George Bailey
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/12/2013 2:02:52 PM
Subject: Lake Michigan Carferry and S.S. Badger

I am writing in support of the consent agreement Reference Case D.J.Reference, No 90-5-1-1-10771 United States versus Lake Michigan Transportation-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a/ Lake Michigan Carferry Services and S.S. Badger. I have sailed these ferries for 66 years. Michigan is a difficult state to enter or leave because of the Great Lakes. It requires one to drive long distances around the lakes. Or you can fly to your destination. Train service up north doesn't exist anymore. So the ferry makes it possible to get to Wisconsin and back easily. For every car or truck on the boat saves a lot of carbon being put into the air. The oversize trucks that have been using the ferry make our roads safer when they don't have to go through large business districts. The economies of Manitowac and Ludington depend on this ferry. The other tourist towns benefit also. So I urge you to keep the ferry going and help Michigan keep her economy growing stronger. Thank you, Martga Bailey Benzonia Michigan

From: [REDACTED]
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/12/2013 1:39:42 PM
Subject: Ref; Case # 90-5-1-1-10771 I am for the Consent Decree, To continue the S.S. Badger Sailing services

<META HTTP-EQUIV="Content-Type" CONTENT="text/html; charset=us-ascii">
<div dir="ltr">I am for the Consent Decree, To contnue the S.S. Badger Sailing services thank you John Matzke</div>

From: [REDACTED]
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/12/2013 1:18:37 PM
Subject: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division

Hello!

We want to comment on United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger.

We would appreciate this Consent Decree being approved. The Badger is important to the Ludington community. We agree that the ash problem must be solved, but we also believe it is in the best interest of local tourism for this decree to be approved giving more time for this business to solve the problem while continuing to serve the public.

My husband is a graduate of Ludington High School and his class is holding a 50th reunion this year. We want the carferry to continue to serve our area while we celebrate our 50 years!

If the company has not found a solution within two years, then we know that it is time for the ferry to cease operations.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment.

Josephine and John Kirkbride

[REDACTED]
White Cloud, MI 49349

From: Eileen Gorrell
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/12/2013 11:56:30 AM
Subject: D. J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

re: D. J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

The United States versus Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc. dba Lake Michigan Carferry Services and S.S. Badger

I support the consent decree regarding the Lake Michigan Carferry Services and the SS Badger. I want to see the continued service of the SS Badger. If the Badger owners agree with the consent decree, then I certainly support it.

I believe that the Badger is important both for transport (see articles referencing transporting wind turbine parts) and for tourism. I have made 2 trips in recent years and thoroughly enjoyed them.

Eileen M. Gorrell
[REDACTED]

From: Dave Peterson
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/12/2013 11:47:29 AM
Subject: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771


RE: Case Name: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

I support the approval of the Consent Decree signed by The Department of Justice and Lake Michigan Carferry that will end ash discharge by the carferry within two years.

The amount of harmful substances released has been proven to be far less than background levels in soils in the region, is occurring in a region of Lake Michigan that is low in these substances, and is infinitesimal when compared to the massive amounts of the same materials currently allowed to be released on an ongoing basis in the Chicago-Milwaukee area of southern Lake Michigan.

Therefore, it seems reasonable to allow Lake Michigan Carferry two years to resolve the coal ash discharge issue.

Sincerely,
David Peterson


Ludington, MI 49431

From: Tom DePouw
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/12/2013 10:21:14 AM
Subject: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc. D.J. Ref No. 90-5-1-1-10771

To whom it may concern,
April 10, 2013

As a concerned citizen I want to let you know that I am opposed that the E.P.A. may allow the SS Badger to continue polluting Lake Michigan by burning and dumping coal ash into the lake.

It is also it is fact that disposing of any pollutant in Lake Michigan violates Michigan state law.

From: Shirley Willis
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/15/2013 11:36:15 AM
Subject: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

> Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division

>

> Case Name: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan
Carferry Services and SS Badger

Dear Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resource Division,

We have taken the Car Ferry numerous times out of Ludington, Michigan. We enjoy the slow ride and ease of transportation. We hope that the ferry will remain in service for many years.

Shirley Willis
and Tim Howard

From: [REDACTED]
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/15/2013 11:36:18 AM
Subject: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

TO: Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division

Case Name: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

We write to strongly encourage the APPROVAL of the Lake Michigan Carferry Decree.

The Carferry provides a reputable service and strong revenue stream for Great Lakes communities. While working diligently to meet commitments to end ash discharge, the Carferry should be provided this two-year period to continue operating across Lake Michigan.

Please allow passage of the decree and immediate continuation of the SS Badger.

Regards,

Jane Morrison

Sent from Windows Mail

From: Marilyn Miller
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/15/2013 11:32:28 AM
Subject: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Please approve the Consent Decree for the SS Badger.

This will allow passengers such as myself to cross Lake Michigan and avoid the long drive around Lake Michigan to visit friends and family in Northern Wisconsin. I have enjoyed annual trips on the SS Badger for over 30 years and hope to continue for many more.

Thank you for your consideration and approval.

Marilyn J. Miller

Sales & Corporate Management Administrator
Great Lakes Die Cast Corporation
701 W. Laketon Avenue
Muskegon, MI 49441
Phone: 231-728-8805
Fax: 231-726-3207
mmiller@gldiecast.com

From: richard middaugh
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/15/2013 11:31:46 AM
Subject: D.J.Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

To Assistant Attorney General,
Case Name: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a
Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

I'm writing to ask you to please let the 2 year extension for the SS Badger go forward. Compromise can be a good thing and kind of rare in these winner take all times we live in. The SS Badger is Pure Michigan history and I would sure hate to lose it.

Sincerely,
Richard Middaugh
(passenger, ss badger)

From: [REDACTED]
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/15/2013 11:30:47 AM
Subject: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division

Case Name: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

Please support the work of the Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger. I am a long time user of their services and look forward to traveling with them again this summer.

Mary B. Schaefer

[REDACTED]
Inver Grove Heights, MN 55076-2913

Forward email

From: [REDACTED]
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
CC: info@ssbadger.com
Sent: 4/15/2013 11:30:59 AM
Subject: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771 SS Badger

Dear Sirs:

Mrs.Collins and I are in full support of the impending consent decree, permitting continued sailing of the SS Badger for two more years. **For three generations** my family has sailed on the Badger, or nearly 70 years, plying between Michigan and Wisconsin.

Important to summer tourism in both states, the consent period should give Badger management time to make alternative plans to continue operation.

Sincerely yours, Edward J and Barbara E Collins

[REDACTED]
Leland, MI 49654.

From: Rick McNeely
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/15/2013 11:12:12 AM
Subject: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

RE:

Case Name: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

Whatever decision you come to on this case, please take into account the hardship that losing this service would impose on so many of us who travel that area.

Thanks

Rick McNeely

From: Leon Sniegowski
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/15/2013 11:29:11 AM
Subject: Carferries.

1. Are other Great lakes vessels held to the same standards as the car ferry?
2. At one time In the past there were 7 car ferries going across the lake, (and I have ridden all of them), the ash situation must have been much worse during that time yet there seemed to be no real effect on the lake. Can you explain that?

From: [REDACTED]
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/15/2013 11:28:03 AM
Subject: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

To Whom It May Concern:

I am submitting this letter of support for continued service by the S.S. Badger carferry. For many years, the Badger has provided a wonderful transportation alternative to going from Ohio to visit friends in Wisconsin for our family. The relaxing cruise across Lake Michigan is an unparalleled experience, even when waves can be rough on this 'inland sea!' (We've had two such crossings!) Because of its historical significance too, the Badger truly is a tourist treasure for both Michigan and Wisconsin. The operation of the service is top-notch; employees all execute their duties and responsibilities with an excellent customer service ethic. When our return cruise was cancelled due to unexpected, but necessary, maintenance, they assisted in every way possible to help passengers develop other arrangements, as well, as compensating us for the financial loss. Whatever the EPA issues are that certain other corporate entities have chosen to use as an assault on this valuable ferry service, they have undoubtedly, been magnified beyond their actual impact on the environment. As the epitome of conscientious management that defines the Badger operation, I am confident that the necessary measures that are genuinely valid and warranted, will be implemented in order to rectify the situation.

Sincerely,

Larry and Judy Pietch
Norwalk, OH

From: Phil & Dayna Lambert
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/15/2013 11:26:53 AM
Subject: Assistant Attorney General, Environmental Resources Division case # 90-1-1-10771

I can remember when the high speed ferry in Muskegon went into service , it was a typical situation on how the government involves itself in capitalism i.e government loans to the business of their choosing . I have traveled on the vomit comet , and each time was an experience to remember .I,m sure once the government puts an icon such as the Lake Michigan Car Ferry out of service we'll see an immediate hike in rates from the competition, wait, there will be no competition . Maybe the money the State of Michigan saves in it's involvement in this hypocrisy could go towards another " Turtle Fence " in Muskegon .

Sincerely Fed Up With Michigan ,
Phillip J. Lambert

From: [REDACTED]
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/15/2013 11:24:47 AM
Subject: Reference Case Number D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division,

I am writing to support the Lake Michigan Carferry services. They provide such a wonderful service and so many people rely on that transportation! I own a lake property in Michigan and my Minnesota/Wisconsin family are able to easily make the journey over with the ferry. It is simply adorable and I'd like to see this service extended for many years to come. One only needs to be present when the ferry docks in Ludington to witness the appeal of this ferry! Also, wind power owes a lot to this service as they've helped transfer hundreds of windmill parts!

Thank you.

Karla Rahn

From: Alan Anderson
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/15/2013 11:23:41 AM
Subject: CaSEu.s. V. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Short Cut,d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

I want to add my comments to the case.

I have used the car ferry service and think it is very necessary to save time and gasoline driving all the way around Lake Michigan.

I don't know that dumping ashes into the Lake does a lot of harm, but I would prefer that they convert to Natural Gas.

I support the consent decree.

Alan Anderson

From: Ed Friese
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/15/2013 11:22:48 AM
Subject: Case Number: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division

Case Name: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

Dear Sir/Madam

I am writing this note to express my support for this consent decree, to allow the SS Badger to continue service and work towards elimination of ash discharge within 2 years.

Sincerely
Edward Friese
Mundelein, IL 60060

From: [REDACTED]
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/15/2013 11:22:24 AM
Subject: Reference Case Number: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division

Case Name: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

I am writing in support of the continued service provided by the Lake Michigan Car-Ferry, SS Badger. My husband and I use this service at least once each summer and often several times. We have traveled on the SS Badger for many, many years. We started using it when it took trains across the lake years ago. It is very helpful to avoid the mess around Chicago when we wish to go to Michigan for either business or pleasure.

Not only does it provide recreation for many of our citizens, more importantly, it provides an important link between the two sides of Lake Michigan for business and commerce. We have noted the increase in volume of commercial vehicles over the years that we have traveled aboard the SS Badger.

I would suspect that a great deal of the "concern" about pollution of the SS Badger comes from it's competition and it's supporters in the Chicago area, and also those who go crazy over the "green" idea and have no sense. They also forget how much pollution all this traffic makes going around Lake Michigan.

We would be grateful for support for the SS Badger and it's continued links to the east and west sides of lake Michigan and the hundreds of miles of driving this saves the citizens of both states and others who are passing through.

Robert and Deanne Hollander

[REDACTED]
Appleton, WI 54914
[REDACTED]

From: Eric Jumper
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
CC: Eric Jumper; 'ron e'
Sent: 4/15/2013 11:18:46 AM
Subject: Reference Case Number: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

To Whom it May Concern,

Over many years I have been a frequent rider on the Lake Michigan Carferry, but in the last 4 years it has been a necessity. I live in Granger, Indiana, just north of South Bend, Indiana, and just south of Niles, Michigan. For the last four years, my wife has been a patient at the Mayo Clinic so we make frequent visits to Rochester, Minnesota where the Clinic is located. These visits are concentrated in May, June and July. If you have ever tried to negotiate the traffic through the Chicago area, you know that the best description is a nightmare. My wife and I are in our 60's and while my health is still good, a blood clot in my leg some years ago means that I now try to avoid long periods of driving without being able to stop and walk around. On many occasions, I have been trapped behind the wheel for three hours just sitting on the freeways or toll roads through and around Chicago with the engine running along with all the engines of the miles of parking lot on the highway, including heavy trucks. So we started using the car ferry using the night-time service so that we can get a cabin and sleep during the crossing allowing us to come ashore refreshed and ready to continue our journey either to the Clinic or back home.

But this comment goes beyond losing the convenience for my wife and me. If the EPA is concerned about pollution because of coal ash being discarded in the lake, they should be even more concerned with the exhaust being belched into the air by the traffic trying to get through Chicago. When we take the ferry at night, we see firsthand the lack of exhaust pollution coming from all of the huge trucks crossing Lake Michigan on the ferry at night. I understand that Lake Michigan Carferry is willing to try to modify this dumping, but they need at least the two years they have requested. In all honesty, as a Professor in the Department of Aerospace and Mechanical Engineering, I have tried to understand how this ash discharge might affect the lake environment, I was unable to find any tangible evidence of a detrimental effect. But setting that aside, I hope the EPA is able to factor in the positive effect of having an alternative to cutting south through Chicago to get on the opposite side of Lake Michigan has.

Finally, there is the historic nature of the car ferry, which I am sure everyone is aware of. And there is the survival of the fragile economy at both Ludington and Manitowoc that should be considered as well as the Company itself and all of the suppliers that support it. As responsible, tax-paying, productive citizens of the United States, I hope that my wife and my great concerns about possibly shutting down the Lake Michigan Carferry are taken into account.

Respectfully,

Eric J. Jumper
Professor
University of Notre Dame
(574) 631-7680
Jumper.1@nd.edu

From: Custer, Joseph
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/15/2013 11:16:21 AM
Subject: Reference Case Number: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Reference Case Number
D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division

Case Name: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

S.S.Badger. Consent Decree

Dear Sir or Madam:

I write to support the consent decree regarding the Lake Michigan Carferry Service. For many of us in the upper Midwest, this is a family tradition, and harkens back to generations of travelers, trains, and trucks that have used the ferry.

Some of our history is worth preserving, even at some environmental cost. This old ship is one of those.

Thank you for your consideration and attention
Joseph R Custer M.D.
Pediatric Critical Care Medicine
Professor of Pediatrics and Communicable Disease
Medical Director, Respiratory Therapy Services
CS Mott Children's Hospital
University of Michigan Health System
F-6882 Mott/0243
1500 East Medical Center Drive
Ann Arbor, MI
48109-0243

734-764-5302

jcuster@med.umich.edu

Electronic Mail is not secure, may not be read every day, and should not be used for urgent or sensitive issues


From: kathryn foster
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/15/2013 11:13:40 AM
Subject: DJ # 90-5-1-1-10771

Asst. Attorney General, Environmental & Natural Resource Division
US vs. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut Inc.
DJ # 90-5-1-1-10771

Please **approve** the **Consent Decree** for the Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut Inc.
dba as Lake Michigan Carferry Services- SS Badger.

I have used their services for over 25 years and hope for continued use of the fleet.

Kathryn Foster


Machesney Park, IL 61115

From: Marv Schwartz
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/15/2013 11:08:17 AM
Subject: SS BADGER

It is sad that the lake express and it's co-horts are trying to eliminate its competition on the assumption that the coal burning SS BADGER is polluting Lake Mi. The Badger has been an integral piece of Mi tourism and its industry.

Also, it appears that the ash dumping is a lame excuse as the health of the lake has deteriorated since the demise of the coal burning ships of the past.

Let the SS BADGER continue its running across the lake and provide the services that are pertinent to the State of Mi and the tourism industry.

From: Chas Schwend
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/15/2013 11:05:28 AM
Subject: Badger

Hi, I am so thankful having the opportunity to utilize the Badger Car Ferry twice a year for 6 years when the only alternative would have been around and through Chicago...

It is a great mode of transportation for business and tourism - it would be devastating to shut down or hinder this great "instrument" for our region.

A people with no vision casts off restraint... it requires "vision" to see this and we realize the need to make changes to insure the continuation of the Badger's Service.

We need to accept the "restraints" of improving our ecological environment and transform the Badger to "clean fuel" - enough said!

Charlie Schwend
Classic Woodworking
P. O. Box 100276
Denver, CO 80250
720-363-9323

From: Paul Marty
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/15/2013 11:05:22 AM
Subject: Reference Case Number: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771
Attachments: image4394c7.JPG

D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771
Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division

Case Name: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

Dear Sir or madam,

I am writing in support of the Consent Decree for the USS Badger Carferry, thank you for your consideration in approving this decree. I feel that the Badger provides a valuable service to the transportation and tourism industries and I would hope that you would favor the continued operation of the Badger both short and long term. I am an outdoor enthusiast so I am hoping the Badger organization can find a way to keep their operation going in the future, in a way that will be acceptable to our environmental need and laws.

Again, thank you for your consideration,
Paul Marty

Paul Marty

Sr. Project Engineer

Kaysun Corporation

920-686-5833 - O

www.kaysun.com



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From: Dave Harris
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/15/2013 11:05:11 AM
Subject: Reference Case Number: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

To whom it may concern:

The SS. Badger is a floating historical landmark, whose destiny should be to continue to operate in its current capacity - at least allowing approval of its consent decree.

True, coal burning boilers are a little messy. So are landfills, highways, power plants, and so on. The difference here is that as a floating landmark, its beauty is in its design and function - coal boiler and all.

I have ridden and enjoyed the Badger for many years. The first time was when I was a child - when it had other owners.

I am so happy to share the Badger with my kids - and I hope they will have the opportunity to share it with their kids and so on. It is a piece of American history worth preserving.

Thank you for your time,
David Harris


Rocky River, OH 44116

From: Jaguar Interests
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/15/2013 11:03:16 AM
Subject: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division

Case Name: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

Lake Michigan Carferry has signed a Consent Decree agreement with the Department of Justice and EPA that will require the SS Badger to end the ash discharge within two years. This agreement is the product of many months of working closely with the EPA. I think that this Consent Decree is the best result under the circumstances.

Based on evidence I have seen, the ash discharge is not toxic and it likely has no measurable impact on the environment of the Great Lakes. There are other much more grievous pollution issues facing the Great Lakes (see recent Lake Erie algae blooms) that need the attention, energy, and action by the EPA. This ship is a non-issue. Don't waste time on non-issues. Put State and Federal resources to work where they will make a difference not sinking an old ship.

By the way, I have taken the SS Badger several times across Lake Michigan. Saved a lot of fuel (for me and everyone on the ship) from being consumed. Moving cargo by large ships is one of the most fuel efficient methods of transportation known. Don't shut it down!

Thank you for taking my comments.

Sincerely,

Michael J. Bailey, P.E.

[REDACTED]
Plymouth, MI 48170

From: bonnie haag
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/15/2013 11:03:15 AM
Subject: DJ Ref no.90-5-1-1-10771

Please do whatever it takes to keep this ferry open

.
It's a very important transportation to all the seniors as well as others...I couldn't visit family without it

I'm no longer able to drive..Milwaukee is too far away....

Bonnie Haag

From: Michael Roberts
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/15/2013 11:01:36 AM
Subject: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

I want to express my support for the approval of the Consent Decree associated with the above referenced case.

Thank you,
Michael Roberts

From: Ruth Jaarda
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/15/2013 11:00:11 AM
Subject: Badger

We are concerned that the Badger won't continue to sail. It is a very important part of our family tradition. We take each grandchild on a trip on their 5th birthday. We have two little girls who are looking forward to taking their turn. Please keep it sailing!!!

From: Helmut
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/15/2013 11:00:30 AM
Subject: SS Badger

Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division.

*Case Name: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc.,
d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger*

D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

My Wife and I have crossed Lake Michigan from Manitowoc to Ludington on the S.S.Badger some time ago,we enjoyed it very much and want to do it again some day soon.We hope that the S.S.Badger will be allowed to continue operating on Lake Michigan so that many more people will have the opportunity to board the Badger and enjoy the trip as much as we did,because it may be the only time for some people to take a tour on a big ship,other than a Cruise Liner.We sincerely hope that you take this in to consideration.

Thank you.

Respectfully,

Helmut and Elfriede Zimmer

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From: Cindy Plautz
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/15/2013 10:59:50 AM
Subject: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

Dear Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division

I have been made aware of the Consent Degree that has been filed with the Department of Justice and EPA that gives the SS Badger 2 years to work on ending the discharge of coal ash yet allows the SS Badger to continue service to its many patrons. I am in support of the Consent Decree as it will allow the SS Badger to continue its service while working on a solution.

I and my family have sailed on the SS Badger many times. As a young mother, I would take my children on the ship from Ludington to Wisconsin. It saved me the long drive around Lake Michigan to visit family located in Wisconsin. It was very convenient for me and made it possible to visit family without the stress of driving alone with young children through Chicago. Now that the kids have grown my husband and I (and me alone sometimes) still enjoy taking the Badger to Wisconsin. It is a relaxing and fun way to start a vacation of visiting family in WI.

I would hate to see the historic service discontinued. We must strive to preserve our past as a way to document it for the future. My 90 year old parents remember these ferrys as tours and dances were held on them. It would be a shame to lose this service. Its remarkable that this historic ship is still being used and it should be celebrated. I'm well aware of the importance of our environment but I would even go as far as to say they should be allowed to continue the use of coal fuel as it is historical.

Thank you

Cindy Plautz
Neighborhood Services Coordinator
City of Big Rapids
226 N. Michigan Avenue
Big Rapids, MI 49307
(231) 592-4036

From: Robert McManus
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/15/2013 10:58:21 AM
Subject: D.J. Ref. No 90-5-1-1-10771

To whom it may concern,

I'm writing today to support the continuance of the cross-lake ferry, SS Badger, operated by Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc. My reasons are that it provides a vital link between the two ports of Ludington, MI and Manitowoc WI. It is an historic route in almost continuous use for well over one hundred years. The SS Badger represents the last of her kind, a coal burning, steam powered passenger ferry.

Now, the ash issue is interesting, because it seems to have been brought to the fore in the face of many other environmental challenges to the Great Lakes, notably, the government's refusal to stem the invasion of Asiatic carp species by modifying or closing the Chicago sanitary canal. In addition, numerous coal fired power plants surround the Great Lakes and a few nuclear plants as well. We all know that those power plants aren't along the shores because of the view. And I wonder if coming down hard on a single historic vessel with a large devoted following is easier than going after much bigger fish in the battle to save the environment.

If you would care to google historic coal fired steamships, you will see that they are a novelty around the world, running functional, yet unique services that attract historic minded tourists as well as providing necessary transportation. So there are precedents for keeping singular, historic steamships operating.

Also, I note that there is another service on Lake Michigan providing cross lake service that has been agitating against the SS Badger, which I consider an anti-competitive practice. Sen. Richard Durbin of Illinois has come out strongly against the Badger while representing a region that by far has to be one of the most polluting of Lake Michigan. So, although in the US Senate it is against the rules to question the motives of a senator, as a private citizen I do just that and wonder what Sen. Durbin is up to. Diverting attention from a far larger problem? Playing politics based on contributions? I don't know, but I do know that the Congress has shown an affinity for those who donate large sums.

So, the SS Badger may be a pollution risk, but it is one we should live with while we take care of the larger problems afflicting our environment and the lack of attention thereto due to the failings of governance and administration of our environmental laws, which, by the way, I feel should be MUCH stronger. In other words, if we want to improve our environment, which we should, attacking a beloved, historic ship is barking up the wrong tree.

Robert McManus
[REDACTED]
Bayport, MN 55003

From: Clare Patterson
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
CC: info@ssbadger.com
Sent: 4/15/2013 10:51:50 AM
Subject: D.J. Ref. no. 90-5-1-1-10771 Lake Mich Ferry

Assistant Atty General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division

Case: United States v. Lake mIchigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc, d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

Please approve the Consent Decree which will allow continued operation of SS Badger.

I have used this service several times in the last 3 years and would like to continue. My brother lives in Ludington MI, I live in Wisconsin, so this is obviously the best way for me to see him.

I am of the firm opinion U.S. produced coal is an excellent fuel for this purpose, and the relatively small amount of discharge does no damage to Lake Michigan.

Oversized loads can go on this ship. The competition in Milwaukee cannot serve that need. They also have had several interruptions of service, due to mechanical troubles, even though their equipment is only a few years old. Newer is not better, in this case.

Thanks for considering my opinion.

-Clare Patterson [REDACTED], Oshkosh WI 54904

"Nearly all men can stand adversity, but if you want to test a man's character, give him power.

-Abraham Lincoln

From: Margaret Heise
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/15/2013 10:55:48 AM
Subject: Fwd: D.J Reference # 90-5-1-1-10771

Asst Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Services Division

Please support keeping the Lake Michigan Carferry running. We love to,ride it every year!

Sent from my iPad

[<http://ih.constantcontact.com/fs176/1102183130649/img/338.jpg>]

Instructions for commenting on the Consent Decree

Comments are to be EMAILED to: pubcomment-ees.enrd@usdoj.gov<<mailto:pubcomment-ees.enrd@usdoj.gov>>

Reference Case Number: (Must be included in subject line)

D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Address to:

Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division

Case Name: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

Or mail to:

TRANS-LAKE-LMTLS-COMMENTS002081

Assistant Attorney General

U.S. DOJ - ENRD

P.O. Box 7611

Washington, DC 20044-7611

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Lake Michigan Carferry | 701 Maritime Dr. | Ludington | MI | 49431

From: Tom Welch
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/15/2013 10:56:03 AM
Subject: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Love the car ferry. Thanks for consent decree.

From: [REDACTED]
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/15/2013 10:53:06 AM
Subject: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

I feel this agreement should be approved by both parties and then the SS Badger should be left alone as it has done a great service for the public and the ship should be left to sail Lake Michigan as it cannot ruin the lake anymore then any othership I have traveled the lake on the SS Badger many times and without the ship I will no longer be able to travel due to my health. Thank You very much,

Amby Puksich
[REDACTED]
Hillsdale, MI. 49242
[REDACTED]

From: Roger
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/15/2013 10:52:45 AM
Subject: 90-5-1-1-10771

To whom it may concern,

I have lived in Ludington for all my 54 years. I have been actively involved in boating and fishing on the lake since my dad bought a boat in 1966.

Lake Michigan is a beautiful lake and should be protected at all costs. To think that one ship, the SS Badger is going to ruin it by coal ash discharge doesn't make any sense. Lake Michigan has gotten cleaner and cleaner over the years, a fact that cannot be disputed, despite the Badgers continued operation. Last year on a calm day we were boating and I could clearly make out the rocks on the bottom, 30 feet down! Does the Badger threaten lake Michigans future? Only if it is forced to shut down operations. Personally I feel more contaminants enter the lake from Chicago than anywhere else.

Thank you.

Roger Anderson

Ludington

Sent from my iPad

From: F or E Kelley
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/15/2013 10:50:10 AM
Subject: Reference Case Number: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

I love the SS Badger. Please do everything to keep the service.

E Kelley

From: Charles Gray
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/15/2013 10:48:38 AM
Subject: Lake Michigan Car Ferry Service

Reference No. 90-5-1-1-10771

The Lake Michigan car ferry service performs a useful public service while the environmental issue is important. If the ash issue is resolved within the allotted time period, I support the stated resolution to the problem.

Charles A. Gray

[REDACTED]
Alma, Michigan 48801

From: Brad Hargett
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/15/2013 10:48:25 AM
Subject: Reference Case Number: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division

Case Name: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

While I wish that the practice of dumping coal ash into Lake Michigan was ending, I understand how many jobs would be affected were the Lake Michigan Carferry service suspended due to equipment of practice changes. I can live with the 2-year delay, but strongly encourage LMC to modify the ship to operate under a clean fuel source, so that it can avoid further dumping of ash into Lake Michigan. Frankly, I had no idea how much volume had been dumped into the lake, and was surprised to hear of the amount.

Please proceed with the current Consent Decree.

Thanks,
Brad Hargett

[REDACTED]
Mears, MI 49436

From: Karen Manley
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/15/2013 10:48:11 AM
Subject: Please approve

We love the badger and would like to see the Consent Decree approved.

Karen S. Pretty

From: bonnie haag
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/15/2013 10:44:30 AM
Subject: Ferry

please keep the ferry going....do whatever takes..its VERY important to this senior as well as others...it is a landmark...Milwaukee's too inconvenient....

Bonnie Haag

From: Kim Huston
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/15/2013 10:43:42 AM
Subject: Badger car-ferry coal-ash issue

I would support all efforts to make this boat a clean burning machine that does not pollute Lake Michigan. I love having this service and riding this ferry. However; keeping Lake Michigan safe to swim in and a habitat for fresh water fish takes priority.

Kim

--

Kim Huston
Piano teacher, Hammered dulcimer player
[REDACTED]

From: Caryn Kelly
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/15/2013 10:42:17 AM
Subject: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

My family from Minnesota uses the ss badger to get to Michigan every summer. We would be extremely disappointed if you discontinued service. It is our favorite part of the trip. Plus it gets us off the roads which is way more harmful to the environment.

Caryn Kelly

[REDACTED]
Edina, Mn 55424
[REDACTED]

From: Charles Gray
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/15/2013 10:41:45 AM
Subject: Lake Michigan Car Ferry support

The car ferry performs a useful public service while addressing the public concern for a clean environment is yet another issue. If the ash issue can be addressed within the specified period, I support the compromise.

Charles A Gray

[REDACTED]
Alma, Michigan 48801

From: Wayne Gorter
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/15/2013 10:41:03 AM
Subject: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Reference Case Number
D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

To whom it may concern,

As long as LMC has agreed to clean up the dumping of ash within 2 years, I wish you would approve the Consent Decree.

The economic effect on the 2 communities, Ludington and Manitowoc would be devastating if they were to lose the LMC Ferry.

I use it about twice a year to visit friends in the UP to save on driving and gas.

Your consideration is appreciated.

Wayne Gorter

Grand Rapids, MI

From: Bill Mueller
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/15/2013 10:46:45 AM
Subject: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771 Public Comment

To: Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division


I am writing in support of the Consent Decree agreement in the case named: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

I believe the Consent Decree agreement provides the parameters for a reasonable solution to the concerns raised by the EPA about the SS Badger's coal ash discharge in Lake Michigan while at the same time allowing Lake Michigan Carferry Service to continue to provide its valuable public service.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

William J. Mueller


Ludington, MI 49431

From: [REDACTED] cynthia lhost
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/15/2013 10:39:36 AM
Subject: Reference Case Number: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

I am writing in support of the continued operation of the Lake Michigan Carferry service that connects Wisconsin to Michigan, and urge you to approve the Consent Decree.

We travel from our home in Wisconsin to Michigan (and back again) every summer, and have done so every year since ferry service resumed. My husband's family purchased property on the north shore of Crystal Lake, Beulah, MI in 1903 and family have been going every summer since. Many family members now live there year round, but others are able to come for a week or two in the summer. My husband is 63 and has crossed the lake every summer, beginning at the age of 6 months, on the Lake Michigan Carferry, and prior to that, on the old ferries that hauled freight. He has only missed three summers when he was in law school in Virginia, and those sad summers when there were no longer any ferries crossing the lake. We rejoiced when ferry service resumed and now use the service several times each summer and fall.

I know we are not alone in our support of the ferry as the ferry is often full when we make our crossings.

Please approve the Consent Decree.

Sincerely,

John and Cynthia Lhost
Mequon, Wisconsin

From: [REDACTED]
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/15/2013 10:38:17 AM
Subject: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Dear Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division,

Case Name: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

I hope a compromise can be reached that will produce a consent agreement.

Consent agreements usually work for both parties. The ash should be minimized and the Badger should sail.

Regards,

Jerry Probst

[REDACTED]
Sioux City IA 51106
[REDACTED]

From: rugbycoach
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
CC: SS Badger Carferry Service
Sent: 4/15/2013 10:36:07 AM
Subject: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Lake Michigan Carferry has signed a Consent Decree agreement with the Department of Justice and EPA that will require the SS Badger to end the ash discharge within two years. This agreement is the product of many months of working closely with the EPA. We think that this Consent Decree is the best result under the circumstances.

We believe the Consent Decree should be approved and support this agreement.

Daniel Schneider
President
WRFC

From: mrlavigne [REDACTED]
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/15/2013 10:33:55 AM
Subject: s.s. badger

d.j. no. 90-5-1 -1-10771 please do not kill this piece of history of michigan ,

From: Thames Family
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/15/2013 10:32:58 AM
Subject: Reference Case Number: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Re: S.S. Badger

Please allow the S.S. Badger to continue running. It has been a family tradition yearly for 10 plus years and a multi generational tradition through four generations.

Thank you,

Steve and Jennifer Thames

Wisconsin Rapids, WI

From: Bill Kracht
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/15/2013 10:32:08 AM
Subject: Comments on Case No - D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

To: Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division

Case Name: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

Dear Sir / Madam:

We would like to express our support for the continuation of Lake Michigan car ferry service via the SS Badger between Ludington, MI and Manitowoc, WI. We live in Michigan but both of us are from Wisconsin and have extended families in that state, so we take the ferry often during its operating season. The only other ferry service (Muskegon MI to Milwaukee WI) would involve much more driving for us and that ferry has very limited capacity for taking your vehicle with you (a necessary component for us as we typically have to drive to multiple locations once in Wisconsin). The only other option -- driving around Lake Michigan -- is more costly, much more time-consuming, and creates a lot more automobile fuel exhaust.

We would appreciate any agreements that can be reached to allow this service to continue.

Sincerely,

William and Mary Kracht

Manistee, MI 49660

From: Phil Chapleau
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/15/2013 10:31:45 AM
Subject: Reference Case Number: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Case Name: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

Dear Assistant Attorney General U.S. DOJ - ENRD,

Please vote to keep a national treasure running while an apparatus is implemented to collect the ash residue. The SS Badger like the vessels that came before her, continues an over a century long tradition of crossing Lake Michigan.

Te experience of riding this vessel is like no other. My parents took me for rides in the 1950's and 1960's and I have passed the life - long experience to my children by crossing with them as well.

I'm certain the the plans that are in place now will eliminate the dumping issues by January 2015. Please vote to keep the Badger running so that future generations may experience the thrill of an invigorating ride across Lake Michigan on a warm summer day!

Thank you for your time and attention regarding this request.

Respectfully,

Philip N. Chapleau

From: [REDACTED]
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/15/2013 10:32:04 AM
Subject: Lake Michigan Carferry service

To whom it may concern,

I am in complete support of the continued operation of the Lake Michigan Carferry Service (aka 'Badger').

I urge the Justice Department to approve the proposed agreement on the table between the EPA and the Lake Michigan Carferry Service in the immediate future.

Your decision affects many people and livelihood of tens of thousands of folks living in Michigan and Wisconsin. I urge that this is not ignored.

We can protect our environment without giving up precious commodities such as this carferry service. I would hope you would concur.

Sincerely,

Reverend Michael Loyson

From: Suzanne Bromley
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/15/2013 10:31:03 AM
Subject: The Badger Ferry

I am a regular traveler on the Badger Ferry. Driving around the south end of Lake Michigan is a nightmare and to be avoided if at all possible. The Badger offers me the opportunity to avoid this whether driving east or west.

The owners are requesting an extension of their EPA permit for 2 years so that they might convert to gas. I have seen in many of the Wisconsin media negative comments regarding the emission and discharge of ash into the lake. I hope that you are not being controlled by lobbying from the owners of the Lake Express. It is sad that the owners of the Lake Express seem to have such control of the media.

I think if the Badgers owners are willing to work with the EPA then they should be allowed the 2 year extension.

Thank you for the opportunity to express my thoughts

Sincerely

Suzanne Bromley

[REDACTED]
Sturgeon Bay WI 54235

From: Crystal Beeman
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/15/2013 10:29:27 AM
Subject: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771, US vs Lake Mich Trans Lake Shortcut comments

April 15, 2013

RE: Reference Case Number: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

TO: Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division

Case Name: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

Dear Assistant Attorney General,

I respectfully request that the USS Badger be able to continue it's service while they make the changes to come into compliance with the governments requirements for operations. As a Michigander who uses their services as a means for safer, less costly, and vacation purposed transportation, I believe their service is vital to our states economy and travel industry.

Thank you so much for your consideration,

Crystal B. Beeman

[REDACTED]
Buckley, MI 49620

[REDACTED]

From: THE WOOLGATHERERS
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/15/2013 10:27:38 AM
Subject: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division

Case Name: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

I am a passenger on the Badger and have always enjoyed taking the big boat across the lake.

However, I do feel that the company is taking advantage of the public and the environment. They have known for a long time of this requirement. They have actually acquired new business transporting oversized wind farm parts across the lake.

The car ferry should not be forced to shut down, however, compliance in less than 2 years should also be possible. Conversion to gas turbines, diesel, or finding an alternative to the ash dumping are only 3 possibilities. The coal firing is a novelty, but shouldn't make or break the whole issue. Honestly, when sleeping on deck, that sulfurous odor and soot raining down on a white afghan are not really that romantic.

Sara von Tresckow, Fond du Lac, WI
sarav@woolgatherers.com

<http://www.woolgatherers.com> Dutch Master Loom/Spinning Chairs/Öxabäck Looms, visit us in Fond du Lac or contact us about your weaving/spinning needs

From: Ted Parkhill
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/15/2013 10:26:59 AM
Subject: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

The Car Ferry service has been running for years. What is the US government suing them for? More government meddling trying to make it more difficult costly for business. Typical in today's political environment.

It is a valuable service that provides a short cut around the Lake. It is a fantastic service and we wholeheartedly support their on-going business activity.

Ted Parkhill
Incline Village, NV

H: [REDACTED]
M: [REDACTED]

From: Rodney Willms
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/15/2013 10:26:31 AM
Subject: 90-5-1-10771

Good morning

I would like to express my vote to keep the S.S. Badger Ferry going as is. It is the last coal fired steam vessel still running on the Great Lakes, I consider it a part of history just as a building or any thing else that would go on the national historic register.

We have lost the steam railroad engines lets keep this historic vessel a float as is for the children growing up to today has that contact with history.

Thank you
Rodney and Doris Willms
Brooklyn Park, MN 55428

From: psnuff
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/15/2013 10:25:51 AM
Subject: Badger

I think this green thing has got us all into a tizzy. I don't see how a little bit of coal burning being put in the air in Lake Michigan is going to change the world. I believe we are making way too much of this.

It's probably a good thing that we are moving in the direction of cleaning up our skies, but I don't see that one boat in this world is going to make any big difference. Especially when you look at the pollution that is happening in Mongolia, China, Africa and many other parts of the world. One boat is not going to clean up the world.

Furthermore, has anyone ever done a study on the amount of pollution that is saved by cars and trucks taking the Badger rather than driving all the way around Lake Michigan through Chicago. I think you'll find that the Badger is actually saving a lot of the pollution in this world.

I am opposed to forcing any changes to the Badger.

From my Android phone on T-Mobile. The first nationwide 4G network.

From: Sponberg Lars-Birger
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/15/2013 10:25:01 AM
Subject: D>J>Ref.No.90-5-1-1-10771

Assistant Attorney general- U.S. DOJ-RNRD. PO Box 7611. Washington, DC 20044-7611 We are strongly supporting the continued operation of the BADGER. We depend on it for our return to our home each August. Thank you. Lars and Dallas Sponberg

From: ROBERT SWANSON
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/15/2013 10:24:50 AM
Subject: Reference Case Number/ D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Attention: In my opinion the Consent Decree agreement is a fair one and should be approved. The S.S. Badger is a necessary and important means of transportation for many people.

Robert Swanson
Ellison Bay, WI 54210

From: Ed Owens
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/15/2013 10:24:29 AM
Subject: S.S. Badger

Dear Sirs,

I have used the SS Badger between Ludington and Manitowoc numerous times, especially when traveling by bicycle. I am glad to hear that you are working on agreement that both reduces pollution but also allows the ferry to continue. I support finding that permanent solution. – Ed Owens

From: Art Wurfel
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/15/2013 10:23:04 AM
Subject: Reference Case Number: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

TO: Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division

Case Name: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

COMMENTS: I have used this ferry a number of times and have also used its more modern competitor sailing out of Muskegon. While I believe SS Badger provides a valuable service because of the volume it can carry, the pollution from this ship's coal burning power plant is unacceptable, on the ship and in terms of the environmental impact. As a result, I am no longer inclined to use it unless the alternative is unavailable for some reason.

My understanding is that the owners have been granted several exceptions already and for whatever reasons seem to have used that time to apply for more exceptions rather than remedies. In this case, I would be in favor of the exception under consideration provided there is reason to believe there will be a serious effort to do whatever is necessary to bring this ship into compliance with pollution regulations.

Arthur Wurfel

Portage MI 49002

From: John Brantmeier
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/15/2013 10:22:25 AM
Subject: Reference Case Number:)D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

To: Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division

Case Name: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

Over the years we have used the USS Badger multiple times for leisure travel across Lake Michigan. My wife and I feel that this is a historic and vital service that must be allowed to continue. The two year permit will allow time to come up with a long range solution that will be environmentally sound and cost effective. Please allow the Consent Decree to be final. Thanks,

John & Linda Brantmeier

██████████
Appleton, Wi 54915
██████████

From: Arlie Lavender
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/15/2013 10:21:38 AM
Subject: the badger

In this day and age we need to do everything we can to stop the environmental pollution of our eco system. I think that the Badger should not be allowed to operate until they quit polluting our lakes.

Arlie J Lavender

From: Dave Biedenkopf
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
CC: info@ssbadger.com
Sent: 4/15/2013 10:21:17 AM
Subject: Reference Case Number D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

The continued operation of the S.S. Badger is of vital importance to the great lakes region and I therefor support the Consent Decree agreement between the Lake Michigan Carferry and the Department of Justice and the E.P.A.

Dave Biedenkopf
Application Engineer-Contacts
CMW Inc.
The Forerunner in Specialty Metals

Mail: P.O. Box 2266
Indianapolis, IN 46206-2266 USA

General Office: 70 South Gray Street
Indianapolis, IN 46201

Direct Phone: 317-715-2134
Toll Free: 866-634-8884 x 134
Direct Fax: 317-493-2903

www.cmwinc.com
dbiedenkopf@cmwinc.com

From: Jim Janssen
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/15/2013 10:21:00 AM
Subject: In Support of SS Badger Case #D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

ATTN: Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources
Division
FR: James M. Janssen - Wisconsin Resident
RE: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a
Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger
REFERENCING: Case Number: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

This correspondence is in support of the Consent Decree regarding the
SS Badger. Besides providing an alternative means of transportation
between Manitowoc, Wisconsin, and Luddington, Michigan, it is a
pleasurable and scenic experience, promotes an interesting element of
tourism, and preserves a nautical element of history.

I understand the concerns of ash discharge, and believe the agreement
between the Lake Michigan Carferry Service, Department of Justice, and
the EPA, implements the best solution under the circumstances.

Please approve this decree, which I believe is in the public's interest.

Sincerely,

James M. Janssen

From: Georgianne Giese
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/15/2013 10:20:33 AM
Subject: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

The Lake Michigan ferry has provided a valuable service for many, many years. My mother took me on it for our annual visit to Wisconsin when I was 2 (66 years ago!). My husband and I have taken it a few times when visiting relatives in the Midwest. We loved the experience. Though we now live in Arizona, we would certainly miss this wonderful service if it were discontinued, especially since driving around the lake would be a significant challenge for us now.

Georgianne Giese

From: CVestor [REDACTED]
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/15/2013 10:19:27 AM
Subject: D.J. Ref.No. 90-1-10771

Badger car ferry needs to stay alive & working. It saves me tons of time driving thru Chicago & all the mess down there. Yes
Extend their period of operation by 2 years and let them come up with another solution for energy Thank you Jackie
Luebke-Puetz

From: Kathy Knechtges
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/15/2013 10:18:12 AM
Subject: Badger

THE BADGER IS AN INCREDIBLE, HISTORIC TOURIST DESTINATION. IT MUST BE SAVED!!!!!!!!!!!!!! THERE IS NOTHING ELSE LIKE IT. WE CAN DO THIS! THE BADGER MUST SAIL ON!

From: Daniel and Nancy Shankel
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/15/2013 10:17:50 AM
Subject: D.J.Ref.No.90-5-1-1-10771

Sirs,

I don't understand how forcing wood and coal fired steam vessels, ships and trains, to burn oil or gas helps preserve any historic significance or help our young people learn about our past. I believe allowing the full experience to be enjoyed by fans and the public is the best learning tool.

The amount of pollutants is negligible at best and forcing the change is just a way to destroy memories any historical value.

Sincerely, Daniel Shankel

From: Don(WIRELESS) Fuller
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/15/2013 10:14:58 AM
Subject: Reference Case Number: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division

Case Name: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

I would like to express my support for the Consent Decree as was agreed by the Lake Michigan Carferry Service in the aforementioned case. We need to keep that ferry in service and we need to find support for the conversion of this great old vessel to other than coal fueled boilers.

Sincerely,
Donald R. Fuller
Mt. Pleasant, Michigan 48858

From: Todd, John
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/15/2013 10:11:42 AM
Subject: Lake Michigan Car Ferry BADGER

I do not support the continuing dump of coal ash in to Lake Michigan. The BADGER should either stop it, or STOP RUNNING. They have had all the breaks and extensions they need.

John Todd, Director of Sales, Florida Markets
Burger Yacht Sales, Inc.
1515 SE 17th Street, #129
Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33316
Ph: 954 463 1400
Fax: 954 463 3100
Cell: 561 329 0850
E-mail: john todd@burgerboat.com

From: george mikulyuk
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/15/2013 10:13:34 AM
Subject: Consent Decree

Reference case No.
D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

By all means approve the consent decree for the Lake Michigan Car Ferry. Where there used to be hundreds of ships that burned coal now there is but one. Thousands of cars and trucks would be driving many thousands of miles more emitting exhaust into the air. The historic nature of this vessel in some way should at least qualify it for some financial grant to help it continue its service. The economic presence of the Badger is huge to Michigan and Wisconsin. Besides isn't it true that coal ash is for the most part and inert material. The sturgeon fish of the St Claire River flourish in the old coal ash discharge beds. I'm not saying that putting anything into the lake is good but considering what the cities of Chicago and Milwaukee discharge into the Lake, the Badger is just an easy target and is kept relevant by those with competing economic interests.

George

From: DONALD HOFF
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/15/2013 10:10:49 AM
Subject: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

I have boated across Lake Michigan many, many times in the past 35 years and have always seen the Badger in route from Manitowoc and previously from Kewaunee and it is one of the worst polluters on the great lakes. The engines should be replaced and it would not take two years as the news paper say. I have a bit of experience with this type boating and I believe that for the sake of the environment the Badger should be Dry docked until it is fitted with the proper engine power!

I know that letters like this falls on deaf ears. Politicians and there pockets make the decisions!!

From: Stein Goering
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/15/2013 10:10:39 AM
Subject: Case # D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

To: Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division

Case Name: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

I urge you to approve the Consent Decree agreement reached between Lake Michigan Carferry and the Department of Justice and EPA. This will require the SS Badger to end the ash discharge within two years, while allowing ferry service to continue in the interim.

Thank you.

Steven Goering
Richland Center WI

From: John Kozal
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
CC: John Kozal
Sent: 4/15/2013 10:07:24 AM
Subject: D. J. Reference Number 90-5-1-1-10771 - Lake Michigan Car Ferry Services and SS Badger

Dear Assistant Attorney General:
US DOJ – ENRD
PO Box 7611
Washington DC

RE: Lake Michigan Carferry has signed a Consent Decree agreement with the Department of Justice and EPA that will require the SS Badger to end the ash discharge within two years. DJ # 90-5-1-1-10771

I, as a concerned citizen of the State of Michigan, ask that the Dept. of Justice allow the ash discharge from the SS Badger ***for ONLY 2 more years ending in 2014.*** Please do NOT allow ANY more ash dumpings from the SS Badger into Lake Michigan after the two years is up ending in 2014. Two years (2013 and 2014 sailing seasons) should be plenty of time for the Lake Michigan Car Ferry Company to figure out how to design, retrofit, and pay for the ship by 2015 with a power system that ***does not use coal*** as a fuel source for the 2015 sailing season.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

John P. Kozal, PE
Licensed Professional Engineer – MI

[REDACTED]
Sparta, MI 49345
[REDACTED]

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From: info@tourconnectioninc.com
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/15/2013 10:06:43 AM
Subject: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division

Case Name: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

I look forward to continued service of SS Badger on Lake Michigan. Since the 1950s I have sailed on the Badger numerous times and shared the experience with my children and grandchildren. We have seen the transport of many different industries including the recent wind turbine components.

I understand the coal ash dumping in Lake Michigan is an environmental problem but with the SS Badger storing and dumping more on land and recycling the ash plus converting to a new system in the years to come, it will be worked out to everyone's satisfaction.

I was pleased to hear a Consent Decree was signed with the Dept of Justice and EPA and approval by the court would be wonderful. So we can continue to see the SS Badger on the great lakes for several more years.

Susan Broughton
Tour Connection
5859 W Saginaw, P MB 112
Lansing MI 48917

From: Brad Ahrens
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/15/2013 10:06:19 AM
Subject: SS Badger
Attachments: image001.gif

Please support the SS Badger. This is an important piece of MI economy as well history. As employees of the people, the gov't should do everything possible to support business and not simply place "or else" lines in the sand. It's in everyone's best interest. Thanks so much.

Sincerely,

Brad Ahrens



From: BJ Malesko
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/15/2013 10:06:01 AM
Subject: dj ref 90-5-1-1-10771

Asst Atty General
Environment and Natural Resources Division

Please approve the Consent for the SS Badger to continue to operate in Lake Michigan. This is an essential part of the history of the region and deserves approval in order to have time to comply to your regulations.

Our children and grandchildren have loved this transport experience.

Thank you
B.J. Malesko
Michigander

From: Bob
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/15/2013 10:05:57 AM
Subject: consent Decree D>J>Ref.No.90-5-1-1-10771

We are in agreement with the current Consent Decree re the MI Car Ferry from Ludington to WI.

From: Mark Scheuer
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/15/2013 10:04:04 AM
Subject: The Badger

I have personally seen the positive impact that the Badger has had in the Ludington community. My family grew up on the shores of Lake Michigan and having the historic ship band from its perfect safety history would be terrible for Ludington and Manitowoc, Wi

Please allow the Badger to continue to operate while the owners work towards becoming in compliance.

Sincerely

Mark Scheuer
Mscheuer@ps-engineering.com
Sent from my iPad

From: Harold Montgomery
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/15/2013 10:02:25 AM
Subject: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division

Case Name: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

I support the continuation of the SS Badger service. My granddaughter attends the Interlaken school of the arts near Travis City in Michigan, and it is a long difficult drive of nearly 500 miles to visit her. The Badger makes that trip a delight.

Sincerely,

Harold Montgomery
[REDACTED]

Milwaukee, WI 53210-0430
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/15/2013 9:57:16 AM
Subject: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

I would like to see the consent decree for the USS Badger approved. The benefits of the ship far outweigh the negative of the relatively small amount of coal ash discharged into the lake.

Sincerely,

David J. Zaleski

[REDACTED]
Southgate, MI 48195
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/15/2013 9:56:36 AM
Subject: Reference Case Number: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

**Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural
Resources Division**

**Case Name: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut,
Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger**

**I have used the Badger several times. Hope you weigh the
ecological benefit of not having to drive 400+ miles because their
ferry is availble.**

**With Regards,
David Bitter
U.S. Citizen**

From: Jane Atkinson-White
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/15/2013 9:56:30 AM
Subject: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division

Case Name: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

The Consent Decree should be approved for the SS Badger to continue it's services. It serves as a historical tourist attraction as well as a convenient way to cross Lake Michigan. We live near London, Ontario and like to travel to Oshkosh, Wisconsin for the annual AirVenture in July and taking the SS Badger cuts out a whole lot of driving time for us. Taking the Badger makes the trip far more enjoyable and we would hate to see it end. Please keep the Badger going.

Jane

ATKINSON GRAPHICS
Jane Atkinson-White B.F.A., R.G.D.
519-644-2786
jane@atkinsongraphics.ca
www.atkinsongraphics.ca

From: Louise Petering
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
CC: Louise Petering
Sent: 4/15/2013 9:55:05 AM
Subject: Lk Michigan Carferry

As a user of the carferry and a person concerned about the declining health of the Great Lakes, I support the extended sail time currently allowed the Badger.

However, during this grace period the Badger owners **MUST** devise a way to desist from dumping coal ash into Lake Michigan and retrofit the Badger. **The previous extension did not result in a remedy and this one must. An Earmark to do this would be a good way to help the Badger, but the owners must put up their own \$\$ too.**

I recognize the importance of the Badger to Manitowoc's and Ludington's economic viability, yet we must not sacrifice the long term benefit of clean Great Lakes water and fish from it to short term benefit for the Badger and two cities, much as I enjoy both Manitowoc and Ludington.

Louise Petering

[REDACTED]
Fox Point, WI 53217
[REDACTED]

From: Dan Hall
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/15/2013 9:54:11 AM
Subject: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Case Name: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

I would like to express my views on the continued operation of the S.S. Badger consent decree for continued operation. I think the decree should be approved to allow operation while the ash discharge issue is worked out.

Seems to me this is not unreasonable, since in the early 20th century there were many coal and wood fired steam boats running on the lakes and the lakes survived. Seems like one boat couldn't do much damage to Lake Michigan.

Dan Hall

[REDACTED]
Ypsilanti, MI 48197

[REDACTED]

From: Elizabeth Walters
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/15/2013 9:53:18 AM
Subject: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

TO: Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division

Case Name: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

We write to strongly encourage the approval of the Lake Michigan Carferry Decree.

The Carferry provides a reputable service and strong revenue stream for Great Lakes communities. While working diligently to meet commitments to end ash discharge, the Carferry should be provided this two-year period to continue operating across Lake Michigan.

Please allow passage of the decree and immediate continuation of the SS Badger.

Regards,
Elizabeth Walters

From: Paul F Nichols Jr.
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/15/2013 9:52:28 AM
Subject: DJ Ref # 90-5-1-1-10779

Assistant Attorney General;

I use the Ferry about 6 times a year to get from Wisconsin – Michigan. It saves me time and gas. The ferry is a true gem. It's the only Coal fueled Ferry in the U.S. Like the EPA I am also concerned about the environmental impact of the coal ash. The environmental effect on the lake appears to be non-existent to minimal. I would encourage both side to work together to come up with an agreement the satisfies all parties.

Moreover, if we are really concerned about the environmental issues in lake Michigan. Why are we allowing MSD (a Governmental Agency) to dump millions of gallons of raw sewage into the lake. I think we all agree that is a bigger problem, but it's been going on for years. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,
Paul F. Nichols

From: [REDACTED]
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/15/2013 9:52:35 AM
Subject: Please approve the consent decree for the LAKE MICHIGAN CAR FERRY

To whom it may concern,

Please approve the consent decree for the Lake Michigan Car Ferry.

It is an important alternative to reaching Wisconsin and a true Icon of Lake Michigan.
Coming for living near Hanford Washington with the leaking nuclear materials, a little more ash is minor.
We need to support our businesses.

Sincerely,

Jan Whitacre
Property in Door County Wisconsin

From: Tammy Fick
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/15/2013 9:51:51 AM
Subject: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division

We enjoy taking our vacation by traveling on the ferry and would love to see this continue. It is such a nice way to travel, my children and parents LOVE it!!! Please continue! Thanks.

Tammy Fick

From: Jeff Tryka
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/15/2013 9:51:24 AM
Subject: Reference Case Number: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

To Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division:

In re: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

I would like to express my support for the consent decree agreement between the Lake Michigan Carferry and the Department of Justice and Environmental Protection Agency which will require the SS Badger to end ash discharge within two years. I believe this is a reasonable solution that will both protect the natural beauty and health of Lake Michigan, while enabling us to preserve and enjoy an important historical resource in the SS Badger, the last steam powered car ferry on the Great Lakes.

Sincerely,
Jeff Tryka,
Grand Rapids, MI

From: Paul and Patty Korte
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/15/2013 9:50:22 AM
Subject: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

I support the SS Badger and the approval of the Consent Decree being considered in its behalf. This vessel is integrally important in the life and for the jobs of specifically Ludington, Michigan and Western Michigan in general. It is a symbol of the area and would destroy the economy in the area is banned. Sincerely, Paul F. Korte DDS

From: Ron_Schuitema@knoll.com
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/15/2013 9:50:01 AM
Subject: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Address to:

Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division

Case Name: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

I would like to express my support of the SS Badger Car ferry, This is a wonderful way to cross Lake Michigan. We use it often. It is a very classic way to enjoy the splendor of our state. Please continue to allow the Badger to provide us with this service and experience.

Thank you

Ron Schuitema
[REDACTED]
Shelby, MI. 49455

Ron Schuitema
Custom Product Development and Specials
Product Development, Muskegon
231.755.9269
rschuite@knoll.com

From: MORLEY BROWN
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/15/2013 9:49:31 AM
Subject: S S BADGER

I can not believe that this one little ship is causing such an uproar. Give it an exemption, get on this treasure and enjoy the ride. I do!. Morley Brown, Primrose , Ontario Canada,

From: Diana Bolda
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/15/2013 9:47:36 AM
Subject: 90-5-1-1-10771

We need to have the SSBadger working between Michigan and Wisconsin. It helps the economy lots of semi trucks and wind turbines take the the Badger. It saves on gas for shipping food etc. Me & my sister take the ship every year to see my son in Wisconsin. It is a awesome trip. I think it helps with the Pure Michigan theme. Lots of people use it to go from Michigan to Wisconsin back and forth. To visit, shop, resturants, business, ect. Please keep the ship on Lake Michigan. It's good for the economy.
Thank You

Sent from my iPad

From: Risinger, Cheryl
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/15/2013 9:47:26 AM
Subject: Comment on S.S. Badger

Please continue operation of the S.S. Badger. It is one of a kind historical ship. I have used the ship to go back and forth to Michigan for 10 years. While sailing I see many families, single travelers such as myself, and business who use this ship to haul their equipment or semi trailers to avoid Chicago traffic.

This connects tourism for Michigan and Wisconsin. I live in Kewaunee, WI and I would rather take the boat ride then drive around Chicago which is an additional 4 hours by car to my destination in Michigan.

If the S.S.Badger is not continued, tourism and employment will be hit hard.

Cheryl Risinger
Kewaunee, WI

From: Deborah Snow
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/15/2013 9:46:58 AM
Subject: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Please approve the decree noted here. Our entire family depends on the SS Badger for summer travel as we are scattered across Michigan, Wisconsin and Minnesota.

We have built a family tradition, one of only a few remaining traditions, upon our very memorable experiences aboard the ferry.

Thank you!

Deborah Snow
Flint, MI

From: Frances Jueds
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/15/2013 9:46:49 AM
Subject: D.J. Ref No 90-5-1-1-10771

I am writing to express my hope that the Court will approve the Consent Decree as regards the SS Badger's future. I feel the Badger provides a very important and historic service to the public in general, and a financial service to the residents of Michigan and Wisconsin.

Thank you.

Sincerely yours,

Frances Jueds


Philadelphia, PA 19129

From: Mark Munger
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/15/2013 9:45:12 AM
Subject: SS Badger Consent Decree D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

This decree seems to be a great solution for the short term, as long as the parent company of the SS Badger is going forward to re-tool the ship to burn a fuel other than coal.

Regards,
Mark H. Munger

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From: Susan Corrington
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/15/2013 9:45:56 AM
Subject: D.J. Ref. No.90-5-1-1-10771

To Whom It May Concern,

I am voicing support for the continuation of the Lake Michigan Car Ferry, the Badger, between Ludington Michigan and Manitowoc Wisconsin. I have been a summer resident of Ludington my entire life, 73 years, following in the footsteps of my grandparents and my parents. And I strongly believe the operation of The Badger is crucial to the economy of Ludington, both in the area of jobs and services it provides and in the more aesthetic sense of the operation of The Badger contributing to the uniqueness of the town. Please find a way agreeable to both parties to insure the continuation of the carferry across Lake Michigan from Ludington.

Thank you
Susan Corrington

From: Mark Schaub
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
CC: schaubg@gvsu.edu
Sent: 4/15/2013 9:45:40 AM
Subject: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Hello--

My wife and I each have mothers who live in Wisconsin, and each year we, and our two sons, visit them via the S.S. Badger. It is convenient, fun, and saves stress of driving through Chicago and around the south end of the Lake. My mother, in her mid 70s, and my mother-in-law, in her mid-80s also use the Badger to visit us. It is a good thing, too, as we are not thrilled with either of them making the drive through Milwaukee, Chicago, NW Indiana alone, either.

So, we are strongly in support of the agreement to allow the Badger to continue service, but also convert to a non-coal power system.

Thanks,
Mark & Gayle Schaub
[REDACTED]
Grand Rapids MI 49504

From: [REDACTED]
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/15/2013 9:45:13 AM
Subject: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Have used this service in the past for simple round trip vacation alternative, it's fabulous and falls right into "Pure Michigan" initiative !!! Plan to use in June to pick up boat in WI saves hundreds of miles for round trip; really nice to have this alternative !!!!!!!!!!

George Acker

[REDACTED]
Kalkaska, MI 49646
[REDACTED]

From: Mitchell Lackey
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/15/2013 9:42:45 AM
Subject: 90-5-1-1-10771

To whom it may concern:

This consent decree should be approved. I need access to both the Michigan and Wisconsin vegetable growing areas during the growing season. The ferry allows me to do that without burning the extra fuel and losing the time both the Milwaukee ferry and driving through Chicago cost.

Further I do not think the two year period is sufficient in length. They should have been allowed 5 years to develop an alternative.

Mitchell J Lackey
[REDACTED]
Tarpon Springs, FL 34689

Sent from my iPhone

From: Koehler, Debbie
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/15/2013 9:35:41 AM
Subject: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771
Attachments: image001.png

This is just a note to express my support for the continued service of the Badger Car Ferry.

Living on the Wisconsin side, but having my entire family on the Michigan side, the Badger offers an amazing solution so that my kids are able to see their Grandparents.

We have been loyal customers of the Badger for 15 years. We also support ensuring our environment is protected. We currently have a boat slipped on Lake Michigan, and truly enjoy all that the lake has to offer.

This letter is support the approval of the Consent Decree.

Thank you,

Debbie Koehler

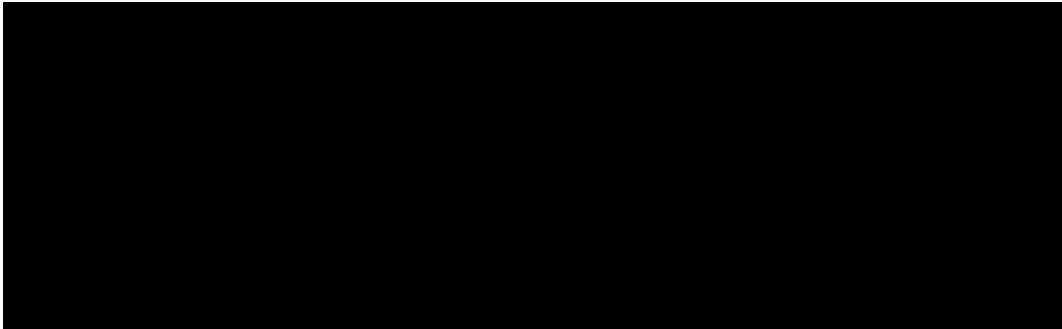


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From: McMullen, Rebecca (ENRD)
To: McMullen, Rebecca (ENRD)
Sent: 4/16/2013 9:44:08 AM
Subject: FW:



From: Mo Wiechmann [mailto:██████████@██████████.h]
Sent: Monday, April 15, 2013 9:44 AM
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Subject:

It would be a shame to end the US Badger's trips across Lake Michigan if they agree and are able to cleaning up the ash problem.

M

"I travel not to go anywhere, but to go."

From: Richard York
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/15/2013 5:00:07 PM
Subject: D.J.Ref.No.90-5-1-1-10771

I am writing in support of the continued operation of the S. S. Badger. Please reference case number 90-5-1-1-10771. The Badger is an essential part of the local economy, and its demise would be a critical blow to our community. This cross-lake ferry system has been in place for over 100 years. The recently filed Consent Decree will hopefully give the company time to effect a permanent solution to the coal ash problem. Thank you.

From: Nancy L. Ostman
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/15/2013 4:52:54 PM
Subject: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771 Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/

Reference Case Number:
D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Address to:
Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division

Case Name: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

As a repeat customer of the U.S.S. Badger, I sincerely hope the proposed resolution allowing the Lake Michigan Car Ferry an extended period to eliminate coal ash is approved. The Ferry Service provides important and much appreciated transportation across northern Lake Michigan, saves the use of fossil fuels, and reduces traffic congestion in the Chicago area. Besides, it is fun and a trip back in time.

Sincerely,
Nancy L. Ostman

Groton NY
13073

From: [REDACTED]
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/15/2013 4:48:39 PM
Subject: Reference Case Number: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division

Case Name: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

I wish to express my support for the Consent Decree and the continued operation of the historic SS Badger.

My family and I have only travelled once on the service, but found it a fascinating, even educational trip. There are so few opportunities remaining for people who missed the great age of steam to understand and experience the sights, sounds and aromas of coal fired steam engines; where there is a chance to preserve them for even a little longer it ought to be embraced.

Clearly there are environmental concerns associated with the widespread use of coal as a fuel, but this needs to be considered on a case by case basis. Here, my judgement is that the benefits more than outweigh the costs.

Yours faithfully

Andrew Graham
Oxford
UK

From: Cynthia Jacobson
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/15/2013 4:12:42 PM
Subject: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

To Whom It May Concern:

The purpose of this correspondence is to point out the economic benefits of continued service from Manitowoc, WI and Ludington, MI.

In addition to the recreational opportunities afforded families by the Badger, is the alleviation of a great amount of traffic around one of the most congested areas in the US, i. e. the convergence of traffic from west and north, east and south around the greater Chicago area. Particularly in the summer months when the ferry runs, the avoidance of this great flow of traffic is a boon to many travelers. Please recognize this need as our Interstate system struggles to keep up with the ever increasing demand.

The economic value can easily be seen in the extended season in 2012 and again in 2013 with the Badger transporting the equipment necessary to increase wind power. I witnessed the loading and unloading of this equipment in Manitowoc and Ludington last September. In Ludington at the motel I heard the breakfast conversation of the many employees assigned to the success of this project on both sides of Lake Michigan.

Please consider the future needs of this enterprise and make whatever allowances are necessary to continue this important resource in Michigan and Wisconsin and adjoining states.

Cynthia Jacobson


From: Karen Warrick
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/15/2013 4:12:04 PM
Subject: Reference number: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division


Case Name: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

I am writing to express my support for the Consent Decree in the item listed above. My husband's family has had homes in the Ludington, Michigan since early in the 1900's (1920?), and therefore we have recognized how important the SS Badger car ferry is to the economy of the Ludington area, for both the transportation and the historical perspective the ferry provides. The company has made an concerted effort to develop necessary adjustments to boat operations to address environmental concerns, and I support the agreement that will give them the time to develop a system to deal with the coal ash.

I have taken the Badger in the past in order to travel to Ludington, and hope to continue doing so.

Thank you for your consideration.

Karen Warrick


Berkeley, CA 94707

From: Cynthia Jacobson
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/15/2013 4:11:29 PM
Subject: Lake Michigan Car Ferry

To Whom It May Concern:

The purpose of this correspondence is to point out the economic benefits of continued service from Manitowoc, WI and Ludington, MI.

In addition to the recreational opportunities afforded families by the Badger, is the alleviation of a great amount of traffic around one of the most congested areas in the US, i. e. the convergence of traffic from west and north, east and south around the greater Chicago area. Particularly in the summer months when the ferry runs, the avoidance of this great flow of traffic is a boon to many travelers. Please recognize this need as our Interstate system struggles to keep up with the ever increasing demand.

The economic value can easily be seen in the extended season in 2012 and again in 2013 with the Badger transporting the equipment necessary to increase wind power. I witnessed the loading and unloading of this equipment in Manitowoc and Ludington last September. In Ludington at the motel I heard the breakfast conversation of the many employees assigned to the success of this project on both sides of Lake Michigan.

Please consider the future needs of this enterprise and make whatever allowances are necessary to continue this important resource in Michigan and Wisconsin and adjoining states.

Cynthia Jacobson
[REDACTED]

From: Sharon Ritter
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/15/2013 4:09:15 PM
Subject: D. J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Please give the Lake Michigan Carferry Services and the SS Badger all the time they need to take care of the coal ash problem. We have been using the ferries since 1975 (when the B&O ran three ship) to vacation in Michigan from Ludington and points North. To get there going through Chicago is just plain horrible, and going the Upper Peninsula route is long and tedious. Since 2007, we have taken our three grandsons on the Badger for a week on the beaches and dunes. They are already asking when we will be going this summer. The trip on the Badger is a mini vacation in itself. They play games, eat snacks, and enjoy roaming the ship on their own. The 4 hour trip is enjoyable, compared to what driving would be. All the passengers who take the Badger, I'm sure, do it for the experience and the convenience (4 hours relaxing vs 4 hours+ driving). When I think of the money we spend in Wisconsin while getting to Manitowoc, and what we spend on the Badger and in Michigan, much revenue and jobs would be lost if the Badger is not allowed to run. (Sorry, boys, no Badger, no vacation.) Lake Michigan (all the other Great Lakes, too) need to be protected and the coal ash dumping needs to end, but right now, Lake Michigan is threatened by a greater problem-- ASIAN CARP! Thank you for taking the time to read this, and PLEASE let the Badger continue to operate. Sharon Ritter

[REDACTED]

From: Gina Hans
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/15/2013 4:02:51 PM
Subject: 90 5 1 1 10771

My children use the car ferry every summer to vacation in MI. It is the highlight of their summer and one fond memory of my childhood.

"No SS Badger means no more Michigan trip. Please don't take the Badger away." Gavin Hans, age 9.

Sent from my iPhone

From: Jerry K
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/15/2013 4:01:21 PM
Subject: Reference Case Number: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

We support the subject Consent Decree which allows the SS Badger two years time to solve the ash discharge problem. The agreement is a reasonable one allowing time to find a solution to the problem while the ferry continues to serve a very useful purpose.

Jerry and Kathy Kidder


Gainesville FL 32605

From: barb case
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/15/2013 3:52:51 PM
Subject: ferry

Please keep the Badger Ferry operating. We use it and love the convenience.
Barb Case
Plymouth, MI

From: ohbeemer [REDACTED]
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/15/2013 3:50:59 PM
Subject: USS Badger

Full support of the Badger and crew.

From: julie kovacic
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/15/2013 3:47:05 PM
Subject: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771


Attention:

Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division

Re: Case Name: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

I am writing in support of the Badger's compliance to discontinue ash discharge within the next two years. Please allow this compliance. The ferry is a vital form of transportation for many of us who travel frequently from Wisconsin to Michigan, and allows an alternate way to make the trip, avoiding the horrendous journey around Chicago (whose traffic is a far greater detriment to the environment than the SS Badger will ever be). I feel the Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., is doing all they can to comply with codes, and should be granted this time frame to complete needed upgrades. Thank you.

Julie Kovacic


Hudson, WI 54016

From: [REDACTED]
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/15/2013 3:38:10 PM
Subject: The Badger, boat to Wisconsin

Please allow the Badger to continue running. It is the last steam powered boat on the great lakes and is a historical treasure.

John and Martha Kuch

From: Elaine Crestlane
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/15/2013 3:35:58 PM
Subject: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Assistant Attorney General
Environmental and Natural Resources

Case Name: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut,
Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

I fully support the approval of the Consent Decree. I want to see continued service of the S.S. Badger.

Thank you,
Elaine Heysham

From: Don Stankov
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/15/2013 3:34:48 PM
Subject: S.S. Badger

I am writing to express my support of the consent decree regarding the S.S. Badger's discharge of residual material into Lake Michigan ending within two calendar years. Hopefully, this will give the owners of said ship time to find an alternative means of either recapturing the discharge or another fuel source such as natural gas to replace the current coal fuel now used on the ship. Thank you for allowing public comment on this issue regarding this Historical Vessel.

Don Stankov
[REDACTED]
Commerce Twp., Mi 48382

From: audrey & Dick
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/15/2013 3:34:42 PM
Subject: S.S. BADGER

I wish to add my comments to those already established. My comment as to the continued sailings of the SS Badger is positive , I hope it continues to operate as usual for many more years, hopefully by converting to natural gas or diesel- Electric power.

From: Bill Gustafson
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/15/2013 3:34:29 PM
Subject: Michigan Car Ferry

We support the consent degree.

Bill and Marge Gustafson
Muskegon, Michigan

From: DRG
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/15/2013 3:04:56 PM
Subject: D.J. Ref.# 90-5-1-1-10771

Just a comment I wanted to pass on about the Badger and how much pollution they think it makes, but my spouse sailed on the Great Lakes in 1950 & and 1960's and there were approx. 100 to 500 iron ore boats plying the Great Lakes and shot Ash every few hours and it didn't cause any pollution back then or cause any damage, so please the Badger continue as it had been doing all these years for the State of Michigan and all the people who enjoy it.....Thank you. Darlene and Hugh Gannon.

From: Kathleen Yockey
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/15/2013 3:28:31 PM
Subject: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

We want to support keeping the S S Badger running on Lake Michigan. It is great for the economy of the area both in Michigan and Wisconsin.

Personally, we utilize it at least once a year when we travel from Ohio to Manitowoc, Wisconsin to visit my elderly aunt.

It would be a shame to discontinue the historical transportation across the lake.

We hope you will consider continuing to let the S S Badger transport across Lake Michigan.

Thank You.


Donald and Kathleen Yockey

From: Gary McClure
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/15/2013 3:17:43 PM
Subject: Reference Case Number: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

I believe the Consent Decree should be approved. Everything should be done to help preserve the history of the SS Badger. Too many of these important examples of our history have disappeared and cannot be replaced.

Thank you for your time.

Gary L. McClure


Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52403

From: O'Hara, Dana L
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/15/2013 3:16:54 PM
Subject: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

I am writing to ask that the court approve the consent decree for the Lake MI Carferry Service. It is a boon to citizens and the state's tourism as well. Thank you

Dana O'Hara
Morgan Stanley Wealth Management
2900 West Rd. #300
East Lansing, MI 48823
517.203.2876 517.351.1112 800.248.0487
fax 517.351.1306
dana.l.ohara@morganstanley.com

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From: Tom Johnson
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/15/2013 3:14:33 PM
Subject: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Reference Case Number: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

The steamship SS Badger provides its voyagers with a gratifying lesson in American history as well as an important transportation link across Lake Michigan. It should continue with these important missions.

I strongly support the consent agreement between Lake Michigan Car Ferry and the Department of Justice and the EPA.

G. Thomas Johnson
Newfield, Maine

From: John Drontle
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/15/2013 3:13:06 PM
Subject: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division

I am writing in support of the consent decree that would allow Michigan Car Ferry to continue to operate allowing the car ferry to continue to discharge coal ash into Lake Michigan. I use the car ferry whenever I have to head east, to avoid the Chicago traffic and Illinois toll roads. Taking the boat across Lake Michigan is also far more enjoyable than traversing through Chicago traffic.

I believe that disapproval of this consent decree would cause an interruption of service with the end result being more motor traffic around the south and north of Lake Michigan which in the end would do more harm to the environment than disposal of coal ash into Lake Michigan.

Best Regards

John Drontle
Michigan Car Ferry Customer.

From: Anna Hopkins
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/15/2013 3:08:20 PM
Subject: The Badger Ferry on Lake Michigan

We have taken the Badger Line several times and loved the experience. The last time my granddaughter and I made the trip to Ludington was in 2011. It was great and a lot more relaxing to use it to get from Milwaukee to northern Michigan than to drive through the hectic traffic of the Chicago environs. I am all in favor of it meeting health and safety regulations, though. Anna Hopkins, Lincoln, Nebraska. (My sister lives in Shelby, Michigan.)

From: [REDACTED]
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/15/2013 2:53:35 PM
Subject: D.J. Reg. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

We live in northern Illinois and have ridden The Badger from Ludington, MI, to Manitowoc, WI, twice. The second time two of our grandchildren accompanied us and "had a blast" as they put it. It is an enjoyable, restful trip, and we'd love to go again. We are, however, torn over the fact that it releases so much pollution into beautiful Lake Michigan which borders my hometown, Chicago. We would be willing to pay a higher fare if it meant correcting this problem sooner. We are torn between the fun and history The Badger represents and the damage it is doing to our environment. A suitable compromise must be found.

Sincerely, (Mrs.) Armande Vasilopoulos

From: Charlene
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/15/2013 2:47:51 PM
Subject: Lake Michigan SS Badger Car ferry

Assistant Attorney General,
Environmental & Natural Resources Division:

REGARDING: CASE NUMBER D.J. REF. NO. 90-5-1-1-10771

I felt great joy and relief when I heard that a solution had been found in the case of the **UNITED STATES V. LAKE MICHIGAN TRANS-LAKE SHORTCUT, INC., d/b/a LAKE MICHIGAN CARFERRY SERVICES AND SS BADGER.**

My family has traveled to Ludington, from Wisconsin for many, many years...an entire lifetime. We are very aware of the economic conditions of Michigan, and now of so many states in our country. To have the SS Badger continue to run and provide jobs and tourism is very worthwhile. Both states have much to offer to travelers. We have enjoyed the water, the sand, the people and the businesses in both states. The SS Badger Carferry provides a good family-oriented approach to travel, and being a historical vessel with a marine museum on board, provides education as well. I cannot say enough good things about the SS Badger and the states of Michigan and Wisconsin. The states have worked hard to find a solution to the coal ash...an excellent example of "teamwork" between neighbors! I am very pleased that an agreement was able to be reached that helped to keep our water safe and clean.

It is with confidence, that I believe the carferry ownership will fulfill their requirements, to end coal ash dumping in Lake Michigan in two years.

I hope that you will totally support the Consent Decree and continue the life of the historical SS Badger Carferry!

Charlene Jarabek
Stevens Point, WI

From: [REDACTED]
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/15/2013 2:42:42 PM
Subject: Reference Case Number: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

FOR: Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division.

Re: United States V. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., dba Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger.

I write in support of the Consent Decree agreement with the Department of Justice and EPA that will require the SS Badger to end the ash discharge within two years. I would have preferred a longer period of time beyond two years. However, I understand this to be a compromise time period by the parties concerned and for this reason am expressing my support. This car ferry is a short cut route for many vacationers and commercial vehicles which are avoiding the much longer driving route around the North & South ends of Lake Michigan.

I have driven the route around both ends of the lake on many occasions (from the East and West) when the ferry has not been running, as, I am sure, have many of the other users of the Lake Michigan Carferry Service. I much prefer the car ferry. I feel the environment does receive benefit when vehicles use the carferry instead of the highways through Chicago and/or around the northern end of Lake Michigan.

Hopefully the added time of the consent decree will provide the time needed for the carferry service to modify it's ferryboat engines to a more acceptable cleaner fuel and thereby continue it's service on Lake Michigan.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

William Kaeding

[REDACTED]
Chicopee, MA 01022

From: Mary
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/15/2013 2:39:00 PM
Subject: D.J. Ref Number 90-5-1-1-10771

Dear EPA/DOJ:

My comment references the Car Ferry and the Consent Decree that would allow for continued service across Lake Michigan.

I have a large boat that my family and I use all summer long on both sides of Lake Michigan (much better boating than on Chesapeake Bay). Invariable we end up with both the car and the boat needing to move across the Lake. Being able to send the car, either unaccompanied or with a driver, across Lake Michigan on the BADGER is a wonderful convenience. We firmly hope that the car ferry continues to run.

Thanks for the opportunity to input to the process.

Mary Lehman
Williamsburg, VA

From: Jim Kanzeg
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/15/2013 2:38:15 PM
Subject: Reference Case Number: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division,

Case Name: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

I am pleased for this opportunity to comment in support of approval of the pending Consent Decree. Sailing on the SS Badger has been an enjoyable part of our last three vacations as we travelled from Ludington, MI to Manitowoc, WI, and then on to our destination of Door County, WI. We plan to make our fourth trip this coming July. Riding the SS Badger is relaxing and stress free, and as we approach our mid-sixties, we are less and less inclined to drive through or around Chicago to get to Door County. We hope someday to take our children and grandchildren across Lake Michigan on the SS Badger so they can enjoy the same experience we have.

One last comment is that if The Consent Decree is not approved, I fear it would do irreparable damage to the economies of Ludington, MI, and Manitowoc, WI. When one considers the unsettled economic times in which we live, special consideration should be given to the economic impact that the SS Badger has on these two cities. For the reasons stated above, my wife and I believe The Consent Decree should be approved.

Thank you again for the privilege of commenting on this matter.

Sincerely,
James S. Kanzeg
[REDACTED]
Columbus, OH 43229

From: Blakeman, Julie A.
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/15/2013 2:36:40 PM
Subject: Reference Case Number: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

To Whom it May Concern,

I hope you will approve the decree regarding continuation of the SS Badger. If it has to discontinue it's ferrying, it will be a major loss of history/nostalgia to both Wisconsin and Michigan.

Sincerely,

Julie

Julie Blakeman | Office Associate II | Siena Hall/Group Home I/Day Treatment | 608-784-6010 | blakeman.julie@mayo.edu
Mayo Clinic Health System | 700 West Avenue South | La Crosse, WI 54601 | mayoclinichealthsystem.org

Attn:

Attorney General Environmental and Natural Resources Division
United States Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc.
d/b/9 Lake Michigan Carferry Service and SS Badger

Dear Sirs,

I am voicing my support of the continued service of the SS Badger on Lake Michigan. I have three generations of family members that have worked on the carferries on Lake Michigan. I am originally from Milwaukee, Wi. and truly believe the carferry made it possible for my family to relocate to Ludington, Mi. My dad got a job on the boats, and my family paid for me to go back and forth every weekend to attend Confirmation classes at my family church in Milwaukee for two years to be confirmed into the family church. I have now taken my son and grandson on the carferry and have thoroughly enjoyed this experience. The carferry is saving many jobs on both sides of the lake, and has truly made many memories (and hopefully many more to come) for many families on both sides. The people who are associated with the carferry are kind, considerate, and want to be a vibrant part of both communities. I HUGELY support the continued service of the SS Badger.

Thank you for your time and consideration, Kathleen Bromley, [REDACTED]
Ludington, Mi. 49431

From: Pete
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/15/2013 2:29:20 PM
Subject: 90-5-1-1-10771

Keep the ferry!
Get rid if the EPA

From Pete's iPhone

From: Micah Leinbach
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/15/2013 2:19:04 PM
Subject: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

To The Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division

Case Name: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing in support of a Consent Decree giving the Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc. and their carferry, the S.S. Badger two additional years to develop means to reduce or eliminate coal ash waste in Lake Michigan.

I understand that an issue like this results in remarkable complexity, and that the interface of technology, law, culture, and environment can be difficult to wrestle with. As an avid environmentalist and a Great Lakes enthusiast who has only ever lived within 5 minutes of Lake Michigan in living memory, it pains me to know that an icon like the S.S. Badger has such a negative side effect. Any time when cultural heritage and environmental health begin to work against each other, things get very ugly, very quickly.

That being said, I support the preservation of living history, especially so that it can strive to modernize and resolve this dilemma through industry and creativity. Living history, though immeasurable, produces many benefits for the same lakes. It is difficult to appreciate the majesty of a lake like Lake Michigan until, on a vessel as large as the Badger, you are still rocked and shaken by a storm, no land in sight. It is hard to appreciate its expanse until, from the deck of the Badger, you wake up and gaze at stars that rival the deserts of the west.

We value the lakes not only for their beauty, but because we are able to work with and through them, interact with them, and draw from them livelihoods of trade and recreation, fishing and farming. The S.S. Badger is an iconic symbol of this interaction. To stop its operation is to suggest that our cultural heritage and the environment that heritage is rooted in cannot co-exist. I do not believe this. Adjustments must be made. Parties that are not willing to come to the table and compromise must be reprimanded. But one more last chance at resolving this disparity is worth it. It says so much more about how we intend to

face issues that mix environment and culture in the future, and we know those issues are coming.

I support additional perspectives and more quantitative analysis of this dilemma in developing a solution. But through all that, the message and spirit of this decision - which is fundamental to the way it will be read in the public eye - must be considered. For that reason, I support this consent decree.

Micah Leinbach

Milwaukee, WI

Frankfort, MI

From: jrboutell [REDACTED]
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/15/2013 2:09:45 PM
Subject: S.S. Badger

Dear Whoever,
Please leave the S.S. Badger alone. It is historical and the last of the coal burning ships on the Great Lakes. Seems like it should be grandfathered somehow. When I enter a voting booth, I will always support those who support the S.S. Badger.
J. Boutell

From: Larry Zuyddyk
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
CC: greg@ssbadger.ccsend.com
Sent: 4/15/2013 2:01:48 PM
Subject: Lake MI Trans Lake Shortcut Case

To all involved.

As a business traveler between Michigan and Wisconsin, I make several crossings with my vehicle each year on the SS Badger Ferry Boat. It has been **a huge savings in fuel resources**. I consume zero gallons of fuel and produce zero emissions on each crossing along with many other cars, trucks, RVs and motorcycles. Please vote to keep it running and help keep it profitable.

Larry Zuyddyk
Auto-Wares Marketing
440 Kirtland S.W.
Grand Rapids MI 49507
616-2432125 x1571
616-292-3842 Cell

From: [REDACTED]
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/15/2013 1:55:14 PM
Subject: Ref # 90-5-1-1-10771

Can't even imagine what environmental rules would override the continuation of the running of the SS Badger.

To combat air pollution, you would be better off trying to stop 1/2 of the airline flights or reduce the number of trains that travel this country.

Not only is there the historical value but the uniqueness of crossing Lake Michigan for us west coast tourists.

Thank you for allowing us to comment.

Jack Wilcox
Spokane Valley, WA 99206

From: Will Heelan
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/15/2013 1:45:34 PM
Subject: Reference Case Number: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

I would like to express my support for the Consent Decree Agreement under consideration for the Badger Ferry. We enjoy using this ferry annually while traveling from Michigan and hope that something can be worked out to address the valid environmental concerns while preserving this historic ferry.

Will Heelan

[REDACTED]

Wilmette, IL 60091

From: [REDACTED]
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/15/2013 1:34:40 PM
Subject: D..J. Ref.No.90-5-1-1-10771

TO: Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division

I respectfully request that you approve the Consent Decree letting the SS Badger Carferry continue crossing Lake Michigan. We need it!!! I and my family use it every summer, and love the convenience of not having to drive all around the lake to get to Frankfort MI from the middle of WI. Please, please let it continue!
Thank you very much.

Mrs. Carrole Block
[REDACTED]
Greenwood WI 54437

From: RONALD A WINTER
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/15/2013 1:07:24 PM
Subject: Lake Michigan Car Ferry

To Whom it May Concern: I have used the Lake Michigan Car Ferry the *Badger* and greatly appreciated, in my opinion, is the best way to get from Michigan to Wisconsin. I sincerely hope that you approve the Consent Decree that was agreed upon between the Lake Michigan Car Ferry, the Department of Justice and the EPA. This is of importance to us.

Sincerely, Ronald and Patricia Winter, [REDACTED] Geneva, IL 60134.

From: [REDACTED]
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/15/2013 1:01:14 PM
Subject: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

**Assistant Attorney General
Environmental and Natural Resources Division**

RE: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Case Name: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

Dear Assistant Attorney General:

I am writing to express my support of the consent degree entered into by Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger.

I have enjoyed crossing Lake Michigan on the Badger and would hate to see this important carferry service terminated. The service is especially important for the two port cities, Ludington, MI, and Manitowoc, WI.

Sincerely,

Frederick Wakefield

[REDACTED]
Rolla, MO 65402

From: Brian Huffman
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
CC: Lake Michigan Carferry Service
Sent: 4/15/2013 1:27:59 PM
Subject: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Dear Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division:

I am writing in regard to the consent decree in United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc. I hope that the decree will stand (that the court will approve it) since it seems to be in the best interest of the public. The Car Ferry is a long-standing tradition in this part of the country, and my family and I would miss our annual "cruise" if the decree were not to be approved.

Thank you for your attention,

Brian Huffman


Hudson, WI 54016

From: [REDACTED]
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/15/2013 1:27:14 PM
Subject: The S.S. Badger

To whom it may concern,

The Badger has been part of Michigan history for a very long time. It is a Michigan Treasure.
Please DO NOT make the Badger history by sinking the ship!

Thank You,
Robert Cunningham

From: Rogers, John (NTCNA)
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/15/2013 1:20:36 PM
Subject: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771 = Reference Case Number --> Consent Decree should be approved

I would like to voice my support for the continued operation of the SS Badger. We should give the engineers enough time to consider alternative power and maintain service. Frankly I think the environmental impact of coal ash is less of a concern than all the tailpipe emissions that would occur to make the same trip circumnavigating the lake by surface roads. Also the impact to the economies would be tremendous if the Badger suddenly stopped running. Please approve the consent decree and allow time for a mutually agreeable solution.
Thank you,

John Rogers
Nissan Technical Center N.A.
Senior Project Manager
Customer Satisfaction Team Pilot
rogersj@ntcna.nissan-usa.com
office = 248-488-4627
[REDACTED]

From: Molly Spitzer Frost
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/15/2013 1:19:46 PM
Subject: Fwd: Express Your Support - Public Comment Period Ends On April 26th.

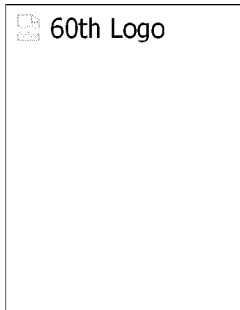
Re: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

We support the consent decree to allow the Lake Michigan Carferry to continue service. We would support it even longer than two years. We depend on it. See details below.

Molly S. Frost
Washington DC (Michigan resident in summer)

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Lake Michigan Carferry Service** <info@ssbadger.com>
Date: Mon, Apr 15, 2013 at 9:32 AM
Subject: Express Your Support - Public Comment Period Ends On April 26th.
To: msf@gwu.edu



Requesting your support!

Lake Michigan Carferry has signed a Consent Decree agreement with the Department of Justice and EPA that will require the SS Badger to end the ash discharge within two years. This agreement is the product of many months of working closely with the EPA. We think that this Consent Decree is the best result under the circumstances. We will continue on our path to ending the discharge of coal ash while still serving the public and local communities.

The Consent Decree has been filed in federal court in Grand Rapids by the Department of Justice. There is now a 30 day period for the public to submit comments to the Department of Justice. After that, the court will approve the decree if it is in the public interest. **The public comment period ends on April 26, 2013**

Here is our request - Many of you have asked how you could express your support by sharing your opinion on the continued service of the S.S.Badger. Provided below is the email address and/or the mailing address to the EPA where you can submit your comments on the Consent Decree. Obviously, we think the Consent Decree should be approved and hope you feel the same. Either way, your letter can be as brief as a few sentences or as detailed as you wish. Please feel free to forward this to your family and friends for their consideration.

We sincerely appreciate your time in expressing your opinion. We're looking forward to providing great experiences for our passengers in 2013 and many years to come.

With Appreciation, Lake Michigan Carferry

Instructions for commenting on the Consent Decree

Comments are to be EMAILED to: pubcomment-ees.enrd@usdoj.gov

Reference Case Number: (Must be included in subject line)
D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Address to:
Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division

Case Name: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

Or mail to:
Assistant Attorney General
U.S. DOJ - ENRD
P.O. Box 7611
Washington, DC 20044-7611

Forward email



This email was sent to msf@gwu.edu by info@ssbadger.com |
[Update Profile/Email Address](#) | Instant removal with [SafeUnsubscribe™](#) | [Privacy Policy](#).



Lake Michigan Carferry | 701 Maritime Dr. | Ludington | MI | 49431

From: Nancy
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/15/2013 1:19:30 PM
Subject: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

To: Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division

Re: Case Name: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

I have been riding the Lake Michigan Car Ferry for 30 years and, every time I go, I love it. Please consider what a pleasure it is to have such an historical landmark in our states of Michigan and Wisconsin. It would be a shame to cancel this treasured boat.

Consider, also, the economic impact that the ferry gives to Michigan, Wisconsin, and the cities of Manitowoc and Ludington. There are jobs, monies, tourism and businesses that would suffer if the ferry service is cancelled. I live in Wisconsin and I have relatives in Michigan. The ferry enables me to visit them easily, without driving around through Chicago and Gary.

Please allow the ferry to keep running!

Thank you for your consideration,

Nancy VanDerPuy

██████████
Sheboygan, WI

From: David Belkap
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
CC: 'Lake Michigan Carferry Service'; 'Lake Michigan Carferry Service'
Sent: 4/15/2013 1:18:51 PM
Subject: Reference Case Number: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

To: Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division

Concerning: Case Name: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

Greetings –

I have had a long association as a passenger with the trans-Lake Michigan Carferry companies for all of my 60 years. Growing up in Madison Wisconsin and having a family cottage near Frankfort Michigan afforded me the opportunity annually for a yearly crossing. Although I now live in Texas, I still travel through Madison on my way to Manitowoc to “catch the ferry” across the lake and back.

As an environmentalist, history buff and passenger I respect all opinions concerning the safe, fiscally sound and environmentally sound operation of the SS Badger Carferry. I know full well the contradictions the Badger causes for many folks. However, historically significant, commercially vital, job creating and just plain fun makes keeping the Badger operating a good value. The tradeoff is the waste products that are currently discharged into the lake.

Since the operators of the Badger have a plan to reduce the amount of waste dumped in the near term and eliminate the dumping in the future I believe that they should continue to operate and work their plan to eliminate waste dumping in the lake.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input.

Your humble taxpayer

David

David J Belknap
[REDACTED]
Austin TX 78703
acebelknap@austin.rr.com
[REDACTED]

From: Carol Stephenson
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/15/2013 1:15:32 PM
Subject: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

To the Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division:

Regarding D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771, I most heartily support the S.S. Badger being given a two-year reprieve to improve its emissions. It is a wonderful ship, full of history, and should be given every chance to continue sailing Lake Michigan.

From: Tim Kurcz
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/15/2013 1:13:15 PM
Subject: Badger car ferry

To State of Michigan,

Pertaining to coal ash emmissions: I love the SS Badger Ferry Lake Michigan crossing, and the nostalgic coal fired steam propulsion system. As the last operational Great Lakes Steamship, I was disappointed to see there was any challenge to operation regardless. So far as I'm concerned, the ship should be granted a permit to operate by coal power until she is decommissioned. Please extend the wavier for ten years instead of two!

Thank you,

Timothy J. Kurcz
Director of Sales
Jessup Engineering, Inc
2745 Bond Street
Rochester Hills, MI 48309

248-853-5600 Office
248-853-7530 Fax
248-770-6897 Cell

www.jessupengineering.com

From: Calvin Lied
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/15/2013 1:10:43 PM
Subject: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

The Badger is not only a wonderful way to save fuel by not having to drive all of the way around the bottom (or top) of Lake Michigan in order to get to the other side, it is a pleasurable four hours on the water. Having been a boater all of my life, it is my humble opinion that the current crop of gulls add more waste to the lake in one year than the Badger has since it was built in the 1950's. This suit against this vessel is just another glaring example of a government that is totally out of control and needs something worth while to do. Can't you people spend our precious tax dollars in a more efficient way and actually produce something that will help rather than hinder the progress of our country in these difficult times? Get a job!

Calvin F. J. Lied
[REDACTED]
Green Bay, WI 54301
[REDACTED]

From: Sharon Smith
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/15/2013 1:08:16 PM
Subject: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

To Whom It May Concern:

The S. S. Badger is certainly a transportation service that should not be shut down.

They are doing what is required of them, by the Government/EPA, to maintain pollution standards. They should be offered the same opportunities as the railroad, truckers, construction, farmers and other entities that are required to limit their pollutions.

Thank you for your time.

Best Regards,

Sharon Smith
Smith Transportation, LLC

From: Leigh Orf
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/15/2013 1:06:41 PM
Subject: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

To: Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division

Concerning: Case Name: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

I would like to voice my support to upholding and enacting the terms of the Consent Decree agreement between the Lake Michigan Carferry and the DOJ/EPA. I understand that this will involve capture and recycling of coal ash on the vessel itself, rather than converting the vessel to a different fuel source. I am a regular user of the Badger, as my wife and I, living in Central Michigan, spent much of our lives in Wisconsin. The Badger is a "fun ride" and more of a luxurious trip than the Lake Express, which we also use. I think it would be a shame if the Badger were to go offline, not just for the jobs and economic effects it would have, but also for the fact that the Badger is the only coal fueled ferry of its kind. I am very much aware of the potential environmental hazards that coal ash presents, and so long as the modifications to the Badger capture this safely, I understand that it can be dealt with in an environmentally friendly manner (aside from CO2 emissions which are unavoidable, and will only be slightly reduced if the Badger were to switch over to another fossil fuel source).

Thank you for your consideration.

Leigh Orf

--

Leigh Orf
Chair, Department of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences
Central Michigan University

From: Joseph Phillips
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/15/2013 1:00:40 PM
Subject: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Joe Phillips

An Admiral in The Great Navy of the State of Nebraska

To: Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division

Case Name: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

I am writting in support of the consent decree between Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc. and the United States. I believe it is important to keep this connection between our current thodern day'and our history.

I have had the pleasure of travelling on the S.S. Badger while on vaction on 4 occasions. The S.S. Badger is truley a piece of American Great Lakes history and I urge that every effort possible be taken to keep this piece of our history alive and functioning.

Sincerely,

Joseph Phillips

Be grateful even when things seem their darkest - for only when its dark enough, can you see the beauty of the stars.

Adapted from Charles A. Beard

From: Ronda Lichtensteiger
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/15/2013 12:59:45 PM
Subject: S.S. Badger

We rely on the S.S. Badger to see family in MI, for a lower cost alternative to driving and having to drive through Chicago. It also allows our aging parents a cost effective and safe way to come see us in WI. Please keep the Badger running! It's good for both local economies and the good outweighs the bad.

Ronda Lichtensteiger
[REDACTED]
Port Washington, WI 53074

Sent from my iPhone

From: [REDACTED]
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/15/2013 12:54:09 PM
Subject: Badger Car Ferry

This letter is in support of the "Consent Decree" that will give the Badger two (2) years to correct the ash discharge. Please permit this decree to pass. The Badger is the only ship currently sailing between Manitowoc and Ludington, or eastern Wisconsin and Western Michigan. We use this method of transportation on our eastern trips allowing the bypass of the highly congested Chicago area.

For our children it was a great experience to sail an inland freshwater ocean and experience being on water without visible land.

Please do not deprive the current generation of young and old from enjoying this pleasurable experience of this lovely trip and ship.

This extension will allow the ferry company to improve on the current fuel by changing to a more environmentally friendly source. **I am a Sierra Club member and I strongly support the "Consent Decree".**

Marilyn Gardner

[REDACTED]
Appleton, WI 54911

From: crsvir
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/15/2013 12:53:20 PM
Subject: DJ.Ref.No 90-5-1-1-10771

Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division
re: /case name: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a
Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

As a patron who uses the SS Badger a couple times a year I feel that any one trying to make the case that all of the vehicles being transported across the lake by ferry would generate less pollution by driving around the lake through Chicago is either mistaken or deliberately misrepresenting the data. Not only do I wish to defend Lake Michigan Carferry Services right to continue it's operation on Lake Michigan, I also believe the SS Badger should be allowed to continue operating with the least expensive fuel source, coal.

The SS Badger is of historical significance in it's operation and is best appreciated by experiencing a trip across the lake on it, not viewing it tied up to a dock somewhere.

Please take a trip across the lake on SS Badger and then make a proper ruling that puts all this silliness behind us once and for all.

Thank you.

Sincerely Bob Svir

Wendell, MN

From: Jo Hart
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/15/2013 12:42:53 PM
Subject: Lake Michigan car ferry

Assistant Attorney General, Environmental & Natural Resources Division:

I am emailing in reference to DJ Reference Number: 90-5-1-1-10771

I would like to say that this car ferry service, which has operated on Lake Michigan for over 50 years, should be allowed to continue its service to the public.

This company is making good-faith effort to ensure that quality service to the public remains in place. I, personally, have ridden on this ferry numerous times, and feel that it would be a loss if it was not allowed to continue.

Please consider the needs of all of the public when rendering a decision.

Thank You.

Jo Hart

From: debina potts
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/15/2013 12:40:51 PM
Subject: D.J.Ref.No. 90-5-1-1-10771

To: Assistant Attorney General, Environmental & Natural Resources Division
Case Name: United States vs. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Careferry Service & SS Badger

I stand in support of the continued service of the Lake Michigan Carferry across Lake Michigan. I am a resident of Minnesota but have lake property in the lower peninsula. I take the ferry across and back at least 4 times during the sailing season. In Michigan I spend time and money and enjoy that great state. I also believe that the coal ash release should stop so as to preserve our Great Lake. I support the Consent Decree and hope that the ferry service be allowed to work towards the goal of a better environmental passage service. I pay thousands in out of state property taxes to Michigan and feel my voice should have some consideration. The car ferry is a wonderful family experience. I have taken it across since I was 6 months old (57 years!) and my children have enjoyed many crossings. Those crossings also bring money to the communities on both sides of the sailing and both communities would feel the financial impact if the service is discontinued.

When you are making your decision on the Consent Decree, please take into consideration not only the financial benefit the communities receive, the entertainment value available to everyone across the lifespan, the shortcut for truckers and tourists but also the potential to decrease the environmental impact as Lake Michigan Carferry works to improve their business and ship. Thank you for considering my opinion.

Sincerely
Debina GibbPotts
Minnesota resident
Strong supporter of the SS Badger and the great state of Michigan

From: Kate Bowman
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/15/2013 11:41:12 AM
Subject: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

MICHIGAN CAR FERRY SERVICE AND S.S. BADGER

GENTLEPEOPLE:

We as a family have ridden the Badger across Lake Michigan since July 4, 1962 to Ludington , Michigan and back to attend a yearly reunion with college friends and classmates.

Now in our senior years we would find it a great inconvenience to have to drive through Milwaukee, Chicago, Gary, and further up Michigan .

It is a great service which has improved over the years and now with the price of gasoline it is also economical.

Please extend the service as long as possible!

Thank you.

Very truly yours,

Kate and Bill Bowman
[REDACTED]
Green Bay, Wisconsin 54311
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/15/2013 11:40:18 AM
Subject: SS Badger

I think the service the SS Badger provides is a necessary and useful service. Please give the SS Badger the time they need to convert their vessel to meet the EPA request.

Thank you.

Jeff Crawford

From: Ken Braband
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/15/2013 10:22:10 AM
Subject: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

To: Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division

Case Name: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

Lake Michigan Car Ferry has already been given more than enough opportunity to rectify its problem with coal ash. The company has continually displayed its inability to meet all previous deadlines. It's time to stick to the current deadline. For the sake of our lake and our environment, no more extensions should be granted.

Ken Braband
Mequon, Wisc.

■

From: Gary Anderson
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/15/2013 11:44:29 AM
Subject: Reference Case Number: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Attention: Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division

Case Name: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

Dear Sir;

I support the Consent Decree agreement that The Lake Michigan Carferry has signed with the Department of Justice and EPA. I understand that this agreement will require the SS Badger to end the ash discharge within two years.

The Lake Michigan Carferry is a key part of the tourist industry for the states of Wisconsin and Michigan. It is also important to make sure the great natural resource of the Great Lakes stay environmentally safe for future generations. This consent Decree is a reasonable compromise that will help all involved special interests.

Regards,

Gary Anderson

████████████████████
Hales Corners, WI 53130

████████████████████
E-mail: gary.anderson@artechepq.com

From: Mary Hanson
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/15/2013 11:51:48 AM
Subject: Case 90-5-1-1-10771

While I cannot speak to the environmental concerns raised by the case, I would like to add my support in the "nostalgia" department. My family has been using the SS Badger every summer for more than 30 years to cross Lake Michigan. We used to ride when there were still train cars down below. For many families on both sides of the lake as well as countless visitors to the area, the Badger is a part of what makes that area of Lake Michigan so special. You only need to get on board with a group of long distance bicyclists or a school group to understand what a unique experience riding the "big boat" can be. Please consider supporting the decree in the public interest.

Thank you,
Mary Hanson

From: judy wheelock
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/15/2013 11:45:13 AM
Subject: D.J.Ref.No 90-5-1-1-10771


Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division

This is in regards to the S.S. Badger. It is a very important issue for both Michigan and Wisconsin. Please figure out a way to keep it running permanently.

Thank You,
Sol Wheelock

From: John T. Corson
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/15/2013 11:46:13 AM
Subject: carferry

When you shut down all the companies that are dumping waste into the Lake, then perhaps it would be time to worry about one ship!!!! Can't believe you would even consider closing down the Badger. Patricia Smaby



From: Loggie, Brian W.
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/15/2013 11:48:51 AM
Subject: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

To: Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division

Re: Case Name: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

I support the consent decree.

Brian W. Loggie, MD, CM, FRCSC, FACS
Harold J. Bonnstetter Professor of Surgery
Chief, Division of Surgical Oncology
Creighton University Medical Center

██████████
██████████ Fax: (402) 280-3448

From: Robert Brodbeck
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/15/2013 11:49:07 AM
Subject: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc

RE: Case Number D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771, named United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

To: Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division
From: Robert J. Brodbeck, [REDACTED] Platteville, WI 53818

Having ridden on and followed the SS Badger car ferry case for quite some time, I am pleased to see a Consent Decree agreement has been arrived at with the Department of Justice and EPA. Allowing two years additional time for the SS Badger to end the ash discharge makes good economic sense with little negative environmental impact rather than to have shut it down. I encourage the court to approve the decree as it is in the public's best interest.

Thank you.

Bob Brodbeck
[REDACTED]

From: ruth penner
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/15/2013 11:49:41 AM
Subject: Case #d.j.ref.No.90-5-1-1-10771

Assistant Attorney General

This is regarding the importance of the continuing the service of the SSBADGER on lake Michigan. Our family uses the ferry several times each year. I can't imagine having to either use the long, expensive route going around through Chicago or the same distance through the upper Penninsula of Michigan to our home in the Traverse City area.

How much gasoline would be used by the thousands of vehicles that presently use the ferry every season. It is such a reasonable exchange .

Thank you so much for your consideration

Sincerely
Ruth Penner

From: [REDACTED]
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/15/2013 11:54:28 AM
Subject: 90-5-1-1-10771

Agree with consent decree. Keep this ferry running and serving Wisconsin and Michigan. It's a great experience for tourist and businesses and should be protected.

Sent from my iPhone

From: TOM DOWDELL
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/15/2013 11:58:04 AM
Subject: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Our family is vey much in support of this decision. Please work to keep the Badger crossing Lake Michigan. It is an important part of our country's heritage.

Thomas Dowdell, for the Dowdell family.
THOMAS DOWDELL

[REDACTED]

From: David Hutson
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/15/2013 11:58:41 AM
Subject: Comments for Case Number: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Good Day,

I would like to voice my support for the continued operation of the S.S. Badger car ferry across Lake Michigan. My family and I have used the ferry several times over the past few years while on vacation to travel between visiting friends and family in Michigan's lower peninsula and family in the Wisconsin/Michigan border area.

The ferry has allowed us the opportunity to shorten our trip and allow us to rest along the way with the use of their state rooms. The history of the S.S. Badger also makes it a operational icon that brings a special opportunity for the younger generation to enjoy.

The best outcome of course should come from a balance between the reduction in the amount of ash being exhausted and allowing the ferry to continue to operate within those limits. Thank you for your time.

Dave H.
Missouri

From: jeff carlson
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/15/2013 11:58:51 AM
Subject: Reference Case Number: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division

Case Name: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

Hello,

My name is Jeff Carlson from Sun Prairie, Wisconsin. I'm writing to support the consent decree that allows the SS Badger to operate for the next 2 years while making modifications to reduce and eliminate the coal ash deposited into Lake Michigan. I support the boats continued operation for business and recreational needs for Wisconsin and Michigan.

But I do NOT support their continued dumping of ash into Lake Michigan after the two year window. So this needs to be a serious effort to correct an unacceptably dirty operation.

Sincerely,
Jeff Carlson

[REDACTED]
Sun Prairie, Wisconsin 53590
[REDACTED]

From: Pam Garza
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/15/2013 11:25:14 AM
Subject: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Please accept this e-mail as support for the Lake Michigan Carferry Services & SS Badger. Some of the most wonderful times I've had is crossing Lake Michigan on the ferry - so relaxing - no hassle - lots to do and see. Life for me would not be the same without the SS Badger leaving and arriving at the port in Ludington. Thank you.

From: Bob and Deanne
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/15/2013 12:01:36 PM
Subject: D.J. Ref.No. 90-5-1-1-10771

I completely support continuence of the Lake Michigan Carferry. all the readings I have done,I found that there is miminal impact of the dumping of the coal ash into Lake Michigan. The city of Milwaukee sewage plant dumps more raw sewage into lake than the Badger does in one or more seasons of operation. The economic impact of both Manitowc and Ludington is vital to the continunce of the ferry.....thank you Robert Vollendorf

From: Jamie Glish
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/15/2013 12:03:22 PM
Subject: Ref. Case No.: D.J Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Reference Case Number:
D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Please approve the S.S. Badger Consent Decree to end the ash discharge within the next two years.
The continued service of the Lake Michigan Ferry is a unique and valuable asset to the state of Wisconsin.

Jamie Glish
Peshtigo, WI

From: JH GARLICK
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/15/2013 12:05:49 PM
Subject: D.J.Ref.No.90-5-1-1-10771

Dear Sirs

My wife and I are British citizens resident in the UK. In summer 2011 we took a vacation in the US and travelled extensively around Lake Michigan. In the course of our travels we made a crossing of the lake to Ludington on the SS Badger. I quite understand the need for changes to be made in the method of powering the ship and hope that they can be speedily identified and agreed

As well as being enjoyable, the crossing on SS Badger was an environmentally friendly option, as it reduced substantially the car mileage that we would have needed to travel. We stayed overnight in Ludington in a local hotel and ate in a local restaurant, thereby contributing to the local economy. SS Badger also proved to be a reliable option for us. We had hoped to use the motor ferry later in our stay during our return to Chicago, but this was out of action for a long period in summer 2011, resulting in the necessity for a long car journey.

I would like to say that I hope that the Consent Decree is approved and confirmed following the public consultation.

Kind regards

JOHN GARLICK

From: Victor Kordish
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
CC: Lake Carferry; LakeMichigan SS Badger
Sent: 4/15/2013 12:09:40 PM
Subject: The Lake Michigan Carrier S.S.Badger

Dear People,

She stinks, shakes and rattles when she does her harbor pirouettes, she's slow in doing her job, and squeals with delight when she rubs against the wood pilings in Ludington and Manitowoc. But from my first voyage on her in 2006, I fell in *love* with the S.S.Badger and am willing to do **anything** to preserve her for future generations!

While there may be other cruise ships plying the Great Lakes, I have no knowledge of them because they either don't advertise or ever make the news, or they (more probably) seek a clientele with an income far higher than mine. Oh yeah, that's another thing about the S.S.Badger: I can **afford** to take her out for a trip across Lake Michigan once in awhile!

On behalf of the multitude of Families and People (I met a WWII vet from MN who was originally from Pentwater, MI and used snow fences along the Lake Michigan shoreline as instant runways to land and take-off small aircraft in the '30's - he later invented the metal portable runways used in the assaults on Japanese-held islands in the South Pacific!), I selfishly request that you approve the Consent Decree and allow **all** of us Children of the S.S.Badger the time to end the coal-ash dumping and perhaps retro-fit her with greener power plant.

Please give the Grand Dame of the Great Lakes the opportunity for a Make-Over...

Sincerely,

Victor Kordish


Mattawan, MI 49071-9715

From: calvin
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/15/2013 11:25:49 AM
Subject: Badger

Please stop getting in the way of allowing the Badger to continue its operation. In this day of political correctness "green" power ploy, it gets OLD hearing about things like this, the Badger isn't hurting a thing! Let it sail and deal with problems that ACTUALLY matter.

From: Mary Mitchell
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/15/2013 12:16:24 PM
Subject: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

To: Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division

Case Name: U.S. v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

I have been following the issue of the future of the coal-powered SS Badger and under the circumstances, feel that the Consent Decree agreement is the best possible solution for all concerned. The Badger is so important to the economy of west Michigan, especially the Ludington area - not only for tourism but for commercial purposes as well. The loss of the Badger would put a heavy and lengthy financial burden on a state still struggling to recover from the recent recession.

I agree that the pollution of the Great Lakes must be stopped. A firm two year deadline to find a way to dispose of the coal ash is a reasonable compromise. I trust that Lake Michigan Carferry Service will work in good faith to accomplish that end.

Thank you for providing this opportunity for the public to have their say.

Sincerely,
Mary J. Mitchell
Lansing, Michigan
summer resident of Ludington, Michigan

From: Learnihan, Constance
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/15/2013 12:20:05 PM
Subject: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Please allow this historic ship to continue to sail the waters of Lake Michigan. Plus consider all the pollution from cars that would travel the roads to Michigan instead of riding the ferry.

From: Thomas Anderson
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/15/2013 12:31:16 PM
Subject: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division

Case Name: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

To Whom it may concern,

I am in favor of allowing the Badger car ferry to continue to operate while working on obtaining a solution to improve their current fuel source.

Thank you,

Tom Anderson

From: Thomas Sitzer
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/15/2013 12:31:32 PM
Subject: ss badger

D .J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Please allow the SS Badger to continue it's
cross lake Michigan route.

Sincerely, Thomas L Sitzer

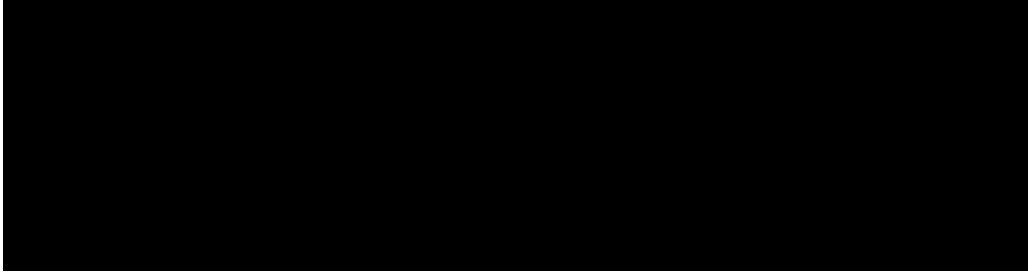
From: Don Fallis
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/15/2013 12:35:54 PM
Subject: SS Badger

Hello: This commit is intended to address the SS Badger and the dumping of coal ash into Lake Michigan. I support your efforts to clean up our lake. I feel that it is a fair decision and do support the SS Badger having the time to implement your decision. I do however support the enforcement of the decision into the future. They have a time frame, and plenty of opportunity to correct a far too long pollution problem of Lake Michigan. The beautiful lake is far more than a commercial opportunity. Thank You for addressing this issue.

D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Don Fallis

From: McMullen, Rebecca (ENRD)
To: McMullen, Rebecca (ENRD)
Sent: 4/16/2013 12:34:13 PM
Subject: FW:



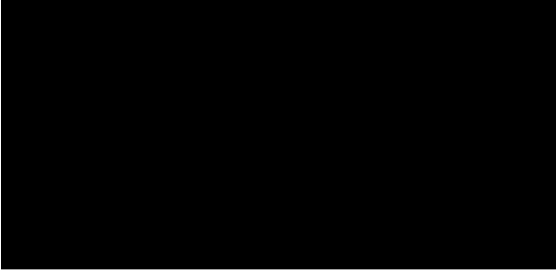
From: jeff morgan [mailto:]
Sent: Monday, April 15, 2013 12:19 PM
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Subject:

This is sad and the govt has bigger fish to fry. The SS badger is a MI/WI icon and important educational tool for all!

Jeff



From: McMullen, Rebecca (ENRD)
To: McMullen, Rebecca (ENRD)
Sent: 4/16/2013 12:38:05 PM
Subject: FW:



From: Douglas Plummer [mailto:dplummer@nptca.com]
Sent: Monday, April 15, 2013 5:51 PM
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Subject:

I support any efforts to keep the SS Badger operating.

From: Joey Hoffman
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/15/2013 5:01:46 PM
Subject: Case # D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

To: Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division

Case Name: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-LakeShortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

We support the Consent Decree for the SS Badger to have two years in which to change the discharge of ash from the Carferry.

We traveled across Lake Michigan two years ago on the SS Badger, and we loved being able to cross the lake that way, but we didn't love being covered in ash while crossing.

We support the efforts to make the carferry a non polluting method of transportation. We would be much more apt to take the ferry again if we knew it wouldn't be polluting the air and covering the passengers with ash.

Thank you.

Joey Hoffman
Teke Hoffman

From: Carol Robinson
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/15/2013 5:11:51 PM
Subject: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Please support the continuation of S.S. Badger services across Lake Michigan. I am handicapped and use it once or twice a year. It saves so much time, and I can rest while on board. I don't know if I could visit family and friends if I had to drive over Mackinaw Bridge or around Chicago. Thank you.

From: Sally Derengoski
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/15/2013 4:58:35 PM
Subject: Continuation of car ferry service

Sent from my iPad

My family has depended upon the Lake Michigan car ferry service for many years to travel to and from our family cottage in Door County. Rather than drive around the lake which can take 10 hours, we have been lucky to use the carferry and subtract hours from our travel time and enjoy a lovely sail across the lake. Please do whatever is necessary to continue this vital service for both Michigan and Wisconsin residents.

Respectfully,

Anne Derengoski

From: Erika Roberts
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/15/2013 5:26:20 PM
Subject: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

To: Assistant Attorney General, Environment and Natural Resources Division
RE: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

Dear Ms. Moreno,

I am writing in reference to the SS Badger and the related Consent Decree before you, in hopes that the Court will approve the Decree. My family has owned a cottage on Bass Lake in Pentwater Michigan for over 100 years. Pentwater is just south of the Ludington harbor where the SS Badger docks. My family has been riding the Badger every summer to get to our cottage since it began as a passenger ship between Manitowoc and Ludington some 25 years ago. It's become the highlight of our summer, and something that I now experience with my own children. The reason I'm writing isn't because I'm opposed to any legislation to stop oil ash production. I am not. In fact I am very much a supporter of the EPA and its mission. But I also hope that the Court will approve the Decree and allow the Lake Michigan Carferry the two more years it requires to end the ash discharge.

I appreciate your consideration.

Respectfully,
Erika L Roberts
St. Paul, Minnesota

From: Stephen Honda
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/15/2013 5:43:54 PM
Subject: Reference Case Number D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Dear Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division:

I am writing to you with regards to the case “United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger.” (The Reference Case Number is D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771)

I am asking that the Consent Decree be approved.

I live in Nebraska and visit Wisconsin and northern lower Michigan every summer. The SS Badger across Lake Michigan is the perfect shortcut for me and my family as we visit Ludington, Big Rapids, Rogers City and Alpena. It saves us both gas (carbon emissions), time and stress compared to having to drive through Michigan’s Upper Peninsula on the north route (or to drive through Chicago on the south route). As we are travelling with children, the SS Badger allows us to have an enjoyable journey and save gas and rest while still crossing the lake. The SS Badger has been loaded full of cars, trailers, trucks, buses, RVs, motorcycles and more every time I have ridden it in the past 15 years.

I understand that the SS Badger uses coal. However, it also saves carbon emissions from hundreds of cars, trucks, RVs and more every day. And it is a historic ship.

I ask that the Consent Decree be approved.

Thank you for your consideration.

Linda Stephen


Lincoln, NE 68510

From: Edward Kokkelenberg
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/15/2013 5:43:59 PM
Subject: SS Badger

This is a comment regarding the S.S.Badger ferry ship on Lake Michigan.

I have used this service once or twice, but I would think it is environmentally sound to keep this service operating. The alternative is a 415 – 425 mile drive around the foot of Lake Michigan. As the Badger carries about 180 autos, depending upon size, using the auto route to move these vehicles generates about 21 tons of CO2. The added wear and tear on the autos would be about \$6,250 using the rates Argonne National labs publishes of 8 cents per mile. The lower wear on the roads is yet another saving. Finally, the time saving is about 4 hours per vehicle and driver. Depending on the rate you assume, that could amount to another cost savings of \$20,000.

The SS Badger serves as a weather observation post during the season, and provides a relaxing way to get around Lake Michigan as opposed to the often terrifying ride around the foot of the Lake on the heavily traveled interstate system.

I understand that the SS Badger will stop dumping ash in the Lake and take other measures to result in a more favorable impact on the environment.


Please keep this fine service in operation.


--

Edward C. Kokkelenberg
Research Fellow,
School of Industrial and Labor Relations
Cornell University

and

Professor Emeritus,
Department of Economics
Binghamton University


eck4@cornell.edu


kokkele@binghamton.edu

From: Kevin Amidon
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/15/2013 5:50:49 PM
Subject: Reference Case Number: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

To: Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division

Case Name: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

Dear DoJ/ENRD colleagues,

As a historian, teacher, resident at various times of all of the states of Michigan, Wisconsin, and Iowa, and longtime user of the service provided by the S.S. Badger, I would like to express my strong support for the approval of the Consent Decree allowing the owners and operators of the S.S. Badger to continue their thoughtful planning for reducing the environmental impact of the ship's service while maintaining the integrity of its unique and historic machinery, construction, and contribution to the economy of the communities in the region. The service provided by the Badger benefits the region and the nation widely, and adds significantly to the quality of life for those of us who travel for professional and personal reasons regularly between the upper Midwest and northern lower Michigan. The Badger further significantly reduces the impact of traffic in the Chicago area, and its economic and environmental benefits are therefore not limited to those who use the ship's service directly, or live in the immediate communities involved. I believe the Consent Decree is strongly in the public interest, supports a rational multi-modal approach to regional and national transportation needs, and helps to maintain the uniqueness and historic value of an irreplaceable National Mechanical Engineering Landmark. I hope you, your colleagues, members of Congress, and other interested groups will agree.

Sincerely yours,
Kevin S. Amidon.

--

Kevin S. Amidon
Associate Professor of German Studies
Affiliate Faculty, Program in Women's and Gender Studies

Iowa State University
Department of World Languages and Cultures

██████████
Ames, IA 50011 USA

office phone: (515)294-7591
email: ksamidon@iastate.edu

From: Gordon Nielsen
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/15/2013 6:03:06 PM
Subject: SS Badger case referenced below

To:

Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division
Case Name: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan
Carferry Services and SS Badger

Reference Case Number:
D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Dear Sir:

I am a user of the Michigan Carferry services, SS Badger, on an annual basis. Although I live in Oklahoma, we (my family and I), spend our summers in Michigan. We have family in Wisconsin so we travel across Lake Michigan on a car ferry more than once each summer. We use the SS Badger each year, and we find this a great convenience, saving us many miles of driving.

I therefore support the consent decision that permits the SS Badger continue to serve the public.

Gordon L. Nielsen


Tulsa OK 74119

From: Rebecca Winkelmann
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/15/2013 6:06:04 PM
Subject: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division

Case Name: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

I am strongly in support of this, though I do feel it falls short of preserving the last steamship operating on the Great Lakes. This is an operating antique piece of maritime history. Coal ash has been discharged into the water (and deposited into the ground...) for quite a number of years now and will continue to be even after the memory of the Badger is long faded. One last small historic steamship operating seasonally on Lake Michigan, after the hundreds if not thousands who have come before her, will have an almost nil impact in the future big picture. So this entire process seems like the usual waste to me, but I guess that's just the way things are these days. Too bad.

That said, let's get this finalized so everyone can enjoy a last couple more years on the real SS Badger before bureaucratic legislation removes another piece of our past. What next - Mackinac Island needs to transition to electric horse mules in place of the old live ones that generate noxious fumes and piles which must be disposed of?

I'm afraid that eventually my kids aren't even going to be able to light a campfire when we go camping. What with the noxious fumes, smoke and, oh there it is again - those ashes.

Thx, Jeff Winkelmann

From: Judy Dollhausen
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/15/2013 6:18:05 PM
Subject: Reference Case Number: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division

Case Name: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

As a past passenger on the Lake Michigan Carferry, SS Badger, we would like to express our support for approval of the Consent Decree to continue service provided by this carferry. My husband and I used the ferry in the summer of 2011 returning from Michigan to Wisconsin. It was the first time we had utilized this service and we were very happy with the experience. We feel it is a valuable vacation excursion for families and anyone wanting a unique opportunity. We were pleased at the number of services offered on the trip and feel we will be using the ferry again in the future. Please add our support for the Consent Decree to continue this service.

Jim and Judy Dollhausen
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

--

Judy Dollhausen

From: JennyG
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/15/2013 6:48:15 PM
Subject: Reference Case Number: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Dear Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division,

In reference to United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger.

Please support the Consent Decree worked out by the SS Badger and the EPA/DOJ so that the SS Badger can continue to serve both Wisconsin and Michigan with an historic and cost-saving route between them. I myself have planned several vacations around the SS Badger crossing, not only because it saves me time and gas getting around the lake, but also because it is an enjoyable crossing and a great way to enjoy Lake Michigan that is affordable by almost everyone.

regards,
Jennifer Gaag


Chicago

From: [REDACTED]
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/15/2013 6:48:54 PM
Subject: Case # D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

To Whom it may concern:

I feel a pull to add my two cents, for whatever it is worth, to support the agreement between the Lake Michigan Carferry and the Dept. of Justice and EPA that the SS Badger end its ash discharge in two years. My family has experienced the distinct pleasure of riding the SS Badger across Lake Michigan from Ludington, MI to Manitowoc, WI (or visa versa) a number of times. Traveling on this historic ship has not only been a joyful experience, but has saved us time and expenses and the frustration of driving through Chicago and its inherant highway congestion. The Badger is the last of its kind, a national treasure and should get the respect and support of an older "lady". I am sure some major changes to her engine room are in the works to eliminate the ash discharge and comply with ant-polution standards. My plea is to give the Lake Michigan Carferry Company the agreement to bring the ship up to compliance with the law.

Sincerely,

Lewis Sbrana

[REDACTED]
Healdsburg, CA 95448

From: JOHN AHNEFELDT
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/15/2013 7:07:56 PM
Subject: Ss Badger Ferry Service on Lake Michigan

I was raised one mile from Lake Michigan in the country near Montague Michigan in the 1950's. The lake experienced a number of critical conditions since my regular visits to the lake as a young man. The Alewife fish die off and the erosion disasters are just a couple that I recall at this point in my life. With the reduction in the lake level and the introduction of the Salmon fish to control the trash fish population the lake has become one of the greatest recreational spots in the Midwest. I still use the SS Badger to cross the lake to return to my home town now that I live in Wisconsin. I've gone across on the ship when they are transporting the bases for wind generators and have marvels at the ability of the personnel to load and unload these enormously long vehicles that in my opinion would be dangerous and difficult to send through Chicago.

In all my 25 years of traveling across the lake I have never visually seen any deterioration of the lake due to the disposal of the ships ash into the lake. It seems to me the convenience to the traveling public and the economic value to both ports on the lake and to the interiors of the states far out weighs the restrictions that would be placed on the ship service. The fishery of the lake is still outstanding having fished for Salmon since the season originally opened.

I still prefer the ship to the small boat that travels between Muskegon and Milwaukee due to the size difference making the larger ship more stable and comfortable. I understand the desire to change the fuel for powering the ship but the cost would probably put them out of business because their small margin of profit. It appears to me that the only way to make the conversion is to have a significant capital grant provided to the shipping company to assist in the change.

John Ahnefeldt
Eau Claire, Wisconsin

Sent from my iPad

From: Emily Matz
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/15/2013 7:08:45 PM
Subject: Badger

I first rode the Badger as a small child over fifty years ago. I still love it. My now grown children have joined us on cruises to Ludington. We love every minute! The Badger's so called pollution is nothing in comparison to it's historical significance and being just a fun trip.

ESM
From Wilmette, IL

From: Randy Baxter
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/15/2013 7:12:25 PM
Subject: Reference Case Number: (Must be included in subject line) D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771 Lake Michigan CarFerry

Although I feel the ferry should change to natural gas fuel instead of having coal ash be discharged, I feel they should not be shut down at this time but given an opportunity with a very detailed and realistic timetable for a cooperative agreement to change over this fuel system. I lived in Ludington, MI for a while and have also traveled back there almost every year for the last 30 years. This boat is an essential and needed entity in this town and for the surrounding towns and cities as they are small and need every economic resource available, including the ferry to be viable.

Michigan itself has lost much of its previous prosperity and needs what the ferry can bring to help us to become prosperous again. Please consider continuing them at this time and see if they will cooperate in the changeover. If not, then I see it as fair for them to be discontinued, although it would not be a good thing for the people there. But the owners do need to comply to stay afloat.

I am a retired state public servant and so I have some sense of the needed vitality from the economy of local communities to help people to live a satisfying life. I tend to look first at the well-being of people as I tried to discuss above, but there needs to a viable community for them to have their well-being be implemented. I hope continuing the ferry if compliant on an appropriate timetable will help all the communities and people it has an impact on.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Randy J. Baxter, Grand Rapids, MI

From: sheelagh carr
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/15/2013 7:17:03 PM
Subject: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771


Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division

Case Name: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

As a resident of Wisconsin who has traveled on the SS Badger for years I am strongly in favor of approving the Consent Decree concerning the solution to the ash dumping issue.

Not only does the SS Badger (US Rte 10) transport people and automobiles across Lake Michigan, it also transports huge trucks carrying components of turbines for the production of power; some of these rigs have as many as 19 axles. Antique car clubs, antique tractor clubs, motorcycle clubs, bicyclists, Amish families, the Budweiser Horses (4 semi trucks) are among the patrons of this excellent vessel. It is a wonderful experience and example of Great Lakes History that can still be experienced today. It also saves many miserable miles for drivers both commercial and pleasure. Where hundreds of ships once dumped coal ash now there is one. Surely the time can be taken to accommodate the recent laws while preserving that last of a kind that still provides excellent service to two states.

Sheelagh Carr


Cedarburg, WI 53012

From: Clayton Selestow
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/15/2013 7:18:00 PM
Subject: Reference Case Number: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division,

Case Name: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

To whom it may concern: Please make note that I as one citizen and my family believe it is in the best possible interest for our nation and its people to allow the acceptance of the Consent Decree as it is written between the EPA and the Lake Michigan Carferry Services (SS Badger). This will over the course of 2 years eliminate the discharge of coal ash and provide a national treasure to be enjoyed by future generations. Thank You Sincerely, Clayton Selestow, [REDACTED]

Sterling Heights, MI 48310-1706

From: Charlie Novak
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/15/2013 7:19:41 PM
Subject: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Keep the Lake Michigan Ferry running !!!!! How much pollution would be spewed by increasing traffic around the lake ! ?

C. T. Novak

From: BobEloiseBakker@aol.com
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/15/2013 7:23:29 PM
Subject: Case Number: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Case Number: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division

Case Name: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger.

Please approve the Consent Decree for the SS Badger Lake Michigan Ferry. This ferry should be allowed to transit until it is no longer able to do so. It provides transportation to Wisconsin that is indispensable for numerous reasons. It can carry huge loads of freight that would otherwise have to be transported around the bottom of Lake Michigan, probably doing much more polluting by having huge trucks belch their exhausts down a highway that is now overloaded with trucks and passenger cars. It is also necessary and indispensable for passenger traffic.

We live in Florida but we have relatives on both sides of Lake Michigan and use the ferry system often for personal visits.

Respectfully, Bob and Eloise Bakker

From: Frank Wymore
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/15/2013 8:05:12 PM
Subject: 90-5-1-1-10771

Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division

Re: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

Our family has crossed Lake Michigan many time in the SS Badger form Maritowoc, Wi to Ludington, MI and back. It saves us hundreds of miles of driving and we can sleep & eat on the ferry, so it makes for a wonderful start & end to a vacation. I would strongly encourage you to accept the Consent Decree. It would be inconvenient and costly if this ferry is not allowed to continue while it works on options to for not discharging coal ash into Lake Michigan.

Thanks,
Frank Wymore
Shoreview, MN

From: Tom Eastman
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/15/2013 7:41:20 PM
Subject: I Support the Consent Decree

To whom it may concern:

I am 65 years old and was born in Frankfort, Michigan.

While I was growing up I traveled on the carferries every summer back & forth.

We later moved to Milwaukkee and I continued.

The carferries are part of "Americana" like the railroads and should be preserved for our heritage.

Thank you,

Tom D. Eastman

American Republic Ins. Services

"Senior Solutions for Boomer's and Beyond!"

www.TomEastman.com

Office: 262-334-8135

Fax: 262-353-9395

Cell: 262-689-1002

tom-eastman@sbcglobal.net

From: T K Davis
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/15/2013 7:53:26 PM
Subject: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Dear Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division:

In regards to

United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger, I would like to express my support for the Consent Decree. The Badger is an efficient and pleasant way to avoid the traffic around Chicago. My family and I have taken it several times and really appreciated the opportunity to experience the beauty of Lake Michigan and to not have to drive the additional miles. Thank you for your consideration.

Tricia Davis

Buffalo NY

From: Jack Kurrle
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
CC: Jack Kurrle
Sent: 4/15/2013 7:49:57 PM
Subject: Carferry

To: Assistant Attorney General.

Dear sir;

I hope you will approve the continuation of the Carferry operation.
The ferry is such a short cut across Lake Michigan.

Jack Kurrle



From: jennifer floyd
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/15/2013 7:55:01 PM
Subject: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division

This is regarding the law suit United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

The Badger provides a unique service for michigan and wisconsin. I have traveled on the Badger from Ludington to Manitowoc and was amazed at how wonderful the trip was and how nice all the staff was.

The Badger is a wonderful experience and it would be terrible if it was shut down.

Save the Badger.

From: Pat Kehoe
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/15/2013 8:09:00 PM
Subject: reference no. 90-5-1-1-10771

Yes I would like to see the consent decree approved. the badger has a great economic effect on both wi and mi. every time we go across we find that the ship is filled to near capacity. sincerely james m kehoe luxemburg wi

From: [REDACTED]
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/15/2013 8:12:12 PM
Subject: Michigan Car Ferry

Sirs:
As a long time customer, I strongly support the consent decree as agreed to by he Michigan Car Ferry.

Ben Smith

From: Hills
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/15/2013 8:22:22 PM
Subject: SS Badger

I add my agreement that the Consent Degree should be approved. Must consider the additional pollution added to the atmosphere by driving an extra 300 miles vs 50 miles on the boat straight across.

Jesse Hill

██████████
Springfield, VA 22153

From: Kenneth Howe
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/15/2013 8:22:49 PM
Subject: Case Number: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

To: Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division

Re: Case Name: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

Good evening,


Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger has recently filed a consent decree in federal court in Grand Rapids. I would like to express my support in favor of the consent decree and my support for the continued operation of the SS Badger on Lake Michigan. Please allow for continued business operations while the carferry service continues efforts towards the ending of coal ash discharge. I believe a decision against the submitted consent decree at this time would only hurt Wisconsin and Michigan businesses.

Thank you.

Regards,

Kenneth Howe

--

Kenneth Howe


From: Sid Hausding
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/15/2013 8:20:27 PM
Subject: Comments on ash diposal.....

Reference Case Number: (Must be included in subject line)
D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Address to:
Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division

Case Name: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

I see absolutely NO reason that dumping the byproducts overboard should continue.....it is NOW known to be toxic and hazardous to Lake Michigan wildlife and possibly to Lake Michigan human use also!

What is so hard to contain, transport and unload at either side of the lake when the coffers are full.....a little money and some labor. I for one am against the two year proposal and would like to see then be required IMMEDIATELY to offload onshore. NO bid deal at all, they have known that this was coming for years.....

Hausding, Sid
Alpena, Michigan 49707

From: Rosanne Mayes
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/15/2013 8:37:02 PM
Subject: Reference Case Number: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Dear Sirs;

I would like to make known my support for the SS Badger which travels from Ludington, MI to Manitowac, WI daily. I think the loss of a fine mode of travel would be severe for both Michigan and Wisconsin. While it is indeed, true that there is another mode of cross lake travel, to me it is too fast to travel on that ferry. I enjoy the leisurely travel on the "Badger".

I am in hopes that there can be a satisfactory agreement with the parties involved with the decision to allow the SS Badger to have the time they need to make the necessary adjustments to the ship for proper disposal of the coal ash, or an alternative way to power the ship that will be healthier for all, including Lake Michigan.

Thank you for allowing those of us who are interested in voicing our opinion do so.

Rosanne M. Mayes

[REDACTED]
([REDACTED])

Hugs and Prayers To You
Now and Forever,

Your Friend,
Rosey Posey

From: Sally Goble
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/15/2013 8:54:54 PM
Subject: SS Badger

I grew up taking the car ferries across Lake Michigan (many more than just the Badger) when they were a true industrial transportation line. Times have changed and the ferries are no longer the chosen means of transportation for ore, grain and industrial supplies, but the last one left, the SS Badger, should be preserved as a living, working example of America's industrial history and America's maritime history. Most people will never get to sail on the ocean and the Badger could be the only chance these people get to experience the open water to any degree. The Badger has made an effort to preserve the history of the ship and the fleet through the creation of an onboard museum, school programs and an enthusiastic staff who love what they do.

I agree that the coal ash issue must be resolved and it appears to me that productive, positive steps in that direction are taking place. Many other industries have been given the opportunity to "clean up" and have been successful and I think that can happen in this case as well. What a loss for the local economy, passengers and historic preservation if a resolution can not be agreed upon and we lose such a great piece of Americana. There will be no others after the Badger is gone; she is the last.

Here's hoping that we can continue to sail. Thank you for allowing me to voice my opinion.

Sincerely,
Sally R Goble
[REDACTED]
Greeley, CO 80631
[REDACTED]

From: Sally Goble
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/15/2013 8:56:36 PM
Subject: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

I grew up taking the car ferries across Lake Michigan (many more than just the Badger) when they were a true industrial transportation line. Times have changed and the ferries are no longer the chosen means of transportation for ore, grain and industrial supplies, but the last one left, the SS Badger, should be preserved as a living, working example of America's industrial history and America's maritime history. Most people will never get to sail on the ocean and the Badger could be the only chance these people get to experience the open water to any degree. The Badger has made an effort to preserve the history of the ship and the fleet through the creation of an onboard museum, school programs and an enthusiastic staff who love what they do.

I agree that the coal ash issue must be resolved and it appears to me that productive, positive steps in that direction are taking place. Many other industries have been given the opportunity to "clean up" and have been successful and I think that can happen in this case as well. What a loss for the local economy, passengers and historic preservation if a resolution can not be agreed upon and we lose such a great piece of Americana. There will be no others after the Badger is gone; she is the last.

Here's hoping that we can continue to sail. Thank you for allowing me to voice my opinion.

Sincerely,
Sally R Goble

[REDACTED]
Greeley, CO 80631
[REDACTED]

From: Juli Brandenburg
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/15/2013 8:58:21 PM
Subject: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

I have taken the Badger car ferry three or four times across Lake Michigan and have greatly enjoyed this portion of my vacation. I hope this service will continue for years to come. Thank you.

Juliana M. Brandenburg

From: Bob Keck
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/15/2013 9:04:44 PM
Subject: Badger

We need the Badger. We all grew up with it. We moved from Manistee MI to Green Bay WI and sail on the Badger several times every year. Would be terrible without it. Please let it keep sailing. Thank you.

Bob and Kay Keck
DePere, WI

From: Mike Anuta
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
CC: manuta@ieee.org
Sent: 4/15/2013 9:15:24 PM
Subject: Reference Case Number: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

To whom it may concern;

I would like to register my support for the Subject Consent Decree. I use the Lake Michigan Ferry to reduce the miles I have to drive between Ayer, MA and Menominee, Michigan (and Laona, WI). I have used the Lake Michigan Ferry for years and feel it is a vital part of the transportation network in the Great Lakes basin.

Kindly,
Michael A. Anuta
[REDACTED]
Ayer, MA 01432

--

Mike Anuta, GSEC
[REDACTED]

From: Alan Druskin
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/15/2013 9:15:46 PM
Subject: Lake Michigan Car Ferry

We are customers annually for the Lake Michigan Car Ferry and want to express our desire for approval of the consent decree.

Thank you,
Al Druskin

Sent from my iPad

From: Cameron Dall
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/15/2013 9:00:55 PM
Subject: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Good Day,

I am writing in regards to the Consent Decree agreement with the Department of Justice and EPA concerning the SS Badger ship that sails across Lake Michigan. I have been traveling across the lake over many years using this vessel. I know that this Consent Decree will require the S.S. Badger to end the ash discharge within two years. I fully support it and any way to keep this wonderful ship going across the lake. Please - I repeat - PLEASE keep this ship sailing. I will do anything possible to keep this ship afloat. We, in this country, keep flushing down the drain our important past and I want to see this historic ship continue for as long as possible. I have never really written concerning anything with the government, but I feel this is very important to all of us. It is the last coal burning ship on the Great Lakes and I LOVE seeing this ship sail, and riding on it.

Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

Cameron Dall

Sheboygan, Wisconsin

From: Al Hamelink
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/15/2013 9:46:07 PM
Subject: SS Baddger

I would like to let you know How My family and I feel about the ss Badger. I do not understand how you can even be considering shutting down the Badger because of the small amount of coal discharge.

- 1) It is the only remaining coal fired ship on the great lakes system,
- 2) Shutting down the Badger would be devastating to the economy of Luddington and Manitowac putting more people out of work. Adding to the unemployment.
- 3) There are many worse things being dumped into the great lakes that you seem not to care about. For one the large amount of raw sewage the city of Grand Rapids dumps every time it rains.
- 4) This is a part of the great lakes shipping history. If it is forced to shut down it is lost forever.
- 5) it is ONLY ONE SHIP
- 6) In time it will go out of business on its own or have to be replaced, No ship lasts forever.

GIVE THEM A BREAK GO PICK ON SOMEONE ELSE DOING WORSE THINGS TO GREAT LAKES

What the do you think is more devastating ? one ship or the asian carp allowed to enter our system ????????????

Al Hamelink
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/15/2013 9:46:30 PM
Subject: Reference Case Number: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

I hope that you approve the Consent Decree to allow the Badger a 2 year transition grace period. My family is originally from Michigan, and now live in Wisconsin, and we spend the entire summer sailing back/forth to Ludington where our kids still participate in their summer programs and camps since they were little. It would be a HUGE inconvenience and most likely create life-altering decisions for our family as we would not be able to facilitate the numerous weekend trips we make every summer by instead driving down and around the lake to get there. It would be physically impossible for us, and hugely unfortunate if my kids would not be able to continue their annual treks to their Eastern European culture camps and music camps that they have participated in for many years. Please approve the Decree.

Asta Sepetys

From: B Koblinski
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/15/2013 10:04:04 PM
Subject: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division

Case Name: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

I am writing in support of the consent decree requiring the SS Badger to cease dumping coal ash into Lake Michigan within 2 years.

When I think about the gravity of environmental impact on the Great Lakes, and Lake Michigan in particular, I believe that this activity must cease. When I put it in perspective with the threat of Asian Carp, it seems to me to be much less of a threat than the Asian Carp, which threatens the entire ecosystem, not just Lake Michigan.

Please endorse the consent decree.

Sincerely,
Barbara Koblinski

████████████████████
Midland, MI 48640

From: Jean Hoffman
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/15/2013 10:06:01 PM
Subject: SS Badger

We hope the Badger can remain in service. It would be a tragedy to lose such a piece of working history.

Jean Hoffman

From: Jean Hoffman
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/15/2013 10:08:12 PM
Subject: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

I support the continued operation of the SS Badger. It would be a tragedy to loose a piece of working history.

Jean Hoffman
Ayer, MA

From: dwamp7@charter.net
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/15/2013 10:10:02 PM
Subject: D.J.Ref.No 90-5-1-1-10771

As residents of Michigan who work off and on in Wisconsin and who have grown children living in Wisconsin, we do cross Lake Michigan regularly. To do so by land necessitates going around the Lake through Chicago which is not a pleasant experience at the best of times. Crossing by Ferry is the ideal and more convenient way to go from Michigan to Wisconsin. One can take the Lake Crossing Ferry or the Badger. The Lake Express is extremely unreliable since it cancels crossings everytime the waves are too high for safety. It usually cancels at the last minute, leaving everybody stranded on the wrong side of the Lake and deeply frustrated. The Badger, on the other hand, is extremely reliable and altogether a much more pleasant experience. As it happens, the cost of the crossing is quite a bit higher with the Lake Express.

Therefore, we hope to be able to continue crossing Lake Michigan on the Badger. It enhances the quality of life for a lot of residents of the Upper Midwest and for the throngs of tourists who visit during the Season.

Thank you for your attention,

Darius and Helene Wampler
Holland, Michigan

From: [REDACTED]
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/15/2013 10:19:49 PM
Subject: Case Number: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Reference Case Number:
D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Address to:
Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division

Case Name: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

To whom it concerns,

I urge you to do everything possible to work with those who operate the SS Badger in order to keep it in operation. I discovered it about 5 years ago and was completely taken in by the nostalgia of this historic ship still in operation. It is a great piece of history and I loved experiencing it. I vacationed in Michigan and then traveled from there to Minnesota. From a practical standpoint, the Badger cut my drive time by 5 hours and I got a relaxing cruise instead.

Keep this boat going.

Sincerely,
Annette

From: Joan Vance
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/15/2013 10:43:44 PM
Subject: Consent Decree SS Badger

I would like to add my support to keeping the SS Badger sailing. My family has been using the carferry for 30 years. It saves fighting traffic and bad roads in the Chicago area as we head east for family vacations. Instead, we have a pleasant and relaxing 4 hr. crossing. I live in Manitowoc, WI and the carferry is VERY important to our local economy. This area has been greatly affected by the bad economy and losing the carferry would be devastating. I know that the LMC company is working on the problem of dumping coal ash. It seems to me that losing the last remaining coal-burning ship sailing on the Great Lakes would be a sad loss. It is, after all, a piece of American history.

Sincerely,
Joan Vance

[REDACTED]
Manitowoc, WI 54220

[REDACTED]

From: Richard Orr
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/15/2013 10:47:56 PM
Subject: I support the consent decree

Hello

As a user and admirer of the SS Badger, I want to encourage your department to accept the consent decree that allows the Badger some time to correct the complaints against it's operations.

Thank You

Richard A. Orr

██████████
St. Charles, Mo. 63303

From: Ryan Mohr
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/15/2013 11:03:50 PM
Subject: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

To: Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division

RE: Case Name: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

To Whom it May Concern,

I am a Wisconsin resident, and I was born and raised in Michigan. I believe that it is vital to both states, and to the public interest that the Consent Decree for the SS Badger be approved. The SS Badger is an important part of our history and the history of the Great Lakes. I have enjoyed crossing Lake Michigan with my family on the SS Badger numerous times, and I hope to be able to continue to do so in the future. Crossing the lake on the SS Badger is a phenomenal experience, and I believe it would be counter to the public interest if the SS Badger were not allowed to continue to operate.

Regards,

Ryan Mohr

[REDACTED]
Richland Center, WI 53581

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: Michele Krauchenko
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/15/2013 11:06:56 PM
Subject: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

TO: Assistant Attorney General, Environment and Natural Resources Division

Case Name:

United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and S.S. Badger

This e-mail is in support of the continuation of the S.S. Badger car ferry service from Ludington, Michigan to Manitowac, Wisconsin. The S.S. Badger is vital to these two communities for their economic stability and as a resident of Ludington, Michigan, the impact to our community would be devastating should the S.S. Badger cease to operate. The S.S. Badger also provides a vital resource to our interstate trucking industry in the ability of moving goods in a cost effective manner. In these trying economic times, it is important to continue as much employment opportunities as possible. The S.S. Badger is a historical icon of the Great Lakes; it would be a shame for it to cease existence.

As for the allegations of the impact to Lake Michigan due to the coal ash discharge, I would like to challenge the EPA to look at the industrial waste from the area surrounding Gary, Indiana and the greater Chicago area and the continuing damage to Lake Michigan. There are many more pressing pollution issues to our Great Lakes in the form of Asian carp, zebra mussels and sewage runoff from communities that do not have separate storm sewers. I have seen firsthand the sewage runoff during my daily walks along the beach – in the past two days I collected two trash bags of debris along a 2 mile stretch.

In conclusion, please approve the Consent Decree.

Michele Krauchenko
[REDACTED]
Ludington, MI 49431

From: Janet Wohlgemuth
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/16/2013 6:12:26 AM
Subject: SS Badger

Please support our favorite ferry.

Sent from my iPhone


From: Curt
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/16/2013 7:43:04 AM
Subject: Reference Case Number: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Sirs:

I use the ferry every summer and it would be a shame to prevent it from operating.

regards,

Curtis Taylor


Houghton Lake, MI
48629

From: Rob Davis
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/16/2013 8:04:22 AM
Subject: Re: 90-5-1-1-10771

It is my belief that the greater good of maintaining a northern ferry route across Lake Michigan is important and We (my family and I) support the continued passages of the S.S. Badger as long as some plan is offered by this company to eventually end ash discharge into Lake Michigan. The service is of value to both Michigan and Wisconsin residents and especially to the economies of the communities it operates from.

Sincerely,

Rob Davis and family

Rob Davis D.V.M.
Progressive Dairy Management

Wayland MI.

cowguy@charter.net

From: Lois Haertel
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/16/2013 8:08:20 AM
Subject: SS Badger

Please support the continuing operation of the SS Badger across Lake Michigan. It saves a lot of energy and carbon dioxide pollution for many of us who can take the boat and save the lengthy drive around the lake. I live in South Dakota and own lake property in Michigan so I make the trip at least once and sometimes 2 or 3 times each year.

Lois Haertel, Bruce SD

From: Jan Dahlke
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/16/2013 8:09:01 AM
Subject: D.J.Ref.No.90-5-1-1-10771

Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division
United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a/ Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

To Whom It May Concern: My family and I have taken the ferry between Wisconsin and Michigan many times over the course of many years. It has always been clean, prompt and very accomodating. It is wonderful to have a relaxing trip as opposed to driving around Chicago. I believe the ferry owners are trying their best to meet the expected standards and deserve the opportunity to do so. Every time we have sailed there have been so many people and vehicles aboard that it is a service needed and appreciated. They also must employ many seasonal people who need their jobs! Thank you for reading this email appeal.

Jan Dahlke

From: ron e
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/16/2013 8:13:25 AM
Subject: Consent Decree for the Badger

Dear Madames/Sirs:

We enjoy the ferry service many times each year. We are earnestly in favor of the approval of the Consent Decree

Sincerely,

Ronald R. & Irene F. Ege

From: Millie Wolf
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/16/2013 8:44:36 AM
Subject: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Assistant Attorney General
Environmental and Natural Resources

Case Name: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut,
Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

I fully support the approval of the Consent Decree. I want to see continued service of the S.S. Badger.

Thank you,
Mildred Wolf

From: Lynnette Royer
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/16/2013 8:47:52 AM
Subject: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Please keep the car ferry operational. I believe it is a part of our history that should be maintained. The car ferry serves a very necessary need to the public.

*Lynnette Royer
Programmer/Analyst
Saginaw County Department of Public Health
1600 N. Michigan Avenue
Saginaw, MI 48602
Phone: 989-758-3824
Fax: 989-758-3750
lroyer@saginawcounty.com*

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From: mary mcquown
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/16/2013 8:52:39 AM
Subject: carferry.

Dear Sir. Its so sad . That this is a land mark and few people care. Years ago my family work on the C/O Carferry and there where other car ferries on that lake. Your going to tell me that the ash from the cole polute and kills off the the fish. I don't believe that. Whats killing the fish is every time Milwaukee opens up the tunnel and polutes the lake with chemicals and cramp . Its the same bull that the people with money are afraid of a little compaition. .Please don't let them take away the car ferry... I know in my mind you already made you decison . Lets see what talks big money or land mark thats been on the great lakes for generations . Mary Quown

From: Skip
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/16/2013 9:08:46 AM
Subject: DJ Reference no 90-5-1-1-10771

I want to thank the Department of Justice and the EPA for signing the Consent Decree Agreement with Lake Michigan Car Ferry. You have preserved an important part of Lake Michigan history and saved many well needed jobs both in Michigan and Wisconsin. The morale in Ludington and Michigan in general has been raised. I hope you have or will experience seeing the SS Badger sail by while standing next to the light house. Sometimes it is hard to put a value on what the simple things in life really are worth. I still feel a sense of excitement after 43 years of watching the SS Badger sail by. I know that if you experience this you will really see just what a great deed you have done. Thank you again, Angelo Grano, [REDACTED], Ludington Michigan, [REDACTED]

From: Ellen Silverest
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/16/2013 9:21:11 AM
Subject: Reference Case Number: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division

Case Name: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

I have personally ridden on the S.S. Badger and believe its historical significance should allow for certain considerations. There cannot be so many similar ships that it is considered a significant source of air pollution.

Sincerely,

Ellen Silverest

[REDACTED]
Brighton, Mi 48114
[REDACTED]

From: Joe
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/16/2013 9:36:55 AM
Subject: 90-5-1-1-10771

Please keep the Badger running. my family and I make several trips a year from our home in Wisconsin to our cottage in Michigan. the Badger makes this possible. The Badger is not only a convenience for many people but a important part of local communities economy.
Sent from my iPad

From: Robert Dolson
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/16/2013 9:37:59 AM
Subject: Comment

Re: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

I fully support the consent decree allowing the SS Badger to continue coal ash discharge for two years.

Robert R. Dolson




Scottville, MI 49454

From: Robert Dolson
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/16/2013 9:41:43 AM
Subject: Comment

Re: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

I fully support the consent decree allowing the SS Badger to continue coal ash discharge for two years.

Lorli M. Dolson


Scottville, MI 49454

From: TOM DELSART
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/16/2013 10:27:48 AM
Subject: SS Badger

Re. the SS Badger

30 years ago, I worked on a project on the SS Ford. We converted that ship from coal to fuel oil. It was not a big deal to convert it.
Is that an option?

Sincerely,

Thomas Ford Delsart
[REDACTED]
Green Bay, WI 54301

From: Charlene Hubble
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/16/2013 10:29:14 AM
Subject: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771
Attachments: charlene.vcf

To whom,

The SS Badger has been a memory for me for over 45 yrs. I'm glad to see they are trying to comply with the ash regulations. Others can engage in memories too with a great way of travel and try to comply with the environment.

Thanks for listening,

Charlene Hubble

From: Paul & Margie Crocker
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/16/2013 10:34:51 AM
Subject: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

To whom it may concern,

We urge you to approve the Consent Decree for the continued operation of the S.S. Badger on Lake Michigan. We believe the ash discharge has minimal, or no, effect on the water quality of the lake. The benefits afforded by the car ferry far outweigh any perceived damage. It's historical aspects alone are enough to keep it running. The "scoot and puke" operation from Milwaukee to Muskegon is not a viable option.

Paul & Margie Crocker

From: Cattgrt@aol.com
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/16/2013 10:38:45 AM
Subject: Case number D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

To: Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division

Case Name: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

I am writing in support of the proposed Consent Decree agreement regarding the SS Badger. My family has greatly enjoyed using the car ferry services across Lake Michigan since the late 1970's (with a break when it wasn't running). The SS Badger is an important part of Michigan and US history --and it has made travel in the upper Midwest, not only great fun, but significantly more convenient.

Since the 1960's my family has owned property near Little Point Sable, south of Ludington. We spend part of the summer there every year, and with family in Minnesota and Illinois, the ferry service has been a welcome part of our lives.

I urge you to support whatever measures are necessary to keep the SS Badger in service, and approval of the consent Decree will improve the environmental impact while preserving an asset to tourism in the State of Michigan.

Sincerely,
Catherine Wagner Eliason

██████████
Miami, FL 33137

Summer residence: 45 S Beacon Dr Mears, MI 49436

From: Jamea Heggem
To: ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)
Sent: 4/16/2013 10:40:21 AM
Subject: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771 - SS Badger, Lake Michigan Carferry

Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division
Case Name: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

Dear Sir,

My husband and I travel by motorcycle and pull a pop-up tent camper with us. When we take a trip to Michigan, we love the comfort and convenience of being able to ride across Lake Michigan on the SS Badger (Lake Michigan Carferry).

The Badger saves us several hours of travel and the dangers of riding in and through Chicago. (We always plan our trip back to Wyoming by way of the Mackinac Bridge and the Upper Peninsula of Michigan.)

We understand the Lake Michigan Carferry is working to clean up the emission of coal ash from the Badger, and they hope to have a viable solution within 2 years. It is our sincere hope that you will have the foresight and consideration to allow the SS Badger to continue to operate.

We love riding the Badger! Thank you.

~~~~~  
Jamea Heggem  
Gillette, Wyoming 82717

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### **Instructions for commenting on the Consent Decree**

**Comments are to be EMAILED to:** [pubcomment-ees.enrd@usdoj.gov](mailto:pubcomment-ees.enrd@usdoj.gov)

**Reference Case Number: (Must be included in subject line)**  
**D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771**

**Address to:**  
**Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division**

**Case Name: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger**

**Or mail to:**  
**Assistant Attorney General**  
**U.S. DOJ - ENRD**  
**P.O. Box 7611**  
**Washington, DC 20044-7611**

---

**From:** Gerald Battle  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/16/2013 10:49:23 AM  
**Subject:** Reference Case Number: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

To: Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division

From: Cdr Gerald G. Battle, USNR Retired

Subject: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc. d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

It does not seem credible that the SS Badger could produce enough contaminants in 60- mile trips in the vast volume of water in Lake Michigan to be a big environmental concern, but I am not a scientist and cannot judge that issue; it just doesn't seem possible.

However, any effort to alter or terminate the operations of the Badger must be weighted against the environmental effects of thousands of vehicles which then would have to make a 410 or 470 mile trip AROUND the lake. Which would then be the lesser of two evils?

In the total environmental concern for Lake Michigan it would seem that more effort should be made to keep out the Asian Carp than to punish a business which is furnishing hundreds of jobs in a failing economic environment.

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**From:** LYNN  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/16/2013 10:51:47 AM  
**Subject:** Carferry Badger

Manitowoc is on the tourism map largely due to The Badger. It is a welcomed presence every May thru October, it brings dollars to our community (which is badly needed due to the impending closing of the Kewaunee Nuclear Plant and the closing of Fischer Hamilton in Two Rivers, all which had put dollars into our community), and is the one and only still sailing. It is a unique gem. PLEASE approve the 2 year Decree, allowing this vessel to still sail and to give them time to find another way to sail without dumping coal ash back into the Lake, so that we may have uninterrupted seasons of providing pleasure to all who wish to sail on this rare gem, a piece of history unlike any other still in use today.

Thank you .

Sincerely, Lynn Beitzel

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**From:** Robin Guy  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/16/2013 10:54:04 AM  
**Subject:** Lake Michigan Carferry

My husband and I have taken the Badger across Lake Michigan on a regular basis for a number of years. Although it is a historic ship and provides a tremendous service to travellers, we are appalled at the extent of its constant and continued dumping of coal ash. Although the Badger does need time to make adjustments, it is bound to recover its investment over time and flourish. It must change.

Thank you,  
Robin Guy

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**From:** JOHN MAYERS  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/16/2013 11:20:31 AM  
**Subject:** SS Badger

I support the SS Badger's position re the consent decree. The vessel is historically unique, provides a useful service, and I wish it to continue sailing.

Any potential pollution hazards re coal ash are insignificant compared with the pollution poured each day into the atmosphere by coal burning power plants.

John J Mayers  
Beaufort, SC



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**From:** Mark and Chris Kail  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/16/2013 11:39:44 AM  
**Subject:** Reference Case Number: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

**To:**  
Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division

**Case Name:**  
United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

The SS Badger is a valuable part of the economy in the area communities and protecting the health of the Great Lakes is equally important.  
Please support the SS Badger and the combined efforts that are being made to resolve the ash discharge issue.


thank you-  
C. Kail

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**From:** Sandy Bader  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/16/2013 11:57:08 AM  
**Subject:** Let the Badger run as usual

Please let the Badger continue to run as usual. It provides a great service to the public and is a historic landmark.

Steve and Sandy Bader

  
Green Bay, WI 54311  
ssadbader@att.net

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**From:** william faurot  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/16/2013 11:15:12 AM  
**Subject:** D. J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

I am in agreement with and support the continued operation of the SS Badger. The operation of the ship saves many hours and gallons of gasoline of going north over the bridge or going south around Chicago. This summer I plan to take my wife (a California girl) across Lake Michigan for her first fresh water voyage. William R. Faurot

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**From:** Bill Filbern  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/16/2013 12:28:54 PM  
**Subject:** Support of S.S. Badger Consent Agreement

D.J.Ref.No. 90-5-1-1-10771

I support the operation of the S.S.Badger which is a very enjoyable experience and wonder way to save gas to get form Michigan to Wisconsin or reverse. I think that it is reasonable to agree to remove ash in 2 years. Please support this effort.

Rev. Bill Filbern From Kansas City,Mo who enjoys this trip across Lake Michigan and save a lot of gas in doing this.

---

**From:** Steve Vold  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/16/2013 12:31:50 PM  
**Subject:** 90-5-1-1-10771, Badger Ferry

Gentlemen:

I favor continuing the Badger Ferry, as is, until they retrofit to gas fired boilers. I use the ferry every year and it is an enjoyable trip and saves me traveling around Lake Michigan, not to mention saving gasoline usage.

Stephen J. Vold

Sent from my iPod

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**From:** don peterson  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/16/2013 12:54:12 PM  
**Subject:** D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

**Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division**

**Case Name: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger**

**Dear Sirs: I want to express my strong support of the consent decree for the SS Badger. This is a vital service that needs to be maintained. With every trip of the Badger the environmental impact of up to 180 cars making the out of the way trip either north or south of Lake Michigan are avoided.**

**Thank you for your consideration.**

**Don Peterson**  
[REDACTED]  
**Madison WI 53711**

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**From:** Lane Farree  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**CC:** Mary Ferree  
**Sent:** 4/16/2013 1:44:06 PM  
**Subject:** D. J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

I am writing to strongly and fervently request that the Lake Michigan Car Ferry Service continue to be allowed to operate its carferry, the *SS Badger*, across Lake Michigan from Ludington to Manitowoc and back. My family and I have taken passage on this boat during family vacations in the summer and fall for the past thirty some years. We have always found the crossing to be one of the highlights of our trips. We love the scenery, the people--both passengers and crew--, and the sense of history we experience on these annual journeys.

We notice that there are a large number of cars and trucks on the boat, when we embark. If it were not for the *Badger*, these vehicles would be driving all the way around the southern tip of Lake Michigan through Chicago, thereby increasing pollution much more with their exhausts. Of course, they would also be significantly increasing the traffic on the already over-burdened roads.

Please, please approve this Consent Decree and allow my family and thousands of others to continue to enjoy this very special Boat!

H. Lane Ferree, M.D.

[REDACTED]  
Indianapolis, IN 46220-3028  
[REDACTED]

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**From:** Marialice Sagan  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/16/2013 1:50:56 PM  
**Subject:** Support the Badger

I strongly support the Badger and wish it to keep sailing. The economy of Ludington and Mason county depends upon it. When it was shut down several years ago for a couple of years, I personally know of people who went bankrupt or out of business due to losing the business that occurred as a result of the Badger not running. This ship is an historical icon and needs to be preserved. The amount of fuel expended by driving around Lake Michigan would increase pollution in that way. Many huge trucks are using the badger to cross the lake rather than drive through Chicago. These trucks are hauling equipment and supplies used in erecting wind farms. Keep the Badger running!  
Marialice Sagan



Jill L. Schluter

Manistee, Michigan 49660  
4/16/2013

Assistant Attorney General  
U.S. DOJ - ENRD  
P.O. Box 7611  
Washington, DC 20044-7611

**Subject:**           **Reference Case Number: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771**  
**Case Name:** United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc.,  
d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

Dear Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division:

This letter is a request to approve the Consent Decree for this case.

The SS Badger is a historical ship that is still in service on the Great Lakes. I have lived in Michigan for 18 years and enjoy the history of the ship and travel on this vessel. I travel on this vessel numerous times each sailing season. A loss of this vessel on the Great Lakes would be a great loss to travelers of all types.

I am also an avid fisherperson on the Great Lakes. This vessel does not pose as great a danger to this valuable resource. However, the numerous waste water treatment facilities located along the Great Lakes shoreline do present a danger to this resource and the animal life that utilize this resource. These facilities overflow directly into the lakes numerous times a year with no ramifications since they are local governmental agencies.

Thank you again for time in considering this request and hopefully, will agree to approve the Consent Decree.

Sincerely,

Jill L. Schluter

---

**From:** SHARON JACOBS  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/16/2013 2:52:10 PM  
**Subject:** Case Number: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

**To who it may concern**

**Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division**

**We support the plan to keep the Badger functioning.**

Our opinion on the continued service of the S.S.Badger is the plan the Badger has devised.

**Please keep our Badger !!!!!!!!!!!!!!!**

**Case Name: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/16/2013 3:02:49 PM  
**Subject:** SS Badger

Do not allow Badger to operate as is. It is a shame that they got away with polluting our lake for so long.

Though my family and I have traveled on the Spartan, the City of Midland and the Badger since the 1950's, we will not do so again until they clean up.

Thanks for asking for comment.

---

**From:** Berkley Duck  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/16/2013 3:39:00 PM  
**Subject:** D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Ignacia S. Moreno  
Assistant Attorney General, Environment and Natural Resources

Dear Ms Moreno:

I am writing in support of the Consent Decree agreement reached in the case of U.S. v. Lake Michigan Transit Shortcut, Inc. I consider myself an environmentalist; I live on the shore of Lake Michigan; I have been an active recreational boater on the lake for over 30 years; and my wife's family owns property on the lake in Ludington. The quality of the water in the lake is one of our paramount concerns, and we are distressed to see how it has been degraded over the years (mostly as a result of invasive species).

However, given the adverse impact of a cessation of the Badger's operations on the economies of the ports on both sides of the lake, the resulting inconvenience to customers and potential customers, the increased fuel consumption and highway congestion that would be required to move traffic now accommodated by the Badger from one side of the lake to the other, the loss of a Lake Michigan icon, and the terms of the Consent Decree requiring a complete remediation of the discharge of coal ash (and the penalties that would result from non-compliance) within two years, I am persuaded that approval of the Decree is in the public interest.

Thank you.

Berkley W. Duck

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**From:** Elly & Pam  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/16/2013 4:03:03 PM  
**Subject:** D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Assistant Attorney General  
Environmental and Natural Resource Division  
U.S. DOJ-ENRD  
P.O. Box 7611  
Washington, DC  
20044-7611

Tuesday, April 16, 2013

D. J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Case Name: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

Dear Sir or Madam:


This is in response to the request for public comment on the Consent Decree agreement between the Lake Michigan Carferry Service and the Department of Justice and EPA covering the S.S. Badger and the disposal of coal ash into Lake Michigan.

As a former citizen of Michigan, a transportation professional and a retired railroader, I would like to add my support to the finalizing of this agreement.

Having grown up on the Great Lakes in the 50's and 60's I am greatly concerned about water quality. I think this agreement provides for protecting the water quality of Lake Michigan, while at the same time allowing for the preservation of the historically significant S.S. Badger for the present and future generations.

Respectfully yours,

Ellison (Elly) L. Wefel Jr.

  
Blue Ridge, VA  
24064-1668

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**From:** Susan Bogart  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/16/2013 5:15:07 PM  
**Subject:** Reference case # 90-5-1-1-10771

Dear Assistant Attorney General,  
Environmental and Natural Resources Division,

Re: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

"Our" carferry, the SS Badger has a significant positive economic impact on our community; Ludington, Michigan. We are a small town lucky to be located on the Lake. As with any small town the loss of 200 seasonal jobs would be heart-breaking. For example, those seasonal jobs have helped pay for many college educations over the decades.

You and your staff are very welcome to come visit us and enjoy our natural beauty as you get a feel for how special the carferry service is to our community.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the consent decree.  
Susan Bogart  
Ludington, MI

---

**From:** Maria Kusel  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/16/2013 6:11:38 PM  
**Subject:** Regarding D.J. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Please approve the Badger Ferry Consent Decree. Thank you. Maria Kusel, P.T.

Sent from my iPad

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/16/2013 7:48:49 PM  
**Subject:** DJ Reference Number 90-5-1-1-10771

Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources

Dear Sir or Madam;

I am writing to inform you of my support for the consent decree which has been submitted in the above referenced case, Case Name: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger. I have long been a part-time resident of Ludington, Michigan. I feel that the agreement in the consent decree is in the best interest of the local economy while still maintaining good stewardship of the natural resources and environmental concerns of Lake Michigan. I hope that you will support approval of the decree as well.

Sincerely,  
Kristen Galloway



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**From:** Jim Sweeney  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/16/2013 7:51:17 PM  
**Subject:** Reference Case Number: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

**Case Name: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger**

I am dead set against any extension of the previous deadline given to the SS Badger. They have known for years that these deadlines were coming and all they did was a soft shoe to avoid making the changes they need to.

It is grossly irresponsible for them to continue to operate dumping their toxic mess and for the agencies to allow them to continue or to extend their deadlines.

Make them clean up their act now or shut them down, NOW.

Jim Sweeney

[REDACTED]  
Schererville, IN 46375  
[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Paul & Brenda Ulik  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/16/2013 7:54:32 PM  
**Subject:** SS Badger - Lake Michigan

To Whom it may concern,

I realize the SS Badger is basically being put out of commission. I strongly disagree with this action. Not only is the SS Badger a historical presence between Wisconsin and Michigan, but it also is a desirable way to transport between the two States via Lake Michigan. As one continues to gather scientific information about our natural resources and begin to understand what's being reported and what's actually fact, we realize that global warming is not happening and man's impact on the environment is not only greatly exaggerated but also virtually non-existent. All of the scientific "facts" that have been preached 10-15 years ago haven't come true. I remember being in grade school in the 1970's being taught that the upcoming ice age cannot be stopped because of aerosol cans and the Ozone layer! I know all of you have a job to do and I'm sure your intentions are sincere. However, I also know that not one individual can tell me exactly what the weather will be like 1 month from now let alone 20 years. Please, take a step back and get all of your facts straight before you ruin another treasure. I could go through environmental disaster that the EPA has been responsible for (Methanol and Ethanol), but instead of pointing fingers we've got to get past this knee jerk unscientific response to a mythical issue. You do realize the greatest polluter in the Great Lakes is the City of Milwaukee and Mayor Tom Barrett. Why aren't any of you stopping the illegal feces dumping into our Great Lake? Coal dust as apposed to billions (yes billions) of gallons of human feces? Please people, get a grip and put your priorities where they will truly make a difference in our environment and the quality of life for all.

Thank you

Paul A. Ulik  
Oconomowoc, WI

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**From:** Paul & Brenda Ulik  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/16/2013 7:55:37 PM  
**Subject:** D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

----- Original Message -----

**From:** Paul & Brenda Ulik  
**To:** [pubcomment-ees.enrd@usdoj.gov](mailto:pubcomment-ees.enrd@usdoj.gov)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 16, 2013 6:54 PM  
**Subject:** SS Badger - Lake Michigan

To Whom it may concern,

I realize the SS Badger is basically being put out of commission. I strongly disagree with this action. Not only is the SS Badger a historical presence between Wisconsin and Michigan, but it also is a desirable way to transport between the two States via Lake Michigan. As one continues to gather scientific information about our natural resources and begin to understand what's being reported and what's is actually fact, we realize that global warming is not happening and man's impact on the environment is not only greatly exaggerated but also virtually non-existent. All of the scientific "facts" that have been preached 10-15 years ago haven't come true. I remember being in grade school in the 1970's being taught that the upcoming ice age cannot be stopped because of aerosol cans and the Ozone layer! I know all of you have a job to do and I'm sure your intentions are sincere. However, I also know that not one individual can tell me exactly what the weather will be like 1 month from now let alone 20 years. Please, take a step back and get all of your facts straight before you ruin another treasure. I could go through environmental disaster that the EPA has been responsible for (Methanol and Ethanol), but instead of pointing fingers we've got to get past this knee jerk unscientific response to a mythical issue. You do realize the greatest polluter in the Great Lakes is the City of Milwaukee and Mayor Tom Barrett. Why aren't any of you stopping the illegal feces dumping into our Great Lake? Coal dust as apposed to billions (yes billions) of gallons of human feces? Please people, get a grip and put your priorities where they will truly make a difference in our environment and the quality of life for all.

Thank you

Paul A. Ulik  
Oconomowoc, WI

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**From:** John W. Hausmann  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/16/2013 8:53:03 PM  
**Subject:** ss Badger

I have vacationed for many years in Western Michigan, from Manistee to the Glen Lake area and various destinations to the Straits of Mackinaw. The Badger provides a very convenient and comfortable means of accessing those areas. The Schedule is ideal, and the ferry is large enough to offer a reliable schedule regardless of all but the most severe weather, and also to provide comfortable accommodations.

In conversations of have had with many passengers, I believe the Badger is a net benefit to residents of both Michigan and Wisconsin as well as to cross-country travelers.

Thanks you,

John W. Hausmann  
Mequon, WI

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**From:** Joseph Jurasek  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/16/2013 9:09:10 PM  
**Subject:** Reference Case Number: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

**Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division**

**Case Name: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger**

**This Consent Decree is the only way to let a national treasure like the SS Badger continue to sail the Great Lakes. The jobs it provides to people on both sides of Lake Michigan help diversify our economies. It is the entire Jurasek family's hope that it goes forward and everyone enjoys the view from the ship. It is an opportunity that can't be let go.**

Sincerely,

Joseph Jurasek and Family

██████████  
Ann Arbor, MI 48105

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/16/2013 9:36:07 PM  
**Subject:** DJ Ref No. 90-5-1-1-10771

I would like to express my unqualified support for the SS Badger and the Lake Michigan car ferry system.

I would wish there were no pollution restrictions whatsoever placed on their operation by the DOJ.

They are a wonderful service. I suggest they be left alone to run their own business.

Thank you,

Tim Brandyberry

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**From:** Bev Hunt  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/16/2013 9:58:47 PM  
**Subject:** SS Badger

I've been traveling on the Badger & all the boats before it since 1959. My family lives in Milwaukee \* I live in Michigan & what a wonderful way for us to visit with each other & travel together without the long drive around the lake.

I suppose the dumping of ash is somewhat of a problem but are other ships passing through the Great Lakes being made to adhere to the same regulations?

I can't even imagine what it would be like not having the Badger available. It's the fastest 4hrs. you'll ever spend traveling since there is do much to do & see & you meet some of the greatest people.

If it had a casino it would be "perfect". Thank you & please do whatever it takes to keep this historical ship on Lake Michigan!

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**From:** DebeB  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/16/2013 10:20:14 PM  
**Subject:** Assistant Attorney General, Environment and Natural Resources Division

Assistant Attorney General, Environment and Natural Resources Division

**Reference Case Number:**

D. J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771 **(must be included in subject line)**

**Case Name:**

United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

I support the SS Badger and would like to continue to see it run across Lake Michigan. I have traveled on the SS Badger and believe it is an asset to Michigan and Wisconsin.

I think the Consent Decree should be approved.

Sincerely,  
Deb & Tim Campbell  
Waterford, Michigan



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**From:** Bob  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/16/2013 10:23:53 PM  
**Subject:** D.J Ref No 90-5-1-1-10771

I would urge you to allow the SS Badger to continue operating as a coal fired ferry. This is a historic vessel with a historic set of steam engines both of which are on the Register of Historic Places. As far as I know the last coal fired ferry in North America. I understand the the ash discharge has been tested several times and no real hazardous substances were found.

If we lose this piece of history there will be no examples left to demonstrate to future generations this class of fine machinery.

Traveling on the SS Badger is a unique experience.

Thank you.

--

Bob Willman  
The Eagle's Anvil  
Bowling Green, Ohio  
WB8NQW

We have no government armed with power capable of contending with human passions unbridled by morality and religion. Our constitution was made only for a moral and religious people. It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other.

John Adams

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**From:** Rob Alway  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/16/2013 10:38:29 PM  
**Subject:** Reference Case Number: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771


Reference Case Number: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

I am writing this email in support of the consent decree between Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc. and U.S. Government.

This company and its ferry are essential to the economy of our community. Further, its positive impact on the Great Lakes and the communities it serves far outweigh the negative.

Sincerely,  
Robert Alway

  
Scottville, MI 49454

  
Fax: 313.879.6970

[www.alwayphotography.com](http://www.alwayphotography.com)

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**From:** [REDACTED] on behalf of Rob Alway  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/16/2013 10:39:31 PM  
**Subject:** Reference Case Number: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Reference Case Number: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

I am writing this email in support of the consent decree between Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc. and U.S. Government.

This company and its ferry are essential to the economy of our community. Further, its positive impact on the Great Lakes and the communities it serves far outweigh the negative.

Sincerely,  
Rebecca Alway

[REDACTED]  
Scottville, MI 49454  
[REDACTED]

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**From:** Phil & Lori Nelesen  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/16/2013 10:51:15 PM  
**Subject:** D.J.Ref.No.90-5-1-1-10771

I am writing to urge you to pass the Consent Decree. Many of us have learned to love the SS Badger for generations. It seems to be like a "right of passage" for generations. It's the closest thing to a "cruise ship" many of us and our families will ever be able to afford.

Both of our children and all of our grandchildren live in MI and we are in WI. Unfortunately, we are beginning to feel our age and the auto trip to Mi through Chicago and Indiana is becoming daunting. We've enjoyed the quiet hours as we chugged to whatever coast we're headed to. We love to hear the squeel of the kids as they see another boat, a seagull, a jumping fish or a lighthouse in the distance! Please help us keep this institution. It's a boat for all ages!

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**From:** blaine t  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/17/2013 12:29:09 AM  
**Subject:** D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division

Case Name: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

Hello~

I would like to state my support for the continued operation of the SS Badger. Being a life long resident of Michigan, knowing the history of coal powered energy production throughout the country and region, I do not see the continued operation of the coal powered SS Badger as a problem or a hazard to anyone. I understand that there is a discharge of coal ash into the waters of Lake Michigan and i also understand that this is by no means unique to the SS Badger although they are one of the few remaining if not only remaining coal powered vessel on the Great Lakes.

The historical significance of ships like the Badger are too important to loose as are the commercial and private benefits of it's service as a ferry across Lake Michigan. If anything, I would like to see increased Federal funding for things like the SS Badger... either it's continued operation as is or through a program for either a cleaner coal upgrade or alternative fuel system like natural gas. The Lake Express ferry service out of Muskegon is not a good example of an alternative. It is far more weather sensitive, has a smaller cargo carrying capacity and suffers from repetitive mechanical breakdowns. Faster across the lake? Sure. When it runs.

I have heard the talk over the last few years over a possible natural gas conversion and while i think it sounds interesting, I understand there are a few technical challenges to that. Again, Federal funding would help save a historical and currently active resource and not only keep jobs here in Michigan and Wisconsin, but help usher in a energy source for that type of craft.

Thank you for taking time to read my email and i appreciate your support for the SS Badger.

Blaine Thompson  
Spring Lake, MI

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**From:** Kent Bridges  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/17/2013 1:37:48 AM  
**Subject:** D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division

Case Name: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

Attorney General,

I am writing in support of the SS Badger.

This service is of great benefit to travelers, commerce and the environment. The pollution created by thousands of vehicles driving an additional 200 miles each, should be considered when weighing your decision. The court should consider the value of time, in the hours of the lives of those who use this service.

The court should also consider that hundreds of coal fired ships have operated for decades in all of the Great Lakes and that the portion of coal ash discharged by the SS Badger is minuscule compared to the amount of ash that is already at the bottom of Lake Michigan.

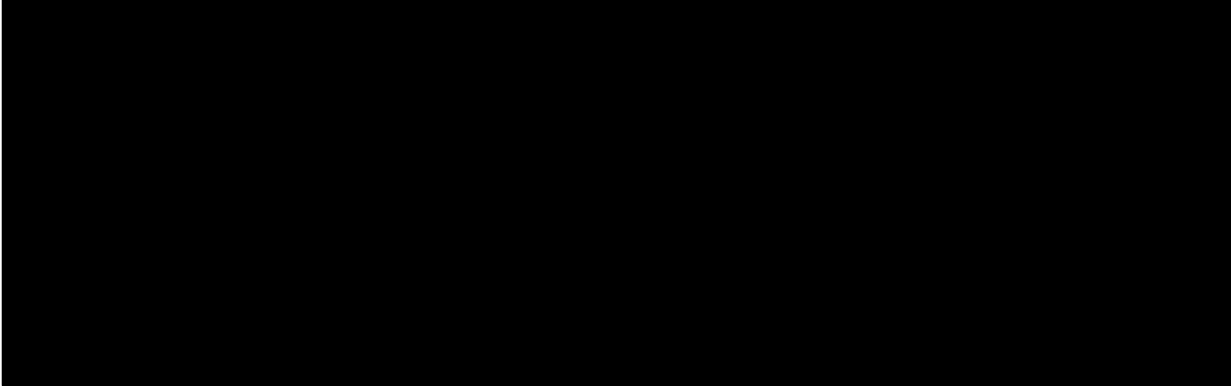
Further, instead of treating the SS Badger as an "evil polluter" and inflicting expense and hardship, the court should order the EPA to provide assistance to the SS Badger corporation in the form of engineering of an alternative that best meets the goals of the EPA and that will be economically successful, as the SS Badger hopefully operates for years to come. Once a suitable alternative is selected the EPA should provide financial assistance for the conversion in the form of loans or loan guarantee's that would hasten the actual conversion.

It is far beyond the time that government and business work together as American's to create a better environment and economy for us all.

Sincerely,  
Kent G. Bridges  
Weston, WI

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**From:** McMullen, Rebecca (ENRD)  
**To:** McMullen, Rebecca (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/17/2013 9:32:37 AM  
**Subject:** FW:



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**From:** hotmail\_07f8e82bfaf71248@live.com [mailto:hotmail\_07f8e82bfaf71248@live.com] **On Behalf Of** William Filber  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 16, 2013 10:42 PM  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Subject:**

D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

The Great Lakes are one of our most treasured natural resources and the drinking water for millions of citizens. My small community along with two other municipalities count on Lake Michigan for tourist dollars, drinking and recreational use, and I would not recommend nor support the car ferry dumping there coal ashes into the lakes. If I thought that it was that dangerous or harmful to the environment.


I am writing in support of the S.S.Badger agreement with EPA, as you know there are many other more threatening challenges for the Great Lakes, and the S.S.Badger at this time, is not a environmental threat.

We need jobs and the S.S.Badger employs a few hundred people directly or non-directly and helps to bring tourists dollars to Michigan, so please allow the S.S.Badger to continue. After two years, they must come in to compliant, this is more then enough time for the S.S.Badger to contract, or to prepare for this action.

Thank you and God Bless the Constitution and the Nation of Israel.

Sincerely,

William Filber

  
Spring Lake, Michigan  
49456

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/17/2013 9:23:21 AM  
**Subject:** D.J.Ref.No. 90-5-1-1-10771

I am requesting that you please approve the Consent Decree for the SS Badger to allow ash discharge for the next 2 years. My family and I use the SS Badger practically every year traveling to Michigan on summer vacation.

Thank You

David H. Kahn

[REDACTED]  
Shawnee, KS 66216



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**From:** Mills, Louis  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/17/2013 9:40:30 AM  
**Subject:** Lake Michigan CarFerry

Please allow the Ferry to continue in its present mode since it is an antique and wonderful Michigan-Wisconsin tourist destination attraction. The historical value alone would pay back the community of continuing this great boat for future generations.

From a recent traveller on the Ferry,

Dr. Lou Mills  
Texas Tech University  
Box 42121  
Lubbock, Tx 79409-2121

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**From:** Ryan Beilfuss  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/17/2013 10:49:33 AM  
**Subject:** D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

April 17,2013

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing as a supporter of the Lake Michigan Car Ferry S.S. Badger. It is my hope that the agreement will be reached and the Badger able to continue sailing.

I am a lifelong resident of the state of Michigan and have a particular passion for our nautical history. Our family loves to walk to the lighthouse in Ludington simply for the beauty of the water and shoreline. It doesn't matter if the sun is shining or if its overcast. The water may be calm or churning. We just love being there.

One of the highlights for us is being there when the Badger is sailing out and we can watch it gradually get smaller in our view or when she is returning from Wisconsin and is coming into our view. It's something special and unique to our area. Part of my passion for Lake Michigan involves my family heritage with the car ferries. My great grandfather, grandfather, and others in our family worked for and retired from the Ann Arbor Railroad with its car ferries running out of Elberta Michigan. The Badger is the only functioning boat of its kind remaining in Michigan. That part of our history is all but gone and to close operation for the Badger would wipe that aspect of our state completely into the pages of books. I hope not to see that happen.

While I appreciate the many jobs and tourist dollars brought to the Ludington and Manitowac economies, I am passionate about the boat itself. Regarding the lake pollution, anyone who loves our lakes would naturally be concerned about dumping anything into them. Having said that, I question the significance of what the critics are saying regarding the dumping of coal ash. Fifty years ago, three railroads ran car ferries across the lake. They did not run one boat but several. They did not run from May to October. They ran year around. Today we do not have upwards of ten ships running 365 days a year and every one of them dumping coal ash into the lake. We have one car ferry, running for approximately 6 months of the year. I am not convinced its doing damage to the lake. However, it appears an agreement is at hand and I am asking your department to do what is necessary to keep the Badger in operation without interruption.

Thanks for your consideration of my opinions on this matter.

Sincerely,

Ryan Beilfuss

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/17/2013 10:58:24 AM  
**Subject:** D.J.Ref.no90-5-1-1-10771

To Whom It May Concern:

The USS Badger is a piece of Michigan History. It should be allowed to continue sailing to provide a rich experience for generations to come! Please assist them.

Sincerely,  
Joe Guza  
Michigan Citizen

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**From:** Robert Matthews  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/17/2013 11:06:33 AM  
**Subject:** Us v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc. D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

I am writing to express my hope that the consent decree in the matter of the S.S. Badger will be approved. The consent decree will allow the continued operation of the Badger which will have a significant impact on the economies of Ludington, Michigan and Manitowoc, Wisconsin, as well as many other communities along the lakeshore. I hope the two years will enable the owners of the Badger to develop an economically feasible way to handle the coal ash so that the Badger can continue to operate as a coal-fired vessel. The Badger's power plant was a major factor in its being designated a National Historic Landmark. This was done even though the Department of the Interior clearly addressed the concern about coal ash discharge. I feel that the EPA is committing a disservice to the public in pursuing this case despite little evidence of any environmental harm. Nevertheless, if a compromise can be worked out through this consent decree, that is the way it should be done.

Robert Matthews  
[REDACTED]  
Rockford, MI 49341

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**From:** Stephen Hatch  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/17/2013 11:15:25 AM  
**Subject:** SS Badger Consent Decree

Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Gentlemen:

This consent decree is scandalous. The S.S. Badger should have been prevented from dumping coal ash into Lake Michigan long ago, and to extend the time it may do so into the future is inexplicably poor judgement.

Stephen Hatch  
Deerfield, IL

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**From:** Philip Eaton  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**CC:** jfrisbie@comcast.net  
**Sent:** 4/17/2013 11:35:20 AM  
**Subject:** D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10071

Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division

Case Name: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

Dear Sirs:

Our family has been using the SS Badger to commute with our summer cabins on Big Bass Lake, Michigan every year since 1968 when we moved to New Mexico. We arrive in Wisconsin by train or car with grandchildren and dog in June, and return in July/August without fail. The annual experience, convenience, comfort, and fun have been a part of our life for more than 40 years, and our grown children are following suite. The convenience and pleasure to tourists is important to the economy of Ludington Michigan and to Manitowoc, Wisconsin at a time when such "local" business is at risk. Since the tourist trade is so important to Economic Development of both states, maintaining this wonderful and restful means of bypassing the drive around the lake from Wisconsin/Illinois to Michigan seem to us to be an obvious priority and choice.

Please consider these values and do all that is possible to maintain this vital link for cars and tourists to reach Michigan from the West of the country.

R. Philip and Olga M. Eaton MD

[REDACTED]  
Albuquerque, NM 87107

or

[REDACTED]  
Irons, Michigan 49644

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**From:** jim nolan  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/17/2013 11:52:33 AM  
**Subject:** 90-5-1-1-10771

I am writing in support of the SS Badger.  
The service is essential and needs the  
support of public and private sources.  
James T. Nolan

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/17/2013 12:01:11 PM  
**Subject:** D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

RE: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

I would like to see this be approved. I feel the Badger needs to continue to run.

Thank you.



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**From:** Becky  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/17/2013 12:06:01 PM  
**Subject:** D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

RE:  
D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services  
and SS Badger

I want to show my support for the SS Badger, the cities of Ludington, Manitowoc, LMC, and their employees.

Let the Badger Run.

I don't even understand why it has come to this, its nothing but a smear campaign to run LMC out of business by  
Lake Express.

Thank you

Becky W

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**From:** Jeff Coffey  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/17/2013 12:20:35 PM  
**Subject:** Lake Michigan Carferry

I would like to voice my support for the consent decree submitted by Lake Michigan Carferry. I we are truly concerned about pollution, please focus your efforts on the big polluters - power plants, airports and industrial complexes. As far as the Great Lakes are concerned, the threats posed by invasive species is astoundingly more important than this single boat. Please focus your limited resources on areas that will affect the health and well-being of the Great Lakes. It is my strong opinion that the Lake Michigan Carferry (the SS Badger) should be allowed to operate for many years to come.

Regards,  
Jeff Coffey

---

**From:** Sandra Newman  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**CC:** info@ssbadger.com; mayornickels@manitowoc.org  
**Sent:** 4/17/2013 1:03:26 PM  
**Subject:** D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

TO: Assistant Attorney General Environmental and Natural Resources Division

RE: Case Name: U.S. v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services & SS Badger

Date: April 17, 2013

FROM: Sandra Eck Newman

[REDACTED]  
Bangor, PA 18013

Dear Sir or Madame;

As a frequent passenger on the SS Badger (Lake Michigan Carferry), I am registering my support for the Consent Agreement which is before you for consideration. As a staunch environmentalist, I understand the concerns for ash disposal in Lake Michigan, however, I balance this concern with the value of keeping the SS Badger operational.

It's continued operation is of significant financial value to the communities and industries of Ludington, MI and Manitowoc, WI. Additionally, is an exceptional historic resource, being the last coal-fired passenger vessel on the Great Lakes. Carrying freight and passengers across the lake also provides a special transportation alternative.

I plan to be on board the SS Badger several times this season and look forward to an accord that will keep this carferry up and running now, and will allow it to transition into a 'green' ship in the near future.

Thank you for your attention.

Best regards,

Sandra Newman

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**From:** Mike Gore  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/17/2013 2:18:28 PM  
**Subject:** D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division

Case Name: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

I have used this ferry service only once. That was in June of 2011. I plan to use it again this year 2013.

This is a nice service that the ferry provides. Entertaining, relaxing and way better than driving around the south end of lake Michigan to get to Michigan.

Concerning the pollution issue, I am not an expert but from what is published in the news media it seems like a lot of waste winds up at the bottom of lake Michigan every trip. That being said many things are perceived as pollution yet do not pose a real problem except when they effect a competing business's enterprise or some one who just does not "like" the business or views it as a "dirty" business even if all facts are not known about the business.

As a general concept any and all business's should be responsible to their employees, customers and community.

In this case scientific facts not feelings should drive the decision and conclusion to the concern.

What is the true content of the waste?

In comparison, how is the waste from coal fired power plants dealt with?

Does the waste pose a real danger or is like the soils at the bottom of a lake? Just fine if left alone.

Ultimately the business plan the ferry has, should allow for proper maintenance & upgrade (if necessary) to properly deal with a pollution issue. If their business plan does not allow for both, then it will become unsafe due to improper maintenance and continue to pollute the lake if it is doing so. If that is the case then the ferry should shut down for the obvious reasons.

Michael Gore

██████████  
Ingleside, IL 60041

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**From:** sgilland  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/17/2013 2:35:25 PM  
**Subject:** Let's do everything we can to keep the last steam ferry on the lakes.

See above

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/17/2013 3:05:35 PM  
**Subject:** D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Please continue the much needed services of the SS Badger.

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**From:** Patricia Kelly-Gottwald  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/17/2013 3:40:27 PM  
**Subject:** Re: Case unber 90-5-1-1-10771. United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Short. Inc.

I am writing on behalf of the Lake Michigan Carferry's request to continue to operate on the Great Lakes. This historic vessel is a living and operational museum to an important way of life here in Michigan. The car ferries made it possible for many businesses and industries to flourish in our state. Although the coal that is used to fuel the USS Badger is a pollutant by todays standards it also saves much excess air pollution by carrying vehicles that would otherwise be polluting the air. It is also only one ship, the last of it's kind, to sail the great lakes and the amount of coal ash dumped is minor compared to say the daily amount of pollution added to the air and water from large cities like Chicago on a daily basis.

The economy of our small town is dependent on the Badger and to shut it down would not only destroy our fragile economy but also deprive thousands of the experiance to learning about how important shipping was and is in the Great Lakes.

Please dont let a bunch of politicians take away the symbol of our community and the history it provides along with the economical and green travel option thousands of people use to make the trip across Lake Michigan every year.

Patty Gottwald

  
Ludington, MI 49431

Teacher: Mason County Eastern Schools

Sent from my iPad

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**From:** Joseph Poquette  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/17/2013 3:59:52 PM  
**Subject:** SS Badger

I wish the government would stop sucking all the good things in life away. It's a pleasure, it's fun and exciting to be able to enjoy the SS Badger. It's an economically sound means of transportation. Hopefully the Asian carp hate the coal ash. What is being about that torrent invader killing the Eco system? Really there are a whole lot more issues to be addressed. It's like the cop giving a speeding ticket in front of a crack dealers house. Really?

Sent from my iPhone



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**From:** lkiedrowski@charter.net  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/17/2013 4:47:15 PM  
**Subject:** D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

pubcomment-ees.enrd@usdoj.gov

Reference Case Number: ( Must be included in subject line)  
D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Address to:  
Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division

Case Name: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

Dear Assistant Attorney General,

I have traveled aboard the Lake Michigan Carferry / SS Badger several times with my family. We are fully in support of its continued operation as the last coal-fired passenger vessel on the Great Lakes.

Sincerely,

Leo Kiedrowski

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**From:** jan horwood  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/17/2013 4:48:03 PM  
**Subject:** SS Badger

Having used the SS Badger many times to go on vacation to Wisconsin (from SE Michigan) I consider it the only way to get there. Wouldn't go if the only choice was driving via Chicago. It is a great, relaxing and fun way to travel. It would be a great loss if the SS Badger were not allowed to continue. As such, truly hope the Consent Agreement is approved. In addition to the loss of another travel option to travel between Wisconsin and Michigan, the economic hardship due to loss of the Badger would be very significant to the surrounding areas of both Ludington and Manitowoc. Tourism would definitely be lost in those areas.

The SS Badger is a piece of history that needs to be maintained as a viable travel option/experience.

Thank you for your consideration.

Jan Horwood  
Milan, Michigan

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**From:** jan horwood  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/17/2013 4:49:34 PM  
**Subject:** D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Having used the SS Badger many times to go on vacation to Wisconsin (from SE Michigan) I consider it the only way to get there. Wouldn't go if the only choice was driving via Chicago. It is a great, relaxing and fun way to travel. It would be a great loss if the SS Badger were not allowed to continue. As such, truly hope the Consent Agreement is approved. In addition to the loss of another travel option to travel between Wisconsin and Michigan, the economic hardship due to loss of the Badger would be very significant to the surrounding areas of both Ludington and Manitowoc. Tourism would definitely be lost in those areas.

The SS Badger is a piece of history that needs to be maintained as a viable travel option/experience.

Thank you for your consideration.

Jan Horwood  
Milan, Michigan

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**From:** Elizabeth Selmier I  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/17/2013 5:27:34 PM  
**Subject:** Lake Michigan Carferry and SS Badger

Re: Case No. D.J. Ref. No.  
90-5-1-1-1-771

I wish to express my support for the consent decree giving SS Badger an additional two years to comply with environmental regulations.

Elizabeth Selmier  
Chicago

Sent from my iPhone

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**From:** Kevin D. Gillispie  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/17/2013 6:19:34 PM  
**Subject:** D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Please see fit to allow the continuance of the S.S. Badger, beyond the current two year extension. This is a magnificent piece of Lake Michigan history & heritage. My family has enjoyed several crossings on the S.S. Badger and would like to make more crossings. Thank you in advance.

---

**From:** Kimberly Essenburg  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/17/2013 8:31:44 PM  
**Subject:** D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing in favor of the consent decree in the case United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and S.S. Badger. I believe that the consent decree should be approved because the S.S. Badger is an important part of Michigan's culture and history and is vital to the economy of Ludington, MI. Thank you for considering my opinion.

--

Kimberly Essenburg



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**From:** Jo Hasselman  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/17/2013 8:51:33 PM  
**Subject:** D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

I would like to share my opinion that it is in the public's best interest to approve the consent decree with the SS Badger. The Badger is a great service for easier transportation to and from Michigan from my home in Iowa. Please approve the consent decree.

Sent from my Samsung Mobile

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**From:** Tracey Sperko  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/17/2013 9:05:21 PM  
**Subject:** USS Badger

Please grant them this permit. My family takes the Badger every summer to MI. This is a tradition.

Thank you  
Tracey Sperko

Wauwatosa WI 53213



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**From:** Don Klemm  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/17/2013 9:35:00 PM  
**Subject:** Reference Case Number: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

**To:**  
**Assistant Attorney General**  
**Environmental and Natural Resources Division**

**RE: Case Name: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger.**

I am writing in support of the S.S. Badger.

The S.S. Badger has been an integral part of Ludington and Manitowoc marine activity for over 60 years. It has hauled rail cars, passenger vehicles, tractor/trailers, oversized shipments, and thousands upon thousands of passengers over that period of time. The Badger has a huge economic impact on Michigan and Wisconsin, having employed thousands of people over the years. Furthermore, its impact upon the tourist and resort business is phenomenal, and the loss of this ferry would devastate many businesses.

I personally have grown up with the ferries in Ludington. My father worked for 39 years with C&O / Chessie System, retiring in 1979 as the Superintendent of Carferries. I and my 2 brothers have worked on the ferries, as well as both my daughters, two nieces, and numerous cousins. The employment at the ferry system enabled me and hundreds of other young people to pay for college.

In regards to the concerns with coal ash being discharged from the Badger, I would suggest that the Badger be "grandfathered in" as the last of its kind. All ships on the Great Lakes at one time burned coal for their fuel source. The Badger is merely the last of these coal burning vessels. All new vessels are utilizing diesel and have no ash discharge.

The Badger has been labelled as a "dirty ship" and a dinosaur. It is in reality an engineering marvel. As a hauler of oversize and heavy shipments, and thousands of tractor trailers, it is a fuel saving method of transportation. The Badger should be allowed to operate to the end of its natural lifetime.

Sincerely,

Donald Klemm

[REDACTED]  
Ludington, MI 49431  
[REDACTED]

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**From:** Tammy  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/17/2013 9:43:40 PM  
**Subject:** D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

**Case Name:** United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

Dear Assistant Attorney General,

I am writing today in support of the S.S. Badger. I was thrilled to hear that they would be allowed to continue to run between Manitowoc Wisconsin and Ludington Michigan. I am a lifelong resident of Ludington and have watched the Badger come and go for years. My Grandfather worked on the "boats", as they were called, when all they did was haul railroad cars. This ship carries more than people and cars across the lake. It also carries a lot of historical meaning to our little town and very fond memories for anyone that has traveled on it or been down at the water's edge to watch her steam in or out of our harbor.

The fact that a Senator from Illinois and a business man from Muskegon have tried extremely hard to portray the Badger as a "filthy" ship that is polluting our Great Lakes, makes me angry. These two men have also contributed to the polluting of our Great Lakes in their own ways. With the sewage from Chicago leaking into Lake Michigan and the potential Asian Carp issue, Senator Durbin has plenty to worry about in his own state. Mr. Lubar has a considerable interest in Hallador Energy Company, which owns Sunrise Coal. You would think that Mr. Lubar would like the fact that the Badger uses coal. It's amazing what a lot of money can do to hide the wrong doings of some, yet bring to the forefront a ship that has been in business for 60 years. In those 60 years, this ship has gone mostly unnoticed outside of Western Michigan. Why would these men want to shut down this business is the big question. The Badger brings so much to both Ports that she travels between, that shutting her down not only hurts my community but also the City of Manitowoc. These men are clearly afraid of the competition that the Badger represents.

So the fact that the EPA was able to look beyond the smoke screen of Senator Durbin and allow the owners of the Badger time to clean up this great ship and still bring income to two small towns is a breath of fresh air. Please continue to support this great ship and accept this Consent Decree. It is right and good for the Badger and the communities of Ludington and Manitowoc.

Thank you for your time,

Tammy Smakal

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**From:** Carl Kishline  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/17/2013 10:54:08 PM  
**Subject:** D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Comment regarding the consent decree between the Department of Justice and Lake Michigan Carferry / SS Badger:

It is with regret that I support the above mentioned consent decree, not because it will delay actions to end the discharge of coal ash, rather because the legal actions which precipitated this consent decree were unjustified, based on hidden agendas not related to the discharge of coal ash, and because it is my belief that the actions to modify the SS Badger will irrevocably damage this landmark and preclude future operation of this vital transportation link in a manner which does not require petroleum or natural gas fuel.

It has been clear that the parties which brought the legal actions had motives other than the stated objective of "cleaning" the waters. The amount of coal ash dumped is trivial compared to other sources, and is trivial compared to the production of coal ash on the lakes in the 19th and 20th centuries when hundred of vessels - coal-fired vessels - dumped coal ash throughout the lakes. The plaintiffs, while pointing to the dumping, have not shown that the amount is beyond the ability of the lake to absorb and use that material. The presence of mercury and other heavy metal in the lake biota is far more closely linked to the advent of petroleum-fueled vessels and to the dumping of municipal and industrial from shore-based sources in the mid- to late 20th century.

As the SS Badger represents the last of the carferry fleet and among the last operational coal-fired vessels, it is an important link in maintaining diversity in the types of transportation systems available for national commerce.

If, however, this consent decree is the only way to keep the SS Badger operational, it is a regrettable solution but must be supported. I therefore support the decree with regret.

Carl Kishline, P.E.

[REDACTED]  
Kent, WA 98042  
Education/Exam Coordinator, Seattle Chapter, AGO  
Substitute Organist  
Project Engineer, Helac Corp.

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**From:** Dusterhoft Tim  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/17/2013 11:33:01 PM  
**Subject:** badger

I use the Badger quite often during the summer months to go to work and come home from work. It really beats the hassle and long drive through Chicago. It make little since to me why the fuss about clean burned ash is being discarded into Lake Michigan. More pollutants are injected into the water from sewage treatment plants like the one in Milwaukee that just spilled 600+ million gallons the other day. EPA don't really care about the shore one contamination! so why is it so concerned about a little ash? Lets get real the Badger provides a great service to many persons and helps control a lot of pollutants form the many vehicles that use the Badger. True it does not really save me much time by using the badger, but it sure is a lot more relaxing than driving around the bottom of the lake to get to my destination, every month.

Sincerely : Tim Dusterhoft

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/17/2013 11:37:14 PM  
**Subject:** DJ Ref No 90-5-1-1-10771; U.S. v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc.

Our comments on the proposed Consent Decree on the discharge of ash from SS Badger:

As frequent users of the Badger for trips from Wisconsin to family in Michigan, we will sorely miss the Badger if it is pulled off the lake because of the relatively small discharge of inert and relatively non-polluting coal ash. The ash from Badger's boilers does not carry potential infectious diseases or fertilizer and silt loads into the lake. By contrast, in the last few days Milwaukee sewer district admittedly discharged 594 MILLION gallons of untreated mixed sewage water to the lake, and more than 200 MILLION gallons of partially treated sewage water to the lake. No one is talking about shutting down the City of Milwaukee sewers or forcing them to build suitable overflow impoundments. Similarly, the river discharge to Lake Michigan at Manitowoc is typically dark brown with soil and fertilizer runoff from the inland farm fields. There is no doubt that the wasted nutrients in the river and the tons of silt in the river contribute to algae growth on the lake, and to turbidity in the many hundreds of yards offshore on a typical day. Yet no one is proposing to shut down the non point source agricultural pollutants going in to the lake.

We certainly support the Consent Decree, except that we would not impose the restrictions on the Badger discharge of coal ash until the river at Manitowoc and the Milwaukee sewer discharges are fully cleaned up and prevented in the future.

--Tom and Kathie Zaremba  
Madison, WI

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**From:** jeff bush  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/18/2013 12:26:36 AM  
**Subject:** D. J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Hello-

The SS Badger shouldn't be allowed to said anymore until it is retrofitted with updated technology not using coal as its fuel source. CoalAsh shouldn't be allowed to be dumped into the lake. There is no excuse for the SS Badger to be using coal as its source of energy.

Sincerely,

Jeff Bush

Passenger in 2011.

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**From:** bonnie kellogg  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/18/2013 8:43:53 AM  
**Subject:** ssbadger

A long running necessity like the SS Badger line to Wisconsin should not be removed. We need to continue its service in spite of the "ashes". Please keep this line running. Thankyou. Bonnie

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**From:** maxsmith [REDACTED]  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/18/2013 9:16:05 AM  
**Subject:** D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

TO:Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division.  
Case Name: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a  
Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

I am writing to support the Consent Decree regarding the SS Badger. I feel  
the Badger is an important part of our nation's history, and everyone needs to  
be given the opportunity to experience it. Thank you! Max Smith

[REDACTED]



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**From:** Noreen Whelpley  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/18/2013 10:29:47 AM  
**Subject:** D.J.Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

We are business owners that receive benefits of the tourist traffic generated by the SS Badger. We are also long time users of the ship. We fully support and urge you to approve the consent agreement as a solution to both the EPA concerns and the public's need for cross lake ferry service. The economic benefits of the SS Badger to this whole area are very important. The environmental impact of all the added traffic if this service is halted would far exceed the minor impact the Badger has on Lake Michigan. The ability to haul wind turbine parts across the lake rather than truck them along highways and through congested areas save thousands of gallons of fuel and exhaust emissions caused by those trucks.

The proposed consent agreement speaks to the EPA concern to protect Lake Michigan as well giving Badger owners time and incentive to find answers to the problem. It is a win win solution for both sides.

Jake & Noreen Whelpley  
Mears MI 49436

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**From:** cspencer@american-appraisal.com  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/18/2013 11:14:55 AM  
**Subject:** SS Badger reference case number D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

RE: Reference case number **D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771**

I am writing to urge you to approve the Consent Decree for the SS Badger. The Badger is a state and national treasure, of great historical significance, and provides endless enjoyment to thousands every year. It provides a greatly appreciated and useful service, and is a boon to local and state economies, tourism, etc. The Badger has been working closely with the EPA and other agencies to reach an agreeable solution, and this seems the best option. They have agreed to this decree even though a study some years ago from the EPA itself found the impact of the Badger's ash discharge on the environment was minimal and of no risk to anyone. Please do not allow the high speed ferry out of Milwaukee and it's allies bully you into denying this decree in order to gain a monopoly for themselves. Please save the Badger!

Cindy Spencer

[REDACTED]  
Germantown WI 53022

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**From:** fran betz  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/18/2013 11:39:54 AM  
**Subject:** Badger

EPA has done its job. Am confident Lake Michigan Carferry will do theirs given the consent decree. The loss of the Badger would be devastating to Ludington and all must be done to protect it. We do not need a Senator with deep pockets from another State interfering when there is enough pollution in his own back yard that he should be concerned about.

Please protect the Badger and our jobs.

Fran

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**From:** Matthew Warner  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/18/2013 1:37:42 PM  
**Subject:** D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

I live in Grand Rapids, MI and I do not want "The Badger" to continue dumping coal dust into Lake Michigan. It needs to be refurbished or put out of commission.

Thanks,

Concerned Citizen

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**From:** Derrick Blohm  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/18/2013 1:39:05 PM  
**Subject:** S.S. Badger

**Re: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771**


To Whom it may concern:

As a resident of a state bordering Lake Michigan, I am shocked that the S.S. Badger is allowed to continue to operate as a coal-fired steamer with the allowance to dump its toxic ash directly into the lake. They have received allowances in the past to continue operation with the provision that they eliminate the pollution they create. In spite of this, they have done nothing to modify their ferry to either haul their ash for safe treatment and disposal, or to change their boiler to an alternative fuel such as oil or natural gas.

The owners of the Badger need to receive a firm, non-negotiable deadline to rectify the situation, one which clearly specifies that if they do not meet the appropriate requirements they must stop operating the ferry. Their worries that trying to meet the requirements would cost too much and drive them out of business are nonsense; if they had made the conversion years ago the improved efficiency and lower fuel cost would have more than paid for the conversion by now. Instead, they continued to flout the law and run the ferry as it was, hoping that somehow they would be allowed to continue to operate.

The S.S. Badger is a fine piece of old technology. If it is too cost-prohibitive to be upgraded to modern standards, then it is time for it to be retired.

Sincerely,  
Derrick Blohm

  
Crystal Lake, IL 60012

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**From:** Becky Hammond  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**CC:** bhammond713@aol.com  
**Sent:** 4/18/2013 2:09:36 PM  
**Subject:** United States v. Lake Michigan "short cut."

I am writing regarding the SS Badger, carferry on Lake Michigan, D.J. Ref. NO. 09-5-1-1-10771.

The Badger has had long enough to stop dumping coal ash into a national treasure, and the source of 10 million citizens' drinking water. Why give them yet another deadline? Please enforce your already-generous deadline, which ended last year, and stop the polluting. Thank you for your consideration.

Rebecca Hammond

[REDACTED]  
Ferndale MI 48220

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**From:** Anne Noah  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/18/2013 2:42:41 PM  
**Subject:** D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

While I understand that the SS Badger is an icon of historical significance, its discharge of ash in to Lake Michigan MUST be stopped.

Please do not allow this to continue another 2 years.

Anne Noah  
Benzie County, Michigan

NOTICE TO RECIPIENT: THIS E-MAIL IS CONFIDENTIAL AND MEANT FOR ONLY THE INTENDED RECIPIENT OF THE TRANSMISSION. IF YOU RECEIVED THIS E-MAIL IN ERROR, ANY REVIEW, USE, DISSEMINATION, DISTRIBUTION, OR COPYING OF THIS E-MAIL IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED. PLEASE NOTIFY US IMMEDIATELY OF THE ERROR BY RETURN E-MAIL AND PLEASE DELETE THIS MESSAGE FROM YOUR SYSTEM. THANK YOU IN ADVANCE FOR YOUR COOPERATION.

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**CC:** jlant68455@aol.com  
**Sent:** 4/18/2013 3:27:43 PM  
**Subject:** D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771 Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division:

I am emailing you today regarding Case Name: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/o/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger; Reference Case Number: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771. A consent decree has been filed in Federal Court by the Department of Justice. My husband and I both believe that the decree should be approved. The S.S. Badger provides an invaluable service to the entire Midwest. It allows for not only hundreds of driving miles to be avoided but also for hours and hours of at times, very frustrating driving time to be avoided, too!! If you have ever attempted to travel between Michigan and Wisconsin via an automobile driven through Chicago during the summer months you understand how very frustrating it can be. It is typically bumper-to-bumper driving as there are just two seasons in Chicago - Winter and **Highway Construction**. Please approve the consent decree and continue to provide us with the option of taking the cross-lake carferry to avoid having to drive through Chicago to get to Wisconsin.

Sincerely,

Debra G Jeffrey Lanthier

[REDACTED]  
Montague, MI 49437



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**From:** Victoria Brey  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/18/2013 3:54:33 PM  
**Subject:** D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger.

The S.S. Badger is very important to the economies of its home ports in Michigan and Wisconsin, and to nearby communities up and down the coastline. The ship carries an estimated 100,000 passengers each sailing season, and has an estimated \$35 million annual economic impact to communities in the two states.

Manitowoc sees tourism dollars injected into our community throughout the sailing season, as hundreds of travelers each day use the vessel as a relaxing, efficient alternative for traveling across the Great Lakes region.

These travelers are able to avoid the congested trips "around the bottom of the lake," through Chicago, while enjoying the lake crossing on a historic vessel that harkens back to the age of the steam on our Great Lakes.

Keep the Lake Michigan Carferry!

*Victoria M. Brey*  
*Paralegal to Attorney Ron A. Kaminski*

*KAMINSKI & POZORSKI Law Offices*  
*846 North 8th Street*  
*P.O. Box 609*  
*Manitowoc, WI 54221-0609*

*Telephone: 920-684-6694*  
*Fax: 920-684-6598*

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/18/2013 4:13:01 PM  
**Subject:** D.J.Ref.No. 90-5-1-1-10771 SS Badger

Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division

Case Name: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

Dear Sir:

I have been a passenger on seven different carferries that have carried me from Ludington, MI. to Manitowoc, Kewanee, and Milwaukee, WI. for the past sixty years. They have become an icon and the livelihood of the Ludington wharf for more years than that. They provide safe and comfortable transportation between Michigan and Wisconsin. At this time they are the job providers for many individuals in these towns. They are big enough to sail in almost any weather, in contrast to a smaller carferry sailing between Muskegon, MI., and Milwaukee, WI. It is cost effective in saving the cost of fuel and wear and tear on my car, not to mention saving me from the traffic and congestion of the traffic around Chicago, IL. The railroad/carferry system is an integral part of the history of Great Lakes transportation. I strongly urge you to permit the SS Badger two years to develop a means to stop dumping ash into the Lake so that the carferry system can continue operation for years to come.

Sincerely, Jonathan Rogers

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**From:** Luchsingers  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/18/2013 4:32:11 PM  
**Subject:** D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

The people in charge of the Badger Had years to plan on converting to a different system and dragged their feet – more time is not needed as we Can Not Continue polluting the lake when there is a way out – they failed and we should park that thing until they do it right. Convert or park is the only way I see it. Stop The Pollution Now.

Richard Luchsinger (USN Retired)

[REDACTED]

Manitowoc, Wisconsin 54220

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**From:** Mary Busse  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/18/2013 4:37:11 PM  
**Subject:** D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Attention: Assistant Attorney general, Environmental and Natural Resources Division

Case name: United States v Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., dba/Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger.  
Keep the Badger going

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**From:** Marsha Numerich  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/18/2013 5:06:48 PM  
**Subject:** Reference Case Number: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division

**Case Name:** United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

Monetarily and Environmentally I can see where this consent is in the best interest of the EPA and the Badger. It is important to protect our natural resources but it is also important to allow free enterprise. The Badger is a very memorable part of my childhood as well as recent memories. It was always such a joy to travel across the big lake on a ship. I feel this is an important part of history that should be continued for generations to come. As you approach the Wisconsin shore you can almost feel the same excitement that those approaching Ellis Island must have had. It is a joy that each generation should be allowed.

Thus, I feel it is a shame that LMC must discontinue the present operation of the Badger. Having the ship run on coal is a part of that history. LMC has been very cautious about meeting the environmental guidelines set upon it until 2012 and I am certain they would continue to meet any future guidelines as well. It saddens me to see the only coal run ship forced to cease operation. The shipping industry is a major part of history and to be able to participate in a piece of it is very educational for each generation which is allowed to travel aboard the coal run ship.

My hopes are that all concerned parties stand by their part of the consent. That the Badger will be allowed to continue to travel from Michigan to Wisconsin as specified by the EPA and that following generations will be able to enjoy that travel as much as I have.

Thank You

Marsha Numerich  
[REDACTED]  
Williamsburg MI 49690

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**From:** Randy Yeo  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/18/2013 5:10:54 PM  
**Subject:** D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Assistant Attorney General, Environment and Natural Resources Division.

Dear Sir,

I am sending this e-mail in support of the approval of the Consent Decree in regards to United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and S.S. Badger, D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771.

This vessel and service is of vital importance to the people of Michigan and Wisconsin and needs to be maintained. The company wants to discontinue dumping it's coal ash in Lake Michigan (albeit over 100 years of over 500 ships doing the same has not shown any appreciable damage to the Great Lakes) but they just need time to put the technology into practice.

Please approve the Consent Decree and keep the Badger sailing.

Sincerely,

Randall R. Yeo

Dowling, MI

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**From:** Gerald Bennett  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/18/2013 5:23:21 PM  
**Subject:** d.j. ref. no 90-5-1-1-10771

To whom it may concern:

I would like to express my support for the S.S. Badger's continued operation. As a Michigan businessman who often travels to Wisconsin, if the Badger was forced to end its long and storied career this would cause my business major distress. The added cost of travel either by road or by air could not be absorbed by my service rates and added cost to my customers is not an option as my contracts are fixed.

As I travel across the lake via the Badger, I see a great deal of commerce shipping, business travel, and families traveling for vacation. Children and Seniors alike are seen smiling ear to ear as they enjoy the S.S. Badger experience. The young get to learn about a mode of transportation that is rapidly becoming extinct in the Great Lakes region. The elderly are allowed to revisit the joys of days gone by and I get to observe people having fun.

I am concerned about the environment and the health of the lake but the amount of coal ash being deposited in Lake Michigan is so minor that I find it laughable that the EPA has tried to shut the Badger down. If I am wrong and this is so big of a deal, why can't the Government find a grant or other monies to offset the cost of the ship's conversion. In recent years how much Federal money has been wasted on solar or wind companies that are now out of business? In short, smart people should be able to find a way to solve this issue to all stakeholders' satisfaction.

Thank you for allowing me to express my position.

Gerald W. Bennett

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**From:** Melanie Danforth  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/18/2013 5:33:00 PM  
**Subject:** D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division:

I am emailing you in regards to United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger.

I've lived my entire life (minus college) here in Manitowoc, WI. The SS Badger is an integral and historical part of our community's heritage. We love using the service to travel to visit friends and family in Michigan. This is an important part of our community, and we are happy to see the service and business continue!

~Melanie Danforth



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**From:** Julie Hartlaub  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/18/2013 5:46:50 PM  
**Subject:** D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division;  
RE: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

I want to support the consent decree to keep the SS Badger Carferry sailing on Lake Michigan. It has a huge economical impact to the two port cities it serves, and is an icon of our two cities.  
Please keep it sailing!

Thank you,

Julie Hartlaub  
[REDACTED]

Manitowoc, WI 54220  
[REDACTED]

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**From:** Anita BROOKSHIER  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/18/2013 6:12:14 PM  
**Subject:** D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

To: Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division

Re: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

As a resident of Manitowoc Wi., I also Support the Proposed Consent Agreement between the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and Lake Michigan Carferry Services/SS Badger.

Please keep the S.S. Badger sailing. It is part of our city and very important to the economies of its home ports in Michigan and Wisconsin, and to nearby communities up and down the coastline.

Thank you  
Juanita Brookshier

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/18/2013 6:22:51 PM  
**Subject:** SS Badger

I regards to Case Number D. J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771, I feel every effort should be made to keep the SS Badger operating. It provides more economical transportation than some of its competitors. This transportation is vital to many businesses operating in the area. It also promotes tourism in the area which is very impo

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**From:** [REDACTED]@gmail.com  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/18/2013 6:27:11 PM  
**Subject:** carferry

I take the ss.bager every year to visit reletives in wisconsin i hope your service wil contine  
and the isse of coal im not sure

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Sent from my Virgin Mobile.

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**From:** P. Michael & Kathryn May  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/18/2013 7:52:12 PM  
**Subject:** D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Re: Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger:

This is to request you allow the SS Badger to continue serving the transportation needs of our citizens. Not only does the SS Badger transport vehicles and persons, it is an example of living history for the current generation and hopefully others that will follow. Coal fired steamships are part of the foundation of our country. The continuation of the Badger allows that heritage to be witnessed in person.

Please, save the SS Badger.

Phillip M.May

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**From:** Susan Younk  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/18/2013 8:51:37 PM  
**Subject:** D.J. Ref No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Case Name: Untied States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

4-18-13

Dear Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division,

I'm writing today to strongly support the recent decision regarding the EPA and the Lake Michigan Carferry (SS Badger). Over the years I've crossed Lake Michigan over 300 times on the SS Badger and her predecessor ships. As I, and thousands of others who cross the Lake each year marvel at it's historical significance, we also appreciate the vital service it provides. LMC is a great corporate citizen, creating and supporting 100's of jobs on both sides of the lake.

All too often government agencies hinder rather than help private business.

Please HELP the SS Badger so my grandchildren and their children can enjoy the Badger as I have.

Thank You,

Thomas Younk

[REDACTED]  
West Allis, WI 53227  
[REDACTED]

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**From:** James Colville  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/18/2013 10:09:54 PM  
**Subject:** Case 90-5-1-1-10771

I would like to express my support for continuing the service of the Lake Michigan car ferry, SS Badger. It is a piece of American history that is still functioning, and providing its patrons with excellent, comfortable transportation. I find it ludicrous to think that the EPA thinks that it is protecting us from some environmental catastrophe by attempting to shut down this icon, while China opens a new coal-fired power plant, producing hundreds of times the pollution of the SS Badger, on a weekly basis.

Sent from my iPhone

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**From:** Niel Petersen  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**CC:** info@ssbadger.com  
**Sent:** 4/18/2013 11:02:18 PM  
**Subject:** Ref D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

To whom it may concern:

The propulsion system in the USS Badger is so technically unique that its continued operation should be preserved on this basis alone. I personally feel the coal ash discharge was so comparatively distributed that it was of little environmental consequence, but since the Badger has agreed to even minimize that discharge, the cooperation of the EPA should be obvious to preserve this part of our technical heritage.

We rode on the USS Badger in the Fall of 2011. As a retired mechanical engineer I was very impressed at the smooth and effortless operation of this 60 year old ferry and the quality of our experience. It would be a technical travesty to further restrict their operation.

(However, I was disappointed that for security reasons engine room visits were not allowed on the Badger. Maybe they should be required to have a an on-board video display of the engine room!).

Niel Petersen  
[REDACTED]  
Minnetonka MN 55305



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**From:** Allisha Jordi  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/18/2013 11:04:54 PM  
**Subject:** Reference Case Number: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Dear Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division,

Case Name: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

I understand that the case of the U.S.S Badger is still being talked about. Although I understand the thought process on the decisions I have to respectfully disagree, I feel the Badger should stay alive and moving. Not so much as it is used for transport but more so because it is an icon to the city. I moved here three years ago and just saw the ship for the first time last summer, it caught my eye and just by laying my eyes upon this piece of machinery I have fallen in love with it just as many other citizens have. It would be a shame to lose such a wonderful piece of our city.

Thank you

Sincerely,

Allisha (Concerned Citizen)

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/19/2013 9:22:46 AM  
**Subject:** SS BADGER

I would like to express my feeling on the SS Badger ... I have been traveling on the Badger for the past 30 years. It is a part of the lake Michigan History and has serviced many people over the years, should be continue..

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/19/2013 9:36:55 AM  
**Subject:** The Badger

To Whom It May Concern,

Myself and my family strongly support the consent decree regarding the SS Badger.

The continued operation of the Badger and LMC are a critical piece of the West Michigan economy, tourism and are used by many of us as an extension of a U.S. highway for transportation.

Not only is the Badger a boon to the tourist economy, but it likely reduces pollution by offering an alternative to thousands of cars travelling hundreds of thousands (maybe millions) of miles by conventional roads.

Sincerely, William Howard

[REDACTED]  
Ravenna, Michigan 49451

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**From:** John Anderson  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/19/2013 11:34:09 AM  
**Subject:** Michigan Ferry"D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771"

We are regular customers of the Michigan car/passenger ferry and feel that it is a unique and very valuable asset to us and the public at large. We would strongly urge approval of the consent agreement.

Thanks for your consideration,

John and Mary Anderson  
Minnetonka, MN

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*Visit our website:*

<http://johnandmarysmusic.com/>

*Freely Download John and Mary Music:*

<http://www.box.net/shared/1mjklzkr7>

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**From:** Robert B  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/19/2013 12:17:23 PM  
**Subject:** Badger

I want the U.S.S.Badger to continue operation, and I can't believe that alternate routing of traffic wouldn't be more harmful.

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**From:** Gallagher, Scott R - gallagsr  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/19/2013 12:45:18 PM  
**Subject:** D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Dear Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division,

I hope this finds you well.

My name is Scott Gallagher and I am writing to offer public comment in support of the Consent Decree signed between the Lake Michigan Carferry company (LMC) and the EPA regarding ash discharge.

The coal ash that is discharged has been going on for decades by a lot more ships than just the Badger and we see that Lake Michigan has done just fine. Given that LMC has agreed to end this practice, a two year adjustment period seems sensible. It would have taken at least that long had additional litigation been necessary. This seems like a reasonable and prudent course and I think LMC is to be applauded.

Thank you for your consideration.

Best wishes,  
--Scott Gallagher

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**From:** Cayer, Linda J  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/19/2013 12:50:02 PM  
**Subject:** D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Respectfully,

I think the Consent Decree agreement with the Department of Justice and EPA that will require the SS Badger to end the ash discharge within two years should be approved.

This will allow the SS Badger to continue on its path to ending the discharge of coal ash while still serving the public and local communities.

Linda Cayer

  
Madison WI 53718

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**From:** Steve Klemm  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/19/2013 2:27:12 PM  
**Subject:** SS Badger

To whom it may concern,

I have been indirectly involved with the Ludington Carferry fleet since the old C&O Railroad days in the 70's. I worked on the Badger and City of Midland for several summers and was able to pay my way through college with the money I earned on that job.

It was very sad to see the C&O shut down its Ludington operations, and many families suffered greatly under the economic hardship that followed the loss of over 500 solid jobs in a poor community. I understood the financial return simply was no longer there for the rail business... though that position may need to be reviewed given higher trucking pricing again, but that did little to ease the pain we all felt.

Nostalgia factor aside, and there are too many to mention here, the positive impact the Badger has on Ludington, Manitowoc and the surrounding communities is enormous and must be taken in to consideration. I remember when there were 6-7 boats running constantly from the Ludington harbor, each belching thick black smoke in the air and dumping bilge and waste water on each run. That was obviously not a desirable situation, but the lake was still pristine despite that constant onslaught of carbon wastes.

We are now down to only one carferry and the smoke stack burns much cleaner than the "old days" and they restrict their ash dump to only once shot when they are cleared far from shore. This discharge is not even a pimple in the pollution ladder and nobody has been able to show that this source of discharge has had any negative impact on the environment whatsoever.

I am also a strict environmentalist, and a Chemical Engineer who deals with waste mitigation and discharge issues on a regular basis, so I don't take any pollution issue lightly. But when the economic and actual environmental impact facts align, as in this case, they need to trump the political environmental pressures and make a clear decision based on facts.

The SS Badger MUST be allowed to continue its operations, preferably under current operating conditions. It is OK to require that they make continuous improvements to reduce their air and water discharges, but giving them an all or nothing ultimatum is poor governance and will have a cruel impact on the community.

Steve Klemm  
Ex Merchant Marine- SS City of Midland, 1979



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**From:** Tucker Michelle  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD); Tucker Michelle  
**Sent:** 4/19/2013 2:41:37 PM  
**Subject:** Reference case number: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771  
**Attachments:** Scan 2.jpeg

Dear Sir:

On April 14, 2012 my essay on the SS Badger appeared in our local newspaper the Ludington Daily News. I have scanned & attached the essay to my letter here. It is a little hard to read but basically it states That the EPA has no real reason for shutting down the S.S Badger. The Badger is dumping coal ash which is basically sand and does not cause environmental problems. A few years ago there were hundreds of coal burning steam ships on the Great Lakes. Which of course was perfectly fine but now that there is only one left it is a big problem.

As the last coal burning steam ship on the Great Lakes the S.S. Badger is a historical monument and therefor should be allowed to continue functioning so that other people can see what life was like back then.

Sincerely,

Joseph Tucker



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**From:** Gary Miserlian  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/19/2013 2:54:00 PM  
**Subject:** Please allow the Badger to continue running

The amount of Fuel and highway impact for drivers to drive around Lake Michigan really has to have a negative environmental footprint. Please allow the Badger to continue running.

Thanks,

Gary Miserlian

████████████████████  
Manistee, MI. 49660

Capt. Gary Miserlian  
Decoy & Westwind Fishing Charters  
231 889 3644 MI      941 697 1362 FL      941 662 0561 Cell  
[www.westwindfishingcharters.com](http://www.westwindfishingcharters.com)  
[www.decoycharters.com](http://www.decoycharters.com)

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**From:** Paul and Diana Johnson  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/19/2013 3:09:49 PM  
**Subject:** D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

**Case Name: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger**

**Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division**

**Dear Sir/Madam:**

**I am writing to ask for your support of signing the consent agreement so that the S.S. Badger may continue to operate. The Badger is a truly unique institution in that it provides a glimpse into the history of maritime commerce on Lake Michigan, provides a valuable service still to commerce and to non-commercial passengers desiring to cross the lake, and is also a highly enjoyable vacation/recreation activity.**

**Thank you for your consideration.**

**Sincerely,**

**Diana Johnson**

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**From:** Charles Dickson  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/19/2013 3:16:46 PM  
**Subject:** Reference Case Number: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

I am hoping that the Consent Decree agreement between the SS Badger, the Department of Justice and the EPA requiring the Badger to end the ash discharge within two years, will be approved. Realizing that our endangered environment must be protected, the SS Badger provides a uniquely valuable service to our state and is a great asset that deserves preservation as alternative propulsion methods are being developed.

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/19/2013 4:00:28 PM  
**Subject:** Case No. D.J. Ref. No. 90-6-1-1-10771

Our family approves of the consent decree captioned above.

although we have no direct contact with anyone on the carferry, we have taken trips and find it very enjoyable.

even more important - the folks need those jobs and as we know jobs are hard to find these days. we hope they can be saved. thanks

W. R. O'Dea & family

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/19/2013 6:26:59 PM  
**Subject:** Reference Case Number: D. J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

**Case Name:**

United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

To whom it may concern,  
When I was a small child my parents took us on the SS Badger, it was a memory I will cherish. I have taken my own children on that same trip for something that I hope gives them an adventure to cherish as well. It's a whole day trip that offers quite a few things to do while on board. It's reasonably priced for families with a limited budget. We will be doing it again this year and I would hope this can be a tradition.  
thank you sincerely Robin Waidner and family

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**From:** Robert Wilson  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/19/2013 7:01:28 PM  
**Subject:** D.J.Ref.No.90-51-1-10771

Assistant Attorney General, Environment and Natural Resources Division

RE: D.J.Ref.No.90-51-1-10771

United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc. , d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

04/19/2013

Dear Assistant Attorney General, Environment and Natural Resources Division

I live in Fountain MI. 49410 located in Mason County. Ludington is the County seat and home to the SS Badger. The Badger is the last of the coal fired steam ships on Lake Michigan. The Badger provides a great service to the traveling public and trucking firms in need of traveling between Michigan and Wisconsin. I understand the Badger pollutes Lake Michigan to some degree.

I believe the Badger also prevents mega amounts of air pollution from the cars and trucks it transports that would other wise travel hundreds of miles by road to get to destinations in Michigan and Wisconsin if not for the Badger. The service also saves untold amounts of fuel the vehicles it transports would other wise burn to get to the other side of the lake.

The Badger may also save untold lives and injuries from possible vehicle crashes that could occur if the miles driven were not reduced by riding the Badger.

The people that live in the ports the Badger sails between need the jobs and the businesses need the people that sail on the Badger to help support them.

The agreement between you and the Badger owners to insure it stays in business as long as it ends its pollution in the time allotted in the agreement is best for the Business, it's employees, customers and businesses that count it for their lively hood.

Thank you

Robert Alan Wilson

[REDACTED]  
Fountain, MI. 49410  
[REDACTED]



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**From:** Laura Lyons  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/19/2013 7:27:41 PM  
**Subject:** D.J. Ref No 90-5-1-1-10771, US v. Lk Mich Trans-Lake Shortcut Inc.

RE: US V. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., D.J. Ref No 90-5-1-1-10771

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing in favor of the consent decree drawn up between the EPA and Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc.

There are plenty of far bigger environmental threats to address on our lake than this lovely little ferryboat. Coal-fired electric plants, sewage discharge, and Asian Carp threats, for instance, are much more damaging than a relatively small ferry that runs only 4-5 months/year, twice a day, and discharges only about one-seventh of an ounce of mercury per year.

Not to mention all the pollution and congestion the Badger saves by ferrying semi trucks, including those that bring wind turbines to develop wind power, across the lake instead of burning all that gasoline sitting in traffic jams on the nasty freeway corridor between Chicago and Gary Indiana.

And most importantly, the Badger is dealing with its pollutants: thanks to this decree, the EPA is giving the Badger two years to reduce and ultimately stop discharging its coal ash into the lake. This seems like a very fair, reasonable solution that honors the dubiously motivated outcry against the Badger, as well as giving a small company that ferries between two small, economically struggling towns that rely on it for much of its tourist attraction and income, the time it needs to make the changes required.

Thank you for this opportunity to express my support for this decree.

Sincerely,  
Laura Lyons

[REDACTED]  
Ludington MI 49431  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]


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**From:** jim and joan gould  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/19/2013 8:59:23 PM  
**Subject:** Ref.case # D.J. Ref. No 90-5-1-1-10771

My family and I have been using the Car Ferry for 30 years. We find it a great way to travel to Michigan, without traveling around, thru Chicago. We will continue to use the Car Ferry.

Naturaly we use a lot less gas. -

Since I'm writting to you ,what is the EPA doing about the millions of gallon af raw sewage the City of Milwaukee is dunping into Lake Michigan. It seem this sewage is far more detrimental to the lake than a little coal ash. jim Gould

  
Sheboygan wis.

---

**From:** Mary Lee Orr  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/19/2013 9:45:30 PM  
**Subject:** Coal Ash pollution/The Badger

i am writing in regards to U.S> Lake Michigan Trans Lake Shortcut, Inc, Department of Justice Ref. no.90-5-1-1-1077. No more extensions should be granted to this gross polluter whose ferry, the Badger, dumps tons of coal ash into our precious lake on EVERY TRIP it makes from Ludington to Manatowoc (one way).

Allowing this travesty is toxic to the lake and all life forms that depend on it. Please, no more extensions!!!  
Mary Lee

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**From:** Sharilyn Rotta  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/19/2013 10:12:25 PM  
**Subject:** UNITED STATES v LAKE MICHIGAN TRANS LAKE CARFERRIES

# US v LAKE MICHIGAN TRANS LAKE CARFERRIES

Inbox x



Sharilyn Rotta <[REDACTED]> 7:49 PM (2 hours ago)

to pubcomment-ees.

United States v. Lake Michigan Trans Lake Shortcut., inc. D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

In regards to the Carferries..I do not believe the amount of ash they discharge is doing any harm to our lakes or our population. Please consider letting Lake Michigan Carferry the time to come to a solution to dispose of this ash.

You know at one time there were 7 carferries running, we had the best fishing ever in Lake Michigan, my husband comes from a family of 8 children and myself from a family of 6 children..He worked on the carferries for 41 years,as did my father and my father in law....My father in law was a captain, my husband is 83 I am 75, and all but 3 of our siblings are living. The ash never harmed either our lakes or our health..

Does it not make you wonder why all of a sudden someone is on an all out campaign to destroy a business and community since the Ferry between Milwaukee and Muskegon came into being?

The carferries made it possible for our community to allow our youth to have a good place of employment while going to college to become Dr.s Lawyers.accountant, etc...It provided a way of living for many families, we are so proud to be able to say we are a Carferry family..and firmly do not believe they are doing anything to harm our environment.

..

I firmly believe that Senator Dick Durbin of Illinois is doing all he can to stop the carferry from running because of a personal interest in the Lake Express operating out of Muskegon, Michigan. Also I believe he is keeping things stirred up to shift the eyes of the EPA away from all the problems arising from all the sewage and dumping from all the factories and sewage plants there..we are always cleaning up masses amounts of hypodermic needles and garbage from our shoreline after a storm bringing all their garbage to us because their storm and sanitary sewers are combined and constantly overflowing into our Great Lakes.

..

..And then there is the Asian Carp that is a very serious threat to our Great Lakes.that they are balking about doing anything to control them from entering our Great Lakes..Senator Durbin does not want to upset his communities so they are not doing anything and by keeping the Lake Michigan Ash disposal in the limelight they can continue to destroy Lake Michigan. I am sure if the EPA took the time to go around the lake and check all the stuff that is being put into our lake from the factories , especially from Chicago they would be shocked at the amount of damage they are doing to Lake Michigan..

Please, we need your help to preserve the jobs of over 200 employees and our community..

Thank you for allowing me to voice my opinion..I could go on for pages on the benefits of the carferry v damage it is said they do..



Sharilyn Rotta

[REDACTED]  
Ludington, Michigan 49431

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**From:** Stephen Harris  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/20/2013 12:08:45 AM  
**Subject:** D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

*April 18, 2013*

*Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division*

*Case Name: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger*

The Badger has been sailing on Lake Michigan for over 50 years now and is the only coal powered, steam driven ship on the Great Lakes. It should be allowed to continue sailing for another 50 years for the sake of history. Many tourist look forward to enjoying the experience on the Badger each year. I encourage you to sign the consent decree.

*Maynard Harris*

*Adrian, Michigan*

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**From:** Phil Cuchetti  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/20/2013 8:36:34 AM  
**Subject:** Reference Case Number: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

**Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division**

**Case Name: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger**

I think the Consent Decree should be approved .  
What you are doing to this iconic ship is disgusting !  
The history, the public good, and the harshness you are presenting is horrible !  
Leave the Badger alone, LEAVE THE BADGER ALONE !  
They have been operating this boat for decades and now you see fit to end it's service because of a ridiculous environmental rule !  
LEAVE THE BADGER ALONE AND LET THEM OPERATE IN PEACE !  
In fact you ought to be subsidizing this company to STAY in business not wreck it.  
Ludington needs the jobs as does Manitowok.

Phillip Cuchetti  
Interlochen, Mi.

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**From:** ken ver beek  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/20/2013 10:22:53 AM  
**Subject:** s.s.badgerd.

<META HTTP-EQUIV="Content-Type" CONTENT="text/html; charset=us-ascii">  
d.j.ref.no.90-5-1-1-10771 would like to see the s.s.badger continue service to wisconsin



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**From:** Jewell Snyder  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/20/2013 10:47:19 AM  
**Subject:** Badger-EPA Consent Decree

Gentlemen:

As a resident of Ludington, Michigan I write **in support of** the consent decree between the Lake Michigan Car Ferry and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

The Lake Michigan Car Ferry is an integral part of our communities' network. From hiring young adults (high school and college age) to helping support a fragile West Michigan tourist economy, the Lake Michigan Car Ferry is an important chapter of our heritage and page of our daily existence.

*Regards,  
Jewell W. Snyder*

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**From:** Laura Ward  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/20/2013 11:25:04 AM  
**Subject:** D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Dear Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division:

I am writing in regards to the case of the United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger and my support of the proposed consent decree between the EPA and the Lake Michigan Carferry (LMC) which operates the SS Badger.

I believe that the agreement is in the best interest of the EPA, LMC and the citizens and visitors and Michigan, Wisconsin and the surrounding Midwest states. The reduction and future elimination of coal ash discharge will also benefit our beautiful Lake Michigan.

I believe the proposed consent decree serves as a positive step in the process of creating a long-term solution which will allow the wonderful and historical SS Badger to continue to grace the waters of Lake Michigan and provide a service to citizens and visitors alike.

Thank you for your consideration,

Laura Ward

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**From:** John and Muriel Palko  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/20/2013 11:37:31 AM  
**Subject:** United States v. Lake Michigan Shortcut, Inc., D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

I am a resident of Ludington, MI and have been for nearly 25 years. I am writing in support of the implementation of the above noted consent decree. As a long-time resident, I am very familiar with the positive impact by the Badger on the economies of the Ludington area, and surrounding counties. The immediate shutdown of the carferry service would raise Mason County's, and surrounding counties', already high unemployment rates. I can only think that an identical situation would occur in the Maitowoc, WI and surrounding areas.

I find it ironic that Sen, Dick Durbin of Illinois, who has no political capital in Michigan or Wisconsin, chooses to go on a rampage against a small company, whose dumping of thousand of pounds of coal ash per day (when the ferry is running), is dwarfed by the effluents in the millions of gallons per hour pumped into the Chicago River, and then directly into Lake Michigan. Of course, Durbin conveniently ignores this latter fact, seeing as how he has to protect the votes and, especially, money from the powers that be in the Chicago area to keep him ensconced in office. Of course, this has nothing to do with the outrage he obviously personally feels at the comparatively innocuous discharge the SS Badger actually produces six months out of the year as the only coal-fired ship operating in the vast expanse of Lake Michigan.

As far as the Sierra Club is concerned, I support their actions in protecting the environment, but I suppose the carferry is an easy, small target. They would better focus their attention on all of the larger cities on and near the Lake Michigan shoreline (Chicago, Milwaukee, Grand Rapids, Holland, Muskegon and many others) which wind up dumping human waste into rivers that feed into that lake whenever it rains fairly hard (which, given global warming, happens more and more often around all of the Great Lakes).

So, in closing, I urge the EPA to finalize the consent decree against Lake Michigan Carferry service, and give them two more years to clean up their act. If they haven't at the end of that time, then they should be shut down, since they will have had more than enough time to do so, considering the extensions they have already had.

John M. Palko

██████████  
Ludington, MI 49431  
██████████

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**From:** Martin David  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/20/2013 11:41:16 AM  
**Subject:** Re: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

**I support the consent decree**

Perspective on this action is vital. Pollution from the S.S. Badger will sink to the bottom of L. Michigan where it will be covered by particulates (dust, outwash from rivers, and stray wastes from other marine traffic). The impact on Lake Michigan is minuscule in comparison to emissions permitted from coal-fired generating stations in states contiguous to Lake Michigan, Iowa, Minnesota, and Ohio. Those emissions all impact L. Michigan. We need stronger controls on a faster schedule, over that broad geography.

EPA charge for change in S.S. Badger operations will cause bankruptcy. Termination of the S.S. Badger will increase emissions from automobiles and trucks that are diverted away from this 40-mile route. (The alternative is increased traffic both north and south that will increase traffic congestion in the Chicago airshed. Air quality will decline in the months that are most likely to exceed air quality standards. Damage to the quality of water in L. Michigan from that increase in traffic will surely exceed any water quality damage from the operation of the S.S. Badger.

The S.S. Badger represents a small piece of the history of shipping on L. Michigan. It is a unique vehicle to reveal how rail, automobile, and passenger traffic crossed the Lake during the last century. The S.S. Badger should be protected as a Landmark Historic site, not persecuted into bankruptcy.

Martin H. David

Martin David

[REDACTED]  
Oberlin, OH 44074

[REDACTED]

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**From:** Tom Smies  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**CC:** info@ssbadger.com  
**Sent:** 4/20/2013 12:22:26 PM  
**Subject:** D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

To: Assistant Attorney General,  
Environmental and Natural Resources Division

Case Name: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake  
Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

We are writing in support of the Consent Decree between the DOJ/EPA and the Lake Michigan Carferry Service.


We live in Wisconsin and use the car ferry about twice a year to go and visit relatives in Grand Rapids Michigan.

It is a relaxing and safer alternative to travel by car through Chicago.

Please approve the consent decree.

Thank you.

Tom and Janet Smies

  
Green Bay, WI 54311

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**From:** Kenneth Kalmon  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/20/2013 1:48:56 PM  
**Subject:** Reference Case Number: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

**Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division**

**Case Name: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger**

**I am writing to support the Michigan Car Ferry. This would be a substantial loss to my family and all WI Residents if the Michigan Car Ferry were not allowed to operate. We have used the SS Badger for transportation to Michigan and feel this service needs to continue.**

**Thank you.  
Dorothy Kalmon  
[REDACTED]  
Hatley, WI 54440**

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**From:** Julie Jursinic  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/20/2013 2:21:31 PM  
**Subject:** D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771 support

To the Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division,

I want to urge you to approve the consent decree in the case: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger. We have been sailing on the Badger for many years and greatly enjoy this unique experience. Beyond our enjoyment, it provides a tremendous asset to our state and community in tourism and providing many jobs. It is an historic asset and should be given this time to find a solution and keep sailing.

Sincerely,  
Julia Jursinic

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**From:** AnneMarie Pomeroy  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/20/2013 2:28:05 PM  
**Subject:** Reference Case Number: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

To the Assistant Attorney General, Environment and Natural Resources Division,

As someone who was born in Ludington, Michigan and has returned back to Ludington after nine years, I strongly urge you to approve the consent decree for the S.S. Badger. Like many small town communities in Michigan, we have seen the closing of factories and the loss of many jobs. If Ludington loses the S.S. Badger, we risk a serious blow to our tourism industry as well. I have wonderful memories of riding the carferry when I was a child and have been looking forward to taking my own children on the S.S. Badger. Please consider the future of Ludington, when you make your decision and approve the consent decree for the S.S. Badger.

AnneMarie Pomeroy



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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/20/2013 2:58:24 PM  
**Subject:** Reference Case Number: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division

Case Name: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

Dear Assistant Attorney General,

I would like to express my support that the Consent Decree agreement with the Department of Justice and EPA requiring the SS Badger to end the ash discharge within two years and still operate during that period be approved. Our family, including an elderly mother unable to drive long distances, uses the SS Badger frequently (when it is operating) to travel between Wisconsin and Michigan to visit family members. It is a very reliable and safe travel option for us. We hope the agencies work diligently to find a workable solution to preserve this alternative transportation method and allow the Badger to work on changes to keep pollution to a minimum. This historic transportation system also brings much needed economic support to both states and we cannot afford to lose it!

Sincerely,

Barb Schriener-Schmitt  
Sturgeon Bay, Wi

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**From:** Chip Beyer  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**CC:** McAvoy.Ashley@epa.gov  
**Sent:** 4/20/2013 3:30:30 PM  
**Subject:** United States vs Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc

In reference to: **United States vs Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc (D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771)**  
April 20, 2013

Dear Dept. of Justice,

This is a letter to please allow our Lake Michigan Car Ferry in Ludington Michigan to continue to work toward eliminating the removal of their coal ash into Lake Michigan. LMC has been very cooperative in trying to come to a resolution in this matter. The car ferry has been a huge economical boost to the ports of Ludington MI and Manitowoc WI. They have hauled dozens of wind turbine parts across the lake that are built in Manitowoc and several other oversized loads, alleviating truck traffic on our freeways around the lake. This year the startup date for LMC has been moved up for this very reason. Visit their site at: <http://www.ssbadger.com>


There were dozens of coal fired car ferries operating throughout the Great Lakes in the early 1900's, all removing their coal ash using this same method. This coal ash was deemed to be no threat to the environment, and still is well within the terms set forth by the EPA. I just finished a HAZMAT training class for my work through JJ Keller & Associates. Nowhere in the Regulations Chart is coal ash mentioned as a hazardous substance for over the road or overseas. I have been doing intense research in this coal ash problem and have determined that is the direct result of Mr. Sheldon Lubar, owner of Lake Express car ferry in Muskegon, and his friend and lobbyist US Senator Dick Durbin of Illinois. These 2 have slung mud at the LMC just to try to eliminate Lake Expresses competition to the north who has been on Lake Michigan for 60 years. Mr Lubar had secured 25 million in federal dollars to start his car ferry operation in 2004, on the other hand LMC had operated without any.

Senator Durbin's state of Illinois has 4% (63 of 1660 miles) of the total Lake Michigan coastline yet has dumped WAY more of its share of pollutants into the atmosphere and Lake Michigan. From Illinois easing emissions limits for Ameren Festus and Jefferson County coal fired power plants to "Bubbly Creek" and the filthy Chicago River. Even today, when rainstorms fill sewers to capacity, a noxious mix of human waste, industrial pollution and runoff pours out of overflow pipes into the river. During the biggest rains, locks and gates are opened, the river resumes its original course and gunk flows into Lake Michigan. Lake Michigan is being polluted as I write this from all around the lake because of the heavy rains we recently received and the failed separation of storm and sanitary sewers. This to me is far worse than LMC's coal ash. With the prevailing SW wind those pollutants come right out over Lake Michigan, mostly from Chicago and Milwaukee and into Mason and surrounding counties on Michigan's west coast.

In closing please allow the consent decree, United States vs Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc (D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771) to be allowed to be adopted and please put pressure on municipalities around the Great Lakes who have failed to separate their storm and sanitary sewers to do so.

Thank you very much,

Edward Beyer

  
Ludington, MI 49431

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**From:** Donna Dawson  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/20/2013 4:41:01 PM  
**Subject:** disruption of the SS Badger service

Please do not disrupt the ferry service. I understand that emissions from coal are an environmental concern. I also know that adjustments will be made to decrease these emissions.

The ferry is used by so many people to cross lake michigan. It saves our time, gas consumption and our vehicle emissions into the environment. Please allow the service to continue. It offers a great mode of transportation, enjoyment, and allows a wonderful chance to enjoy our great lakes.

Donna Dawson, MSN, BSN, RN

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/20/2013 5:42:54 PM  
**Subject:** Reference Case Number: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771, RE: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc....

**Reference Case Number:**  
**D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771**

**To: Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division**

**Case: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc.,  
d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger**

In reference to the above Case, I would like to submit this letter IN SUPPORT of the Consent Decree, as its benefits far outweigh any reasons not to approve the subject agreement.

From an environmental perspective, the emissions the semi-trucks, many carrying oversize loads, would emit by taking the much longer all-highway route around the metro Chicago area, versus the continued ability to use the SS Badger, along with the thousands of vehicles which also use this conveyance -- and of course, all of these vehicle engines are turned OFF during the Badger trips -- far outweigh the short-term ash emissions which the approval of this Consent Decree would allow.

And the added congestion and fuel use not only of the oversize-load trucks, but from slowed traffic they and their mandatory escort vehicles, including any State and Local Police escorts, cause in the already congested Chicagoland area highways and roads, also should add merit to your decision to approve the subject agreement, as the SS Badger in fact constitutes a strategic route and energy-saving bypass, for multiple trucks and other motor vehicles. Thus, it helps more than hurts the environment in its seasonal operation.

Kind Thanks for your review of this letter of support, and we look forward to your approval of the subject agreement and future trips across Lake Michigan on the SS Badger.

Respectfully,

Mark R Demaline

[REDACTED]  
Westlake OH 44145-3823

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**From:** Ken Eakman  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/20/2013 6:14:46 PM  
**Subject:** Badger burning coal

[http://www.durbin.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/hot-topics?ContentRecord\\_id=8d0ff425-9315-436a-a8c7-506ef364a332](http://www.durbin.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/hot-topics?ContentRecord_id=8d0ff425-9315-436a-a8c7-506ef364a332)

If it is illegal for them (SS Badger) to burn coal then shut them down. If it isn't then get off their asses.

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**From:** B Wade  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/20/2013 7:47:29 PM  
**Subject:** SS Badger

I am writing to oppose the continued operation of the coal powered SS. Badger on Lake Michigan. The owners of this business have played games with this permit by operating for 5 years under the premise of converting their coal powered vessel to natural gas. It appears they have not made an authentic effort to do that, rather they were hoping for a Mitt Romney presidential win.

The time for coal powered/ coal waste discharging vessels on the Great Lakes has long passed. Reject the SS. Badger application.

B. P Wade  
Pontiac, MI

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**From:** Rhonda Rideout  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/20/2013 8:03:53 PM  
**Subject:** RE: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

To: Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division

**Case Name:** United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

Just a comment in favor of the agreement between the US DOJ, ENRD and Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc. Their service is a valuable tourism tool for both Wisconsin and Michigan and I believe they will take the steps necessary to make a cleaner Lake Michigan.

Thank you for your time,

Rhonda Rideout  
Madison, Wisconsin

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**From:** Fred & Jan Stone  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/20/2013 8:16:27 PM  
**Subject:** D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

The Lake Michigan Carferry, Badger, has brought a lot of business to our city of Manitowoc, WI. The loss of that money to our local economy would be deeply felt.

It is important to keep this mode of transportation going. We've taken the carferry in the past and it is a pleasant trip, which cuts off a lot of time instead of travelling around the lake to get to Michigan.

Please consider this when looking into the future of the Badger carferry.

Sincerely,  
Janet Stone



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**From:** Karen Klukowski  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/20/2013 8:26:54 PM  
**Subject:** D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

April 20, 2013

Assistant Attorney General

U S D O J – ENRD

P. O. Box 7611

Washington D. C. 20044

Dear Sirs,

I am writing this in support of the continued operation of the S. S. Badger. Please reference case number 90-5-1-1-10771 in the case of the United States v Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Short Cut INC. dba Lake Michigan Car Ferry Services & the S.S. Badger.

The Badger is the last remnant of a much larger cross lake system that has been in existence for over 100 years. It is the only remaining steam powered ship on the Great Lakes and has been a vital component to the tourism in the greater Ludington area.

Ludington only survives on its tourism and the Badger is an enormous part of that tourism. Not only does the Badger bring over 100,000 people through our community each summer but thousands come to watch it leave and enter our Harbor. It is the essences of Ludington!!

The two year extension requested will allow time to further study and implement a new more 'GREEN' form of power.

I personally think, however, that the historic value of the last remaining steam ship of the thousands that worked the great lakes in times past, should carry much more weight than it seems to, but that aside this community, especially in these tough times, cannot survive a blow of this magnitude to its fragile economy.

Thanks in advance for your careful consideration in this vital matter.

Respectfully,

Karen Klukowski

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**From:** J Vetting  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/20/2013 9:44:11 PM  
**Subject:** SS Badger

Hello, I just want to express my thoughts regarding the S.S. Badger (car ferry). I live just outside Manitowoc ,Wi which is destination port for the S.S. Badger, and this ship is very vital to the entire great lakes region in terms of crossing Lake Michigan for shipping purposes and leisure travel. This ship is the LAST STEAMSHIP operating on the great lakes, it is a registered historic landmark and on these two principles it should be allowed to operate without any further interruption. The small amount of coal (ash) discharged is not hurting Lake Michigan, if it really were no one in it's family of employees, loyal supporters or ownership would risk beautiful Lake Michigan, this really is a smear campaign started by it's newly created and I might add subsidised Lake Express, (Milwaukee ,Wi).

I travel this ship annually for leisure and vacation purposes and there really is nothing like it, it very relaxing and is very safe. You have no idea the nostalgia that surrounds this ship on both sides of Lake Michigan, of an era of days gone by. To watch this ship sail into the harbor(s) so quietly and so large is something awe inspiring. It also does really attract visitors from many states away and even foreign countries, as I spend a fair amount of my off time in summer near the port in Manitowoc and I talk to many of the travelers of this ship.

Anyway, I only ask that you consider the people who rely on this ship for so many reasons, and consider the impact that it carries in this great lakes region. And I might add my dog and I drive to Manitowoc every Sat noon just to watch it sail in, I just say to my dog,"let's go watch the Car Ferry".. and even he knows what that means. This ship being 60 years old has enough factors against it already without this "leagl"battle.

Thank You  
Jeremy Vetting  
Newton,Wi 53063

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/20/2013 10:14:51 PM  
**Subject:** D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

**Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division,**

I just wanted to comment on the Consent Decree between the EPA and the Lake Michigan Carferry. I fully support the Consent Decree and feel the Carferry should be allowed to continue its historical mission of transporting passengers and vehicles across Lake Michigan. It provides for many jobs on both sides of the Lake Michigan and brings thousands of tourists to the area each year. Environmentally, the Badger saves our air quality and fossil fuel usage by ferrying thousands of vehicles of all sizes over the lake rather than around through Chicago and other heavily congested areas. Obviously, I think the Consent Decree should be approved. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

John M. Gillespie

[REDACTED]  
Kohler WI 53044

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**From:** Barb  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/20/2013 10:25:05 PM  
**Subject:** D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

**Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division**

**Case Name: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger**

The SS Badger has been a tremendous service to me as a means of transportation between my home in Ludington and Mt Rushmore where I work on occasion, seasonally. Besides offering good jobs to many people the SS Badger provides photo magic to the tourists from Michigan and states far beyond while creating great memories of watching a piece of real life history in action.

Knowing how important the health of our Great Lakes are to all Americans, knowing the owners of the SS Badger want to do the right thing by us all, I hope for the sake of our community, the local property values, the many visitors to our area, the downtown businesses and the fact an alternative to the coal ash discharge will soon be a reality, I hope they are allowed to sail as is for the next two years.

Barb Bennett  
Ludington, MI

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**From:** Michael McGuire  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**CC:** shariv@ssbadger.com  
**Sent:** 4/21/2013 1:39:54 AM  
**Subject:** D. J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

To: The Assistant Attorney General, Environment and Natural Resources Division

I am writing to express my support of the agreement and Consent Decree reached regarding the continuing operation of the SS Badger on Lake Michigan. While I fail to see why the Environmental Protection Agency or the Department of Justice finds it necessary to pursue enforcement action with respect to the SS Badger, I believe that the Consent Decree (which I have read) is a reasonable way to resolve the current kerfuffle.

As you well know, the SS Badger is a historic vessel with a historically significant engineering plant. It is a national historic treasure. To be historically significant in the fullest sense, it has to be an OPERATING vessel. It has to be COAL-FIRED. Making it a "cold iron" stationary "museum ship" would, essentially, destroy its historical significance. There is no way in which the vessel can comply with the standard that the EPA - and, more significantly - Senator Durbin, the Lubar family and the Lake Express operation wish to impose on this historic vessel.

The Consent Decree is the best result possible given the circumstances.

Thank you for reaching the agreement and the resulting Decree. I regret the necessity for the Decree, but I support it fully and believe it should be implemented.

Michael McGuire, J.D.  
Attorney at Law  
112 Crestwood NW  
Grand Rapids, Michigan 49504



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**From:** Bob Blue  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/21/2013 11:55:09 AM  
**Subject:** SS Badger

Dear Sir/Madam,

It is my understanding that the SS Badger has filed a Consent Decree in an effort to get the ash discharge issue resolved.

My family and I have used the SS Badger to get from northern Wisconsin to Michigan's lower peninsula over the past 15 years.

I want to express my support for the service that the Car ferry provides to not only my family, but thousands of families each year.

I am not aware of the details regarding the ash dispersment and am certain that the matter will get resolved in time.

It would be extremely unfortunate to discontinue the service that the car ferry has been providing for so many years.

I am 53 years old and over that period of time numerous advances in how we live have been made but unfortunately making old-time traditional services extinct.

I sincerely hope that continuing the old-style car ferry remains intact and is preserved for as long as possible.

It is an experience that our children and their children should have the opportunity to experience for as long as possible.

All options should be pursued to not only help save the environment, but the Badger itself.

I sincerely hope that your department continues to work with the Badger to make this happen.

Regards,  
Dr. Robert Blue  
Appleton, WI.

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**From:** BOB X  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/21/2013 4:06:23 PM  
**Subject:** D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

**Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division**

**Case Name: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger**

**Please allow the SS Badger Carferry to continue service on Lake Michigan.**

**Thank You,  
Bob Lenhart  
Kaukauna, WI**



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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/21/2013 4:53:16 PM  
**Subject:** D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division

I strongly believe the Consent degree should be approved because the last coal fired steamship that still runs, the S.S. Badger, is not only a fun experience for anyone of all ages, but it also prevents the use of about 1,000,000 gallons of fuel being burned each season. The Badger also plays a critical role in the economy with about a \$30,000,000 economic impact a season plus provides many jobs. I have sailed with the Badger many times and agree that the Consent Degree should be approved.

Joshua M. Gillespie  
Kohler, WI  
Age: 12

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**From:** Dan Muir  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/21/2013 4:55:12 PM  
**Subject:** D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

The Badger is a valuable economic contribution to the Ludington area, as well as an icon. Stopping the ash discharge is a good idea, but continued service by the Badger is vital.

The consent decree is in the public interest, and should be approved.

Thank you,

Dan Muir

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**From:** Eugene Jankowski  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/21/2013 5:31:11 PM  
**Subject:** United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake shortcut, Inc. D>J> Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

To whom it may concern,

I live in the Ludington Michigan area and am in total support of the proposed decree between Lake Michigan Car-ferry and the EPA to allow the SS Badger to continue to operate for two years. There have been many reasons noted by various groups. I would like to add a few more.

The Badger transports many semi-trailers across Lake Michigan bringing goods such as agricultural products, large mechanical equipment such as farming equipment, even turbine blades and towers. This manner of transportation reduces the expenses of fuel usage and time involved to deliver the goods and wear and tear on their trucks..

These are all important to our state's economy.

By transporting these items across the Lake instead of driving the many miles around the lake through Chicago and Milwaukee, we are greatly reducing the amount of air pollution put into the atmosphere.

Sincerely , Judy L. Jankowski & Eugene J. Jankowski [REDACTED] Pentwater , MI.  
49449

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**From:** Patty Kozak  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/21/2013 6:56:57 PM  
**Subject:** D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

RE: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and S.S. Badger

Dear Assistant Attorney General, Environment and Natural Resources Division,

It is my firm belief that the S.S. Badger should be removed immediately from service on Lake Michigan. It is beyond comprehension that such a vessel, so harmful to the environment should be allowed to remain in service. Pull it out - dry dock it - and make it a museum. The poison it spews is an abomination, and it has been used well beyond the time it should have been.

Patricia M. Kozak  
Libertyville, Illinois

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**From:** Jennifer Parkes  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/21/2013 8:24:55 PM  
**Subject:** United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Hello,

I'd like to express my concern regarding the coal ash dumped into Lake Michigan by the SS badger. I believe much stricter regulations should be in place to keep the pollutants out of our lake to protect both our drinking water and the lake's ecosystem. Please enact stricter regulation to severely reduce and eliminate this pollutant.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Parkes  
Chicago Resident

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**From:** James Berkenstock  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/21/2013 8:41:46 PM  
**Subject:** Michigan Carferry Services

Greetings:

I have used the services of the Michigan Carferry on several occasions. I often make trips to the Toronto area from Door County, WI. The ferry saves an enormous amount of gasoline in just one automobile and about five hours of driving time. It is a great boon to the area and is a responsible alternative that is environmentally friendly (compared to all those trucks, buses, and cars going independently), and has tremendous economic, historic, and educational value. I support them in their consent decree effort and hope that it will be accepted.


James T. Berkenstock  
Ellison Bay, WI and Evanston, IL

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**From:** Tim Foster  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/21/2013 9:40:01 PM  
**Subject:** case 090-1-1-1-10771

This is to express my support for the continuing operation of the Lake Michigan Carferry Service. Since 1929 my family has been traveling to Northwest Michigan as has used the steamboat services during this time. I continue to travel on the SS Badger to my home on Crystal Lake, and I am able to see first hand the economic impact the service has on communities in both Michigan and Wisconsin.

The management of LMC is committed to the well being of the areas they provide service to as well as being environmentally responsible in doing so.

Tim Foster  


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**From:** Andy Buelow  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/21/2013 10:27:22 PM  
**Subject:** D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

TO: Assistant Attorney General, Environment and Natural Resources Division  
FR: Andrew Buelow, [REDACTED] Tacoma WA 98465  
RE: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and S.S. Badger, D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

To Whom It May Concern:

I have had a lifelong experience of crossing Lake Michigan via the network of ferries originally operated by the Ann Arbor Railroad System and CSX, Inc. Since 1992, that link has been maintained by the sole surviving vessel of the original railroad car ferry fleet, the *S.S. Badger* of 1953, which is operated as a passenger and auto ferry by Lake Michigan Carferry, Inc.

Lake Michigan Carferry is a shining example of vision and American small business acumen, and you should know something of its story before ruling on the current Consent Decree. It is a true David and Goliath story. The giant behemoth CSX, as the Chesapeake & Ohio Railroad (a.k.a. Chessie System) absorbed the operation from the Pere Marquette Railroad in 1947. Within 25 years CSX had virtually run it into the ground, and would have abandoned it in 1972 if allowed by the Interstate Commerce Commission. After extensive hearings, that body finally did permit cessation of operations in the mid-'80s. Many people thought this would be the end of the Ludington ferries – as it had been for the Ann Arbor several years earlier. But then “David” appeared in the form of Charles Conrad, a self-made millionaire from Michigan who purchased the fleet of three Chessie System vessels from a bankruptcy court in 1991. Conrad invested a great deal of his own money in bringing the *Badger* back from its demise as a railroad operation and establishing it in its new mission as a passenger and automobile ferry.

Since 1992 the little company, based in Ludington, Michigan, has operated in the black without subsidy, providing a level of service far surpassing what had been offered by its larger and wealthier predecessor. The *Badger* remains a coal-burning steamer, probably the last such vessel in operation in North America. LMC has taken exemplary care of the 60-year old vessel, and today it is in finer shape than it was 30 years ago (I know, because I rode it then). The company has done much to increase the comfort level for passengers, expand the ship's carrying capacity, and improve the operations of the power plant so that fuel use is cleaner and more efficient than ever before. And its reliability and safety record is simply superb.

Studies have shown that the coal power plants along Lake Michigan's shoreline produce more coal smoke and ash in two hours than the *Badger* does in a year. The current campaign to force the *Badger* to stop dumping coal ash is very clearly a smear campaign mounted by the Lake Express Co. of Milwaukee, the other cross-lake ferry operator on Lake Michigan, which has used such unethical tactics since day one to discredit its competitor. I own a cottage on Lake Michigan north of where the *Badger* docks, part of an association of cottage owners, and the wood smoke from our fires is probably more harmful to the environment than the *Badger*.

I am an environmentally aware and concerned citizen and I keenly follow issues relating to the water quality of Lake Michigan. This issue is a tempest in a teapot. Lake Michigan has WAY worse problems than a single surviving coal burning steamboat.

I understand that Lake Michigan Carferry has signed a Consent Decree agreement with the Department of Justice and EPA that will require the *Badger* to end the ash discharge within two years. This agreement is the product of many months of working closely with the EPA. I urge that this Consent Decree be approved to give the *Badger* more time to come up with a solution that will eliminate the ash discharge, if this is what must happen. Please don't kill this shining example of a small American business that provides such a vital public necessity in such exemplary fashion. Above all, don't cave in to the slimy, unfair lobbying practices of a competitor without honor and fairness.

Sincerely,



Andrew C. Buelow

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**From:** Karl Hoenke  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/22/2013 12:12:41 AM  
**Subject:** D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

For the record: I am a dislocated Michigander; I return yearly to visit family and participate in archaeology conferences in the UP. I always take the Lake Michigan Carferry from Ludington to Manitowoc for the restfulness and convenience. It's so much more relaxing to let someone else do some of the driving.

I find it Quixotic to focus enforcement attention on the ferry's emissions, given that stabilizing lake levels and preventing Chicago from dumping its sewage down the Mississippi are immensely more important concerns for immensely more people. Nevertheless, I applaud arrival at a solution apparently acceptable to both parties. This serves the larger issue of providing excellent and needed service to both the individual and business communities.

Karl & Katherine Hoenke

[REDACTED]  
Walnut Creek, CA 94595  
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]  
Kelseyville, CA 95451  
[REDACTED]

Karl cell [REDACTED]  
Katherine cell [REDACTED]

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**From:** Patrick Lefevre  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/22/2013 6:40:15 AM  
**Subject:** Lake Michigan Car Ferry

To whom it may concern,

The Lake Michigan Car Ferry that crosses from Ludington, MI to Manitowoc, WI has been an important "icon" in my life since almost birth. I have been traveling to Ludington over the fourth of July holiday every year of my life....since 1964. My parents took me as a baby, child, teen and early adult. Now, I take my family (spouse and three children) EVERY year to enjoy one of the most traditional, American experiences that fills all of our hearts with pride and joy. The Lake Michigan Car Ferry (The Badger) is an integral part of that experience. I wake each of my girls separately during our vacation on three separate mornings to walk with me to take pictures of that grand boat leaving Ludington and passing yet another icon of our lives, the North Breakwater Lighthouse. The pictures that I get with my daughters beautiful faces, the lighthouse and The Badger are priceless. I then take the whole family out together and get another picture of all of us when that magical moment happens when the lighthouse, Badger and our faces align. This is VERY IMPORTANT to us and I can't image us not having these memories while watching our daughters grow up year after year.

We also have takes the "cruise" from Ludington to Manitowoc, and back. The experience is wonderful. We usually just cross, and return with 48 hours. We enjoy the hospitality of the people of Wisconsin and also add some dollars to their economy. The amenities on board The Badger are in great shape for their age. The kids, and my spouse and I have a great time. The employees, which add to both the Ludington and the Manitowoc economies are very nice and make the time on board fantastic.

Please give the company that runs this important service the two year extension to figure out a way to capture the coal ash and dispose of it properly back on dry land. I know they want to keep their business running and not jeopardize the jobs of so many local people that depend on The Badger to provide for themselves and their families.

The Badger is worth saving!!

Thank you for your consideration.

Patrick Lefevre

[REDACTED]  
Holt, MI 48842

**From:** Annette Quillan  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/22/2013 11:11:52 AM  
**Subject:** Reference Case Number: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Annette Quillan, [REDACTED] Ludington MI 49431  
[REDACTED]

April 22, 2013

Assistant Attorney General  
U. S. DOJ-ENRD  
P.O. Box 7611  
Washington DC 20044-7611

Reference Case Number: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Case Name: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

To Whom It May Concern:

I am concerned why Senator Durbin, (IL), is making such a big thing about the SS Badger. It is like Senator Durbin (the pot) is calling the Kettle (the Badger) black. I am told that the turbidity is the same as years ago.

1. Much air and water pollution comes from IL and IN. They have many factories on the shores. We have known to have gotten medical waste and sewage from his great state. He did nothing about it.
2. Lake MI carferry, provides seasonal jobs for the area, on ship and in the tourist industry for West Michigan. This would be lost if the car ferry ceases to be.
3. Our carferry can run on the big Lake when our competition cannot.
4. Our carferry has been able to carry industrial parts for industry which our competition cannot.
5. Our carferry was taken out of bankruptcy by one private individual, wanting to Save our Ship, without any government support. Our competition was given insured funds by the government to start their business. (Sounds like a conspiracy.
6. What special interest, does Senator Durbin have in this, because there is no grey area or compromise with him.
7. This is the most important reason and a selfish reason. My kids come from WI on the Badger, every summer. Since there is 2 adults and 4 children. We take two cars to pick them up, one for them and one for the luggage. It would be much of an expense and time to pick them up in Muskegon. That is total about a 10 hour day and almost 500 miles. The only person, I would be supporting is big oil. On the Badger, they are able to walk around and they have entertainment. I cannot image what 4 little kids would be like, sitting continuously for 5-6 hours (2 hours to drive to Milwaukee, 2 + hours for the ride across Lake MI, and 1 hour to Ludington.
8. Think about it, Please.

Sincerely,

Annette M. Quillan

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**From:** Pat McCarthy  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/22/2013 11:25:53 AM  
**Subject:** D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

I am writing to express my support of the proposed consent decree allowing the SS Badger to continue operating while implementing a system to eliminate the ash discharge into Lake Michigan. The economic benefit the Badger provides to the small port communities of Ludington and Manitowoc is significant and substantial, and combined with the heritage of the ship and it's long history it's logical to allow the owners an opportunity to change the operation. Please approve the consent decree and keep the Badger's benefit available to the world.

Patrick McCarthy  
Ludington, Michigan

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**From:** Hanna Kelley  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/22/2013 11:27:35 AM  
**Subject:** S.S. Badger, Ludington MI - D.J. Ref.No. 90-5-1-1-10771

The Assistant Attorney General,

Environment and Natural Resources Division

D.J. Ref.No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Case name:

United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, inc. d/b/a Lake Michigan Car Ferry Services and SS Badger

Respected Sir/ Madam:

Please allow me to express my support for the consent decree IN FAVOR OF SAVING THE S.S. BADGER, our historic Lake Michigan car ferry.

I think it is of utmost importance for the environment and our natural resources, and in the public interest, not only to save the jobs directly and indirectly connected with the S.S. Badger and this local economy, but also to allow as many U.S. citizens as possible to experience this particular Great Lakes tradition in Ludington. It can remain economically viable in an authentic historic setting, embedded in pristine natural surroundings that invite many to live closer to nature and learn about the unique Great Lakes ecosystem, if you rule in favor of the S.S. Badger.

I have found that an exposure to settings such as Ludington educates and inspires people to work for solutions respectful of nature as well as our (their!) communities. The S.S. Badger is an integral part of Ludington's economic and cultural history, has been able to operate to date, and deserves the chance to be able to continue to operate! I can say from personal experience that for our own family and circle of friends, it has been a tangible magnet and destination in this little corner of Western Michigan.

I very much hope that not only the Lake and the Dunes, but also the S.S. Badger will still be here when we bring our children's children to Ludington. I respectfully ask you to consider the hope of the families whose livelihoods depend on Ludington as a place that inspires; the immeasurable value of historic structures such as Cartier Mansion and the many Victorian B&Bs on Ludington Avenue that depend on ferry users for their upkeep; and the interest of future generations when deciding this case.

Sincerely,

Hanna Grisko-Kelley

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**From:** Harris, James Berton  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/22/2013 11:46:44 AM  
**Subject:** Reference Case Number: D.J.Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Reference Cast Number: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Case Name: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc, d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

I am writing in support of the approval of the Consent Decree that will require the SS Badger to end the ash discharge within two years. Although I am a great supporter of a cleaner environment and, as a Michigan resident, especially as that pertains to the Great Lakes, I believe it is important that the SS Badger remain in operation. And, if there is a way to accomplish that and reduce the discharge of coal ash, all the better. The SS Badger is of great historical importance as it is the last car ferry from an earlier era to cross Lake Michigan and is an important tourist attraction. In addition, the loss of the ferry would have a devastating impact on the economy of both Ludington, Michigan and Manitowoc, Wisconsin. I strongly urge the approval of the consent agreement.

James Berton Harris  
[REDACTED]



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**From:** [REDACTED] Sam Asta  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/22/2013 12:36:12 PM  
**Subject:** United States v. Lake Michigan Translake Shortcut, Inc., D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

The Carferry can contain it's coal ash, but at a extreme extra cost to the company. There is more pollution from other sources. Coal fired generator stations, both Chicago and Milwaukee, the steel mills in Gary Indiana and the discharges from both these cities and the electric plants. The Carferry Industry from the last Century has not dumped as much Mercury into the Eco-system as these subject's have.

Senator Dick Durbin can't fight the cities, but thinks if he gets the Carferry he can persuade people that he would be able to stop these big companies down the line. I believe his real interest in this is the monies from Oversize Permits that would not find it's way into his pocket. The oversize trucks coming across Lake Michigan with Wind Turbine parts are saving time and money by using the Cross Lake Badger Carferry. The routing for oversize around the metropolitan areas of Milwaukee, Chicago, and Gary adds miles of routing away and time to drivers logs and the local cops need their palms greased. Tourists are second to all of this. Commerce must be foremost. I've retired after almost 50 years of trucking, I do know the routine.

Sam Asta

[REDACTED]  
Fountain, Michigan  
49410

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD); [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 4/22/2013 2:05:45 PM  
**Subject:** D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

To all that may be concerned and supportive of the SS Badger...

We have owned a condo in downtown Ludington now for about seven years. I can promise you that one of the reasons we were attracted to the community was the simple charm and history of the Badger. We can watch it come and go from our deck and it's one of the key memories that friends and family are left with when they visit.

I also believe that the economic vitality of the area is quite dependent on tourism and the Badger helps here too.

Lets do everything we can to support sustaining the rich history that the Badger brings to Ludington and more broadly, the Great Lakes.

Please advise as to how our family can continue to support...

Jon Brancheau  
[REDACTED]

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**From:** d.alton  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/22/2013 2:22:09 PM  
**Subject:** D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Please approve the Consent Decree, and keep the S. S. Badger in service.

The S.S. Badger is a wonderful vehicle for tourism for Michigan and Wisconsin. Our family has traveled on the Badger for over 15 years. I believe that my husband started traveling on the Badger the first year it was back in service. Our children have ridden on the Badger almost every summer of their lives. When I brought up the option of driving around the lake one summer, my family objected, and overruled me. It cuts down on the stress of a full day's drive. Riding across lake Michigan on the Badger is much more pleasant than driving around Chicago, and more dependable and smooth than the other ferry. It is an important part of our annual vacation. I would imagine that there are many families who feel the way we do about the S. S. Badger.

Please keep the S.S. Badger in service.

Sincerely,  
Dori Alton

P.S. I apologize for accidentally sending a previous incomplete copy of this e-mail.

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**From:** AL  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/22/2013 2:35:23 PM  
**Subject:** Case No. D.J.Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Assistant Attorney General  
Environmental and Natural Resources Division


Case Name. United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc.  
d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

To whom it may concern:

I support the proposed consent decree to allow the SS Badger two years to bring the SS Badger into compliance. The SS Badger employs over 200 people and brings in over \$25,000,000 to the port cities of Ludington, Michigan and Manitowoc, Wisconsin. This ship is the last of its kind and is a historic treasure. Please grant the decree. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Albert G. Silander

  
Ludington, MI 49431

April 22, 2013

In re: *United States v Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc.*,

*D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771*

Public comment for Environmental Protection Agency

Dear Assistant Attorney General:

Regarding the Cross Lake Carferry Badger, it is vitally important that the permit be continued for an additional two years as referenced in the recent agreement. The Badger is not only important economically to the port areas of Ludington and Manitowok, it also reflects a seagoing tradition over 60 years long. Having worked on a German ship in my younger days, I appreciate the fellowship shared by people who work on the boats.

You should be aware that the Carferry under prior ownership had gone into bankruptcy, yet through the private funded efforts of a former engineer, the Badger was purchased with private money and has managed to create an enduring tourist reputation as well as essential service to truck traffic and wind tower placements. Having worked in the court system for 36 years, I am well aware of conflicted situations. The rendered agreement is fair and should be implemented.

Yours truly,

Richard I Cooper

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**From:** Andy Olcott  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/22/2013 4:18:34 PM  
**Subject:** SS Badger

Please make them stop polluting Lake Michigan. Enough is enough!

Andy Olcott  
twitter: [REDACTED]

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**From:** [REDACTED]@comcast.net  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/22/2013 4:22:32 PM  
**Subject:** SS Badger

The Badger is worth saving--no matter the cost!! Work something out!!!

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**From:** fpasholk  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/22/2013 8:05:38 PM  
**Subject:** D.J. Ref. No 90-5-1-1-10771

To Assistant Attorney General – ENRD

My name is Dennis Grunenwald and I live in Grand Rapids, MI. My wife and I are frequent sailors on the SS Badger and have been crossing back and forth for over twenty years. We agree with the two year extension that is on the table. Over the last two to three years I have talked to the owner and a number of the workers about either storing the ash on board or converting to another fuel. It seems that the technology and the infrastructure to support a conversion isn't there right now. So giving them more time seems reasonable.

While I don't care for the discharge of ash into the lake I also look at the tradeoff's. If people can't cross on the car ferry most people, including my wife and I, will drive around Chicago. That means our vehicle and all the rest will be polluting for an additional four hours. That includes a lot of trucks with wide, heavy loads that the Badger transports. They will be on the road creating safety hazards for other drivers. We just went back to Wisconsin a few weeks ago and took Interstate 90 up towards Rockford. There is sixty miles of road construction that will run into 2014. Another difficulty for all size vehicles.

Plus the Badger provides a useful service transporting sections of wind turbines stands from Manitowoc to Ludington.

Thanks for taking the time to read our letter supporting a two year extension.

Sincerely,

Dennis Grunenwald

  
Grand Rapids, MI 49534



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**From:** Eldonna Tabor  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/22/2013 8:55:18 PM  
**Subject:** REFERENCE CASE NUMBER: D.J. Ref. no. 90-5-1-1-10771

TO: Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources  
Division

CASE NAME: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc.  
d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

First, thank you for accepting and reading my email, which is one of  
many and requesting your sincere attention to this item of prime  
importance.

The Lake Michigan Carferry's Consent Decree agreement with the  
Department of Justice and EPA is of utmost importance to the LMC  
company as well as to a multitude of individuals who value and  
appreciate the service of the S.S. Badger between Ludington MI and  
Manitowoc WI. I join the many others who strongly support the  
continued service of the S.S. Badger and will greatly appreciate  
approval of the Consent Decree to allow this operation to continue.  
Much information has been forwarded previously in support of this  
Consent Decree, including facts to substantiate the approval  
decision. The Environmental and Natural Resources Division has a  
responsibility to make decisions in the best interest of those served,  
and we feel the full evaluation of this particular case merits an  
approval. Thank you for your kind attention of this approval.

Eldonna Tabor  
Ludington MI

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**From:** [REDACTED]@aol.com  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/22/2013 10:32:49 PM  
**Subject:** The S.S. Badger

Dear Department of Justice,

I sent a letter to back in the fall of 2012 to Michigan Senator Debbie Stabenow, to which she kindly responded. I am now writing to you.

I'm sure this letter represents many people from the Great Lakes Region and beyond who have a vested interest in the S.S. Badger.

I live in Indiana, but I have family in Wisconsin. On average, I have taken the Badger two or three times a year for all of my 47 year lifespan thus far.

If the Badger is prevented from running, there will be many disappointed people who have used this vessel to circumvent the nightmarish Chicago traffic. This would also force a lot more individuals to drive around Lake Michigan to arrive at their destination. This would cause more carbon emissions, and would probably offset the environmental benefit of discontinuing the Badger. In addition, the four hour crossing of Lake Michigan on The Badger instills and revives an individual's appreciation for the environment.

I respectfully and humbly ask that you use your authority to approve the Badger's request for a consent decree.

Thanks and God Bless,

J.R. Brestin

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**From:** JAY\_HASKELL  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/22/2013 11:15:21 PM  
**Subject:** Commenting on D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Hello: In the matter concerning the Badger car ferry, please add my voice to those of many others in support of the consent decree, and allow the ferry to operate for the additional time needed to find a solution to the ash waste.

Jay Haskell

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] Ft. Collins, CO 80526

(M) [REDACTED]  
(H) [REDACTED]

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**From:** Oatley  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/23/2013 6:23:07 AM  
**Subject:** Reference Case Number: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division

I support the consent decree in the case of United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger. The car ferry is a valuable service and the company has agreed to resolve the coal ash problem. In comparison with the threats to the Great Lakes by invasive species, we can be patient with coal ash.

Jon M. Oatley

[REDACTED]

Plymouth, MI 48170

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**From:** Denny  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/23/2013 8:09:54 AM  
**Subject:** United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

I am writing in support of the proposed consent decree between the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Lake Michigan Carferry (LMC).

Although the proposed decree is a reasonable compromise that will allow LMC two more sailing seasons to discharge coal ash from its ship, the SS Badger, into Lake Michigan while working toward retaining that ash by the start of the 2015 season, I believe that LMC has been unfairly targeted as a single point source polluter into Lake Michigan.

While one cannot deny the SS Badger discharges coal ash with its associated minimal amount of mercury into the lake, many industrial and agricultural non-point source polluters discharge far greater amounts of mercury, and other toxic chemicals into the lake and atmosphere where these same chemicals find their way into the lake. According to the Lake Michigan Mass Balance Study (Landis and Keeler, 2002) atmospheric deposition was determined to be the primary pathway of mercury input to Lake Michigan contributing nearly 84% of the estimated 1,403 kg total annual input (atmospheric plus tributary input). Further, a strong urban influence was observed in the over-water mercury deposition estimates in the southern portion of the lake. The Chicago-Gary urban area was estimated to contribute approximately 20% (127 kg) of the annual atmospheric deposition to Lake Michigan. The magnitude of local anthropogenic mercury sources in the Chicago/Gary urban area suggests that emission reductions could significantly reduce atmospheric mercury deposition into Lake Michigan.

When one considers the massive threats to not only Lake Michigan but all the Great Lakes, the amount of pollution caused by the Badger pales in comparison to these concerns. Whether it be atmospheric deposition of mercury, invasion by exotic species (Goby, Quagga mussel, Asian Carp, etc.), sewage overflows to name a few, these threats pose a far greater risk to the lake than the carferry Badger. I believe the EPA should have continued to allow the Badger to discharge its coal ash slurry through the highly regulated National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) as many industrial and agricultural entities are permitted to do.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Dennis S. Lavis

[REDACTED]  
Ludington, MI 49431

Reference:

Landis, Matthew S. and Gerald J. Keeler. 2002. Atmospheric mercury deposition to Lake Michigan during the Lake Michigan Mass Balance Study. The University of Michigan Air Quality Laboratory, Ann Arbor 48109, USA. [Environmental Science and Technology](#) (impact factor: 5.23). 12/2002; 36(21):4518-24.

---

**From:** Robert Most  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/23/2013 9:16:30 AM  
**Subject:** D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

**Case Name:** United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

To: Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division

This letter is in response to the consent decree that is being examined for the SS Badger.

I was a passenger on this ferry in the summer of 2011. After leaving dock, I and my children were appalled by the thick black smoke that billowed from this vessel. The use of coal on this ship was unknown to me, and I was shocked that it was still being used in the 21st century. Later I found out that the mercury infused ash was allowed to be dumped into our Lake Michigan with government approval. How terrible!

This vessel is not a nostalgic once a month excursion. It is used as a constant ferry. It would be one thing if it ran as a once a month trip, but it simply is being used as a money making entity that is dumping and poisoning our waters. How can we allow this to continue?

I strongly recommend that this be halted from continuance and hope that consent decree is struck down.

Robert Most

████████████████████  
Midland, MI

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/23/2013 9:34:53 AM  
**Subject:** D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Dear Assistant Attorney General,

**This is in regard to Case: United States vs. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger.**

I sent a letter to back in the fall of 2012 to Michigan Senator Debbie Stabenow, to which she kindly responded. I am now writing to you.

I'm sure this letter represents many people from the Great Lakes Region and beyond who have a vested interest in the S.S. Badger.

My family lives in Wisconsin, and has for several generations. On average, I have taken the Badger two or three times a year for 47 years. I am 47 years old, and strongly desire to continue taking the Badger for the rest of my life.

If the Badger is prevented from running, there will be many disappointed people who have used this vessel to circumvent the nightmarish Chicago traffic, as they come from Indiana, Michigan, etc....to visit scenic Wisconsin. This would also force many more individuals to drive around Lake Michigan to arrive at their destination. This would cause even more carbon emissions, and would probably offset the environmental benefit of discontinuing the Badger.

I have studied the effect of Carbon Emissions on the upper atmosphere. I'm sure you have studied that more than I. So you must know that an honest approach would admit that there are respected scientists on both sides who disagree. Suffice it to say that the evidence is inconclusive.

One thing that is certain, The Badger has helped me to gain a real love and appreciation for the vast blue waters and the beautiful pale blue sky. There is nothing like being surrounded by nothing but H2O and O2 for four hours to enhance one's appreciation for the environment.

I respectfully and humbly ask that you use your authority to approve the Badger's request for a consent decree.

Thanks and God Bless,

J.R. Brestin





---

**From:** Jerome Kohel  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/23/2013 10:28:48 AM  
**Subject:** keep the SS Badger

I would like to see the SS Badger continuing to operate between Manitowoc and Ludington.

---

**From:** [REDACTED]@gmail.com on behalf of Mike Berger  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/23/2013 11:20:00 AM  
**Subject:** D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division

Case: US v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc. d/b.a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

Sir/Madam:

As a resident living on the shores of Lake Michigan in Door County Wisconsin I most strongly OBJECT to the action being taken by the DOJ and EPA to restrict the service of the SS Badger.

Where is the balance in initiating this action?

Why is this being done when the interest of business and vacation travel would be so restricted?

This proposed action is just another over reach by government that fails the common sense test.

Michael B. Berger

[REDACTED]  
Washington Island Wisconsin

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**CC:** meganp@ludington.org  
**Sent:** 4/23/2013 11:22:55 AM  
**Subject:** Case # 90-5-1-1-10771 US vs Lake Michigan Trans-lake Shortcut, Inc. d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS. Badger

Dear Sirs:

I am a resident of Ludington and have worked for environmental services businesses for the last 35 years. I have a MS in chemistry and worked as a coal chemist for 5 years. I am familiar with the chemistry of coal combustion and coal ash. Coal ash is generally inert consisting of primarily aluminum and silicon oxides. There are trace amounts of other metal oxides. Coal ash when mixed with water raises the pH.

The amount of coal ash that will be deposited in Lake Michigan over the next two years will not effect the health of the lake. After that, the Badger will stop dumping the ash in the lake.

Ludington is a small town and the Carferry services makes a significant economic impact on tourism for the town. The tourist traffic it generates provides summer jobs for our college kids, patrons for our restaurants, and shoppers for our stores.

I am fully in support of the Badgers efforts to end the ash discharge. I am also convinced that the continued discharge of ash until a permanent solution is in place will not impact the water quality of Lake Michigan.

Sincerely,  
Gerald Skar

[REDACTED]  
Ludington, MI 49431  
[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Jim Fetchero  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/23/2013 11:31:03 AM  
**Subject:** Reference Case Number - D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

I am writing in support of allowing the SS Badger to continue running on Lake Michigan as long as her owners see fit. I believe the amount of ash discharge is minor compared to the great historical value and history the ship represents. I have ridden the Badger in the past and plan to do so again in the future as long as she is running.

There is nothing to be gained by retiring this great ship and everything to be lost, in jobs, history, economic opportunity, etc.

Please do the right thing to insure the continued operation of this fine ship.

Thank you

-Jim Fetchero

[REDACTED]  
Charlotte, NC 28226  
[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Dan Petterson  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/23/2013 11:32:05 AM  
**Subject:** D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division:

I am writing in reference to the case United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

The carferry service has a long history in this community and it's continued operation is critical to the economic and cultural vitality of the Ludington area. I think the Consent Decree is the best result under the circumstances and I think the consent Decree should be approved.

Dan Petterson, Ed.D.

petterson@pobox.com

ENABLE Consulting

231-845-9589 (office phone & fax)

██████████ (cell)

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**From:** Sannerud, Peggy  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/23/2013 11:32:17 AM  
**Subject:** Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

To the Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division:

Regarding Case United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

To whom it may concern:

I am writing in support of the Consent Decree granting the Badger time to correct the coal ash emission issue.

I have taken the Badger across the lake several times, and find it to be a unique experience. This draws me to the area, and I spend money on food and lodging on both sides of the lake. As I live in southern Minnesota, I also find that the Badger provides a time and money-effective route to Michigan and other Eastern areas, enabling me to have a mini-vacation instead of two hours on the Dan Ryan trying to get through Chicago traffic - which is NOT a vacation.

But the Badger also provides valuable shipping services -just look at the cargo they take, some of it far too oversized for Chicago traffic, and too heavy for the Mackinaw bridge.

Please support the Badger' s Consent Decree and keep this valuable resource available as they correct the coal ash emissions of this historic boat.

Sincerely,  
Peggy Sannerud  
Winona, MN  
[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Rick McNeely  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/23/2013 11:36:38 AM  
**Subject:** D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

I hope that the above referenced consent decree is accepted. My family and I use the SS Badger every year and consider it a tremendous benefit to the region.

Thanks


Rick McNeely

---

**From:** Dorothy Sevlie  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/23/2013 11:36:31 AM  
**Subject:** APROVE THE CONSENT DECREE

We are on board with the Michigan Car Ferry in wanted the consent decree approved. The Badger is a treasure and should be kept in operation.

Dorothy Sevlie and Dan Neuhoff

  
Athelstane, WI 54104



---

**From:** John Cogan  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/23/2013 11:36:59 AM  
**Subject:** D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

The SS Badger has been given more than enough time to stop dumping coal ash and other carcinogens into beautiful Lake Michigan. They have been warned again and again and keep on getting extensions. They need to STOP NOW!!! No more extensions. If this is approved in two years they will be asking for two more years. ENOUGH! STOP THIS ENVIRONMENTAL TRAVESTY NOW!!!

John and Grace Cogan

[REDACTED]  
Edina, MN 55424  
[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Ben Kern  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/23/2013 11:38:40 AM  
**Subject:** Lake Erie Car Ferry Case number D.J. ref. no 90-5-1-1-10771

Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division,

I wish to express my support for the Consent Decree relative to ash discharge.  
I am a regular user of the Badger Ferry and it will be a sad day for America when the EPA  
forces them out of business.

Bernard J Kern  
Monroe , MI. 48161  
[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Daniel Bates  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/23/2013 11:39:48 AM  
**Subject:**

The Badger is a great tourist attraction as well as transportation across the lake. We need to keep it going.

Is there money available from states or feds to help pay the cost of a natural gas retrofit? I know the owners of the Lake Express wouldn't be too happy about the handout to help the Badger continue but that's the way it goes.

Dan

---

**From:** Ruth Jaarda  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/23/2013 11:43:24 AM  
**Subject:** D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Please help us keep the Badger running. It is a very important family tradition for us and the revenue it brings in to Ludington is critical to our town.

Thank you!!

---

**From:** Bruce Brown  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/23/2013 11:43:55 AM  
**Subject:** Case Number: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Dear sir/madam,

I am sending this message in support of the Consent Decree agreement between Lake Michigan Carferry and the Department of Justice and EPA.

I have used the SS Badger on numerous occasions to cross Lake Michigan. The Badger provides an invaluable service to the public. I fully support this interim measure while the owners of the Badger work on a permanent solution to the ash discharge issue.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Yours truly,

Bruce Brown  
Barrister & Solicitor  
Director, Legal Services  
London Police Service  
Tel: (519) 661-2462  
Fax: (519) 661-5999

---

**From:** Mike Raia  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/23/2013 11:46:43 AM  
**Subject:** D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Please approve the Consent Decree agreement for the Badger. The ship provides a valuable transportation alternative for the public and trucks. Allowing it to run for two more years while the ash issue is corrected is the best solution for the problem.

Thanks,

Mike Raia

---

**From:** Ed Huelke  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/23/2013 11:47:40 AM  
**Subject:** D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

**D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771**

**Although I have sailed on the Badger a few times... it should not be allowed to sail any longer - EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY.**

**It's a health concern for the crew and passengers AND future generations.**

**The sooner it stops sailing the sooner the healing process can begin full pace.**

**God bless you and your decisions.**

**Edward Huelke**

**[REDACTED]**  
**Northbrook, IL 60062**

**cell [REDACTED]**

---

**From:** William M. Worden  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/23/2013 11:48:37 AM  
**Subject:** D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

TO: Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division

RE: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan

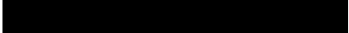
I am fully in support of the consent decree now under consideration for the SS Badger.c

I am convinced that most of the public concern in this matter has been artificially created by a campaign of misleading and outright false claims, funded in large part by competitors of the Badger. This relatively small matter should not have received the attention it has when one considers other, far more serious, threats to the Great Lakes.

It is unfortunate that apparently EPA is not in a position to consider the offsetting positive environmental effects of the Badger's operation, such as the considerable reduction in greenhouse gasses which result from many miles of highway not driven by large trucks and other vehicles.

I urge approval of the consent decree.

William M. Worden

  
Detroit, MI 48214



---

**From:** Albert Bugaj  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/23/2013 11:49:00 AM  
**Subject:** D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

To: Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division

Case Name: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

Please approve the Consent Decree agreement between the Lake Michigan Car Ferry Service and the Department of Justice and The EPA. My wife and I consider the ferry service to be a valuable asset to the economies of both Wisconsin and Michigan. It is also a highly convenient, useful means of travel which my wife and I utilize several times a year to visit relatives "on the other side of the lake." Finally, the S.S. Badger could also be considered a part of our regions history, which should be respected and allowed to continue.

Thank you for your consideration of the matter,

Albert M. Bugaj

---

**From:** Will Taliaferro  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**CC:** Lake Michigan Carferry Service  
**Sent:** 4/23/2013 11:49:04 AM  
**Subject:** D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

TO: Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division

FROM: William Taliaferro

RE: My support for the Consent Decree (D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771): United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Service and SS Badger

Date 4/23/13

Dear Sir/Madam:

My family has been using the SS Badger since the 1970's to travel from our home outside Washington, DC to our summer cottage in Northern Wisconsin. Not only has it been a convenient and fun alternative to driving around Lake Michigan, the SS Badger has long been a vital piece in supporting the local economies of both Ludington, MI and Manitowoc, WI. In fact, when we travel on the ship, we use hotels, restaurants and other entertainment on both sides of the lake. And so do many others we know who use the ferry service.

I support protecting the environment and reducing pollution in Lake Michigan. The Consent Decree gives time for the Lake Michigan Car Ferry to eliminate the discharge while balancing the economic needs of the towns services by the ferry.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Respectfully,

William Taliaferro  
[REDACTED]

Leesburg, VA 20176

And

[REDACTED]  
Hazelhurst, WI 54531

Will Taliaferro Partner  
202.813.4920 | direct  
[REDACTED] | cell

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**From:** Steven Beck  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/23/2013 11:47:02 AM  
**Subject:** D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division

Re: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., dba Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

The Consent Decree executed by the Lake Michigan Carferry in regards to the future termination of ash discharge into the waters of Lake Michigan is an excellent example of government and corporate cooperation.

I live in Muskegon (on Lake Michigan) and have travelled with my family on the SS Badger every year since 1989 to visit our one-room schoolhouse in Winger, Minnesota.

Please confirm the consent decree so we can continue to travel into the past and into the future.

Thank you.

Steven Beck  
[REDACTED]

Muskegon, MI 49445  
[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Jack Gurnon  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/23/2013 11:49:59 AM  
**Subject:** Keep the Badger

To: Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division

**D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771**

Please keep the badger!

Jack Gurnon  
*Charles Street Supply Co & Hardware*  
54 Charles Street  
Boston, MA 02114  
617-367-9046 phone 617-367-0682 fax  
[www.charlesstsupply.com](http://www.charlesstsupply.com)

---

**From:** Carolyn Newman  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/23/2013 11:50:06 AM  
**Subject:** 90-5-1-1-10771

The Badger is vital to the economy of our city. It is an icon that is dearly loved and revered. Let it operate as it always has, and leave it alone. Dick Durbin needs to mind his own business!!

Charles E. Newman  
Ludington, MI

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/23/2013 11:48:23 AM  
**Subject:** Lake Michigan Ferry

My name is David Osborn. I am 66 years old, and grew up in Wilmette, Illinois. My grandparents lived in Shelby, Michigan, about 30 miles south of Ludington. I now live in Dallas, Texas.

One of my most fond childhood memories is riding the Ferry with my grandparents from Ludington to Manitowac.

In recent years, I have been riding it again when I drive up to Michigan to see my mom, and I have introduced my wife and daughter to the experience.

I just want to say that whatever can be done to save the Ferry, please do it! It would be a shame to lose that part of history...

Thanks,

David Osborn

---

**From:** karen buyarski  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/23/2013 11:50:39 AM  
**Subject:** SS Badger 90-5-1-1-10771

I have traveled on the SS Badger many times in the past 30 years. There have been many improvements and the ride is a calm and peaceful escape to drive from my upper peninsula home in Michigan, to my home town in lower Michigan. Please help continue this service.

Thank you.  
Karen Buyarski

---

**From:** Reed, Timothy A.  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/23/2013 11:51:47 AM  
**Subject:** D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger  
Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division

Dear Mr/Mrs Attorney General-

Regarding the United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger (D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771), Lake Michigan Carferry has signed a Consent Decree agreement with the Department of Justice and EPA that requires the SS Badger to end the ash discharge within two years.

This agreement is the product of many months of Lake Michigan Carferry Services working closely with the EPA. I firmly believe that this Consent Decree is the best result under the circumstances. Lake Michigan Carferry Services has pledged to continue their stated goal in ending the discharge of coal ash while still serving the public and local communities. Lake Michigan Carferry Services and the S.S. Badger employ hundreds of people in Manitowoc and Ludington, and the economic impact of this business is important to the economies of Western Michigan and Eastern Wisconsin.

I strongly feel that the Consent Decree should be approved and hope you feel the same.

Thanks for your time – I look forward to many great experiences on the S.S. Badger in 2013 and for many years to come.

Timothy Reed  
Bismarck North Dakota



---

**From:** Roger Franke  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/23/2013 11:52:11 AM  
**Subject:** Ash discharge

To Whom It May Concern:

We have been fairly regular passengers in the S. S. Badger over the recent years and hope for their service to continue for many more years. We hope that you will pass and honor the consent agreement that, together, you have proposed. We are also conservationists and wish to protect our environment but we are certain that the officials of the Badger will work towards these ends.

Roger and Patricia Franke

---

**From:** [REDACTED]@coastguardmodels.com  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/23/2013 11:55:45 AM  
**Subject:** CONSENT DECREE,,, D.J.REF.NO.90-5-1-1-10771

I WOULD LIKE TO SEE THE BADGER RUN FOREVER AS IS..I WAS LUCKY ENOUGH TO,WHILE IN THE COAST GUARD,  
TO LOG THE BADGER IN AND OUT OF PORT.. I THOUGHT ,AT THE TIME WHAT A GREAT SHIP IT WAS, .I CAN STILL HEAR THE R R CAR JACKS BEING RELEAST WHEN IT WAS AT THE OUTER BREAKWALL. WE RIDE ON THE BADGER EVERY YEAR ,WE TAKE THE ROUND TRIP EVERY AUG. FROM LUDINGTON AND BACK IN THE SAME DAY.  
I PRAY THAT I WILL BE ABLE TO DO IT FOR YEARS TO COME. WE ARE IN OUR MID 70'S AND LOVE IT.....  
J.ALLEN MERGENS..CAPT.

---

**From:** Lou  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/23/2013 11:56:24 AM  
**Subject:** 90-5-1-1-10771

I am sending this in support of the SS Badger. This boat is an icon and should be permitted to run. The amount of pollution it discharges is small compared to what industry and sewerage discharges that are dumped into the lake. The boat also does prevent a lot of air pollution by not. Making cars drive around Chicago which is already congested enough. Oversize truck loads also benefit by using the Badger. It keeps them off congested highways.

Please let the Badger continue to sail because it is the last of her kind and it is faun thing to do and it is a useful tool.

Sincerely  
Lou Gerard

Sent from my iPhone

---

**From:** Donna Berry  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/23/2013 12:01:18 PM  
**Subject:** Oppose Consent Degree

----- Forwarded Message -----

**From:** Donna Berry <[REDACTED]>  
**To:** "pubcomment-ees.enrd@usdoj.gov" <pubcomment-ees.enrd@usdoj.gov>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 23, 2013 12:00 PM  
**Subject:**

Please do not approve the Consent Decree agreement with the Department of Justice and EPA that requires the SS Badger to end the coal ash discharge into Lake Michigan within two years. This needs to end now, not later!

Donna Berry

[REDACTED]  
Fremont, Mi 49412  
[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Kathe Richardson  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/23/2013 12:01:29 PM  
**Subject:** D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771.

Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division

**Case Name:**

United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

I support the Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger's Consent Decree agreement with the Department of Justice and EPA. Please approve the Consent Decree!! The SS Badger is a great service to Michigan and surrounding states.

Kathe Richardson

[REDACTED]  
Dubuque, IA 52003

---

**From:** pwernecke  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/23/2013 12:05:29 PM  
**Subject:**

Please do not take our ferry away. It is of great historical value.

---

**From:** Bob Eames  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/23/2013 12:05:44 PM  
**Subject:** D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

TO: Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division

RE: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

I totally support approving the consent decree to allow the Badger to operate for two years while they work to become compliant by eliminating ash discharge. I believe the SS Badger is an important part of our great lakes history and also an important part of the fabric of our lives. Beyond being just a relaxing and safe way to cross Lake Michigan, it provides important income for families in Ludington who work for the ferry and also in the tourism related businesses that benefit from the traffic of the ferry. I also believe the ash is a minimal source of pollution when compared to the other sources (sewage overflows, pleasure boats, etc.) and the plan for the Badger to become compliant within two years is more than acceptable.

Big Ships, More Fun!

**Robert H. Eames**  
Director,  
Calvin Center for Innovation in Business  
Professor of Business  
Calvin College

(Office)616-526-8797  
(Cell) [REDACTED]

---

**From:** Michel Knudsen  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/23/2013 12:08:55 PM  
**Subject:** United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., D.J. Ref.

To Whom it may concern:

I am writing you concerning the Badger, I am a former resident of Ludington and while I don't live there any more I still visit the area regularly to see family & friends.

In the summer months when I take my family to visit, the highlight for my wife & children is to sit out either on the break-wall or the beach and watch the Badger steam into port in the evening. It's a sight that I grew up with and can remember back to when the ship wore the logo of the Chessie System Cat on the exhaust stack.

I fully support the continued operation of the Badger on the Great Lakes. The ship is a marvelous piece of Michigan history and it would be a tragedy to loose it and the business it brings to the area.

Thank you,

Michel Knudsen



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**From:** Charles De Moulin  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/23/2013 12:12:45 PM  
**Subject:** D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Assistant Attorney General, Environmental & Natural Resources Division

Case; United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc. d/b/a Lake Michigan Car Ferry Services and SS Badger

As a multiple trip passenger on the SS Badger, I fully support the Consent Decree agreement between the DOJ and EPA. The continued operation of the SS Badger is vital to the economy of Northeastern Wisconsin and Michigan.

Respectfully,  
Charles De Moulin

DePere, WI 54115

Sent from my iPad

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/23/2013 12:10:35 PM  
**Subject:** D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771 SS Badger

Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division

re: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc.

The SS Badger is a historical relic of a by-gone era that needs to be preserved and should be granted every exception that will allow it to continue to viably operate for posterity. Other than a few railroad locomotives, where can current generations of Americans witness coal-fired steam boilers in action? This was a key part of American History and deserves every opportunity to continue to operate. The environmental impact is negligible weighed against the historical and educational benefits. The most opposition to the Badger is propped up by its modern competitor out of Muskegon and should be discounted.

Respectfully,

Dirk J. Start, PE member, C&O Historical Society

[REDACTED]  
Grand Rapids MI 49508

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/23/2013 12:09:46 PM  
**Subject:** #90-5-1-1-10771

The SS Badger is like a miniature Titanic. It is a great experience to watch the hands on business part of the ship. I sail on the Badger because it saves so much driving time, and it is a fun way to cross Lake Michigan. Please approve the Consent! From Janet Dreyer, a local Historical Society member in Ohio.

Please keep this bit of history. Please approved the consent.

---

**From:** Larry  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/23/2013 12:13:36 PM  
**Subject:** D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

**D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771**

**I have taken an Historic ride on the USS BADGER to cross from Michigan to Wisconsin.  
This Historic ship like many means of transportation from the past is steam powered and uses coal as fuel.**

**Do not close this company down and stop these historic ventures because of a small amount of ash discharge from their coal boilers.**

**If you do that and continue to find Historic trains and other Historic remnants of the past that made America great then we will have nothing to show our children of our History except pictures.**

**I am sure this summer only ship could be granted an exception due to its historic value of keeping history alive for future generations.**

**ALLOW the SS BADGER to continue operations and preserve History.**

**Larry Hofmeister**

**Milford, MI 48381**

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**From:** Dianna Tommelein  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/23/2013 12:15:24 PM  
**Subject:** D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

<META HTTP-EQUIV="Content-Type" CONTENT="text/html; charset=us-ascii">

Please allow the S.S. Badger to continue under the agreement to reduce ash. This is such an important travel way through 2 Great States!! I use this car ferry every year and would not be able to travel as much as I do now. Thank you for your Consideration. Dianna Tommelein

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**From:** BRIAN LARSON  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/23/2013 12:16:05 PM  
**Subject:** SS Badger

To whom it may concern,

I think the SS Badger should be given time to convert to a better system. Independent testing clearly shows that the amount toxins in the coal ash are miniscule and lower than wood ash from campfires or even the soil in Michigan. It is also being railroaded by an unethical smear campaign financed by a competitor (Sheldon Lubar and Lake Express) and trumpeted by IL Sen. Dick Durbin who is doing little to clean up his own backyard.

Independent research and documentation regarding the coal ash as can be viewed at the following link, <http://outerboundarymagazin.wix.com/outer-boundary#!article-3/c16gd>

Sincerely,

Brian Larson

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**From:** Mike Gorgas  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/23/2013 12:17:26 PM  
**Subject:** Badger

I feel that the Badger is a piece of history that cannot be replaced. Big business pollutes the lake more in a day than the Badger will in a lifetime. Big business pays the fine, or hides behind a foreign status and keeps polluting. Give American history a chance!!

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**From:** Fred Ulreich  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/23/2013 12:22:43 PM  
**Subject:** D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division,

**Case Name:**

United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

Lake Michigan Carferry has signed a Consent Decree agreement with the Department of Justice and EPA that requires the SS Badger to end the ash discharge within two years. This agreement is the product of many months of working closely with the EPA. I agree with the decision and strongly encourage you to approve this Consent Decree.

Fred W. Ulreich



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**From:** Reid Stangel  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/23/2013 12:23:48 PM  
**Subject:** Keep the SS Badger going

My mother who passed away 5 years ago, reminisced with her kids and grandkids of the romantic time of her youth when she traveled across Lake Michigan on the ferry to Michigan to visit her much older sister in Ludington.

I do remember those stories and have since traveled across the lake numerous time on the SS Badger, always taking a moment to remember of times long ago when my mother enjoyed the journey.

Last summer's journey was a time to remember but also see how important the ferry is to a technology that my mother never would have dreamed of. The transportation of the wind turbine stacks is amazing and economical.

For many reason and including the above please do what needs to be done to keep the SS Badger a vital part of history, and tourism.

*Reid Stangel*

[REDACTED]  
Monroe WI 53566-9290

[REDACTED] (H)

[REDACTED] (C)  
[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Mary and Douglas Johnson  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/23/2013 12:26:10 PM  
**Subject:** D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

To: Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division

Case: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

Thank you for considering the Consent Decree agreement that would allow the SS Badger to continue operating with its existing power system. My family and I enjoy the SS Badger, and we hope you will approve this agreement, so that it will continue to operate. We look forward to the day it will be cleaner, but we appreciate your willingness to allow them to remain open in the short term. This is a really unique way to explore and enjoy Lake Michigan.

Douglas Johnson  
[REDACTED]  
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**From:** Craig J Stith  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/23/2013 12:30:19 PM  
**Subject:** D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Please approve the consent decree for future operations of SS Badger.

Thank you.

Craig J. Stith  
Fort Collins, Colorado

---

**From:** Grace, Tom  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/23/2013 12:30:44 PM  
**Subject:** D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771  
**Attachments:** image001.jpg

Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division,

RE: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

I would like to voice my support for approval of the Consent Decree agreement between the Justice Department/EPA and Lake Michigan Carferry Services. I have sailed on the SS Badger and see it as a wonderful asset to Lake Michigan. The Skinner Uniflow engines on the Badger represent the pinnacle of reciprocating piston steam engine design and as the last operating examples on US waters they should be preserved. Every year more examples of our grand engineering past are condemned to the scrap heap. I feel that it is essential for us as a nation to preserve what remains. My first grandchild was born in November and I would love to take him on a trip aboard the SS Badger. It is my sincere hope that you will approve the Consent Decree and help to make this possible.

Sincerely,  
**Thomas C. Grace, PE**  
**Senior Project Engineer**  
**Composites Technologies**



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2200 Litton Lane  
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[www.mag-ias.com](http://www.mag-ias.com)

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/23/2013 12:31:17 PM  
**Subject:** Badger

Please keep the Badger running as is.

Philip

---

**From:** Neil Winston  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/23/2013 12:31:24 PM  
**Subject:** I hope the Badger get the two years to fix it's fueling changeover.

We travel from Saint Paul, MN to Mason, Michigan every year and take the Badger across the lake both ways. It's a wonderful trip that takes me back to my youth when the sail was a dreamed-about vacation.

When I think of the gas my motorhome would burn in the swing across the Upper Peninsula I can only think that the Badger contributes to clean air in many, perhaps unappreciated, ways.

Badger, I love you and I'm rooting for you, Old Girl!

Neil Winston

[REDACTED]  
Saint Paul, MN 55104  
[REDACTED]

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**From:** Evan Richards  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/23/2013 12:36:43 PM  
**Subject:** D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

I support the agreement in the referenced case involving the SS Badger and urge that it be approved.

I feel it is very important to maintain, and even improve, the water quality of the Great Lakes. From everything I have read about the ash discharge from the SS Badger, it would appear that the impact of the operation of the Badger on Lake Michigan water quality is sufficiently small to justify preserving the economic and historic value of continued operation.

Approval of the agreement will have significant benefits and incur small, very small, risk.

---

Evan Richards

[REDACTED]  
McFarland, WI 53558  
[REDACTED]

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**From:** Julia Miller  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/23/2013 12:37:49 PM  
**Subject:** D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

I believe wholeheartedly that this Consent Degree should be approved. This decision was made even clearer after reading an article in a magazine that pointed out if it is not "accepted" the only winner would be Senator Dick Durban of Illinois and the Lake Express Ferry running from Muskegon to Milwaukee, WI, which by the way got its start-up funds thru government grants because they could not get traditional funding to start their business.

From a historical perspective, LMC's SS Badger is the last of her kind. It only takes one trip across Lake Michigan to see how truly splendid it is to travel without the "roar" of diesel or gas powered engines getting you where you want to go.

All the condemnation of her being a "filthy, dirty boat" is just wrong and I do not understand with all the pollution/contaminates being poured into the Great Lakes by cities like Chicago, IL that someone has chosen to single out the Badger. When they spew their facts (as misguided as they are) about Mercury, Arsenic and other pollutants, what the Badger puts into the lake is miniscule compared to what is in the food we eat, what water we drink and what is naturally in soils etc.

Julia Miller



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**From:** Keith Stadtmueller  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/23/2013 12:39:30 PM  
**Subject:** Badger Ferry

In regard to 90-5-1-1-10774, We wish to support the car ferry from Manitowoc to Luddington and support the compromise that has been reached.

Helene Stadtmueller [REDACTED] Keith Stadtmueller [REDACTED] or visit [SeguinHomes.com](http://SeguinHomes.com)

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**From:** Dale Smith  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/23/2013 12:39:15 PM  
**Subject:** SS Badger. 90-5-1-1-10771

To whom it my concern

My personal opinion is pass the consent decree the badger saves a lot of gas and time and wear and tear on vehicles. The Badger also provides a great service. Thank you Dale Smith

Sent from my iPhone

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**From:** Roger Bauer  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/23/2013 12:39:36 PM  
**Subject:** D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

I last rode across Lake Michigan during 2011. The transit was uneventful but the air around the ship stank of burned ash and the smoke plume trailing behind the ship stretched for miles. Dumping this stuff into the lake can't be doing anyone any good.

Why this polluter has been allowed to continue to abuse the environment is beyond belief.

Please, no more delays. It is time this business came into the 21st century.

Roger Bauer

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/23/2013 12:43:07 PM  
**Subject:**

I think the consent decree is a great idea for both the S S Badger Ship and also for the good of our Lake Michigan. I (we) have used the ship many times and have really enjoyed it. Please keep it open for our travels to Wisconsin and back to Ludington.

Thank you,  
Sonja McKillen and family

---

**From:** Barbara Taveirne  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/23/2013 12:46:43 PM  
**Subject:** United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771.

Re: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771.

My husband and I support the consent decree between Lake Michigan Carferry and the EPA to allow the SS Badger continue coal ash discharge . Please keep the heritage of the carferry service in Ludington, MI as well as jobs in our community and those in Wisconsin.

Thank you.

---  
Barbara E. Taveirne  
[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Donald Schmidt  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/23/2013 12:50:41 PM  
**Subject:** Subject: D.J.Ref.No 90-5-1-1-10771

Attn: Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division

My wife and I sail on the Badger to avoid the heavy traffic in the Chicago area when we travel to MI.

This service is important to us, and we would like to see it continue.

Donald and Lucille Schmidt

Winner, SD 57580

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**From:** Steve Brock  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/23/2013 12:52:01 PM  
**Subject:** DJ RE no. 90-5-1-1-10771

Assistant Atty General, Environment and Natural Resources Division  
RE: US v. Lake Michigan Lake Short-cut, dba Michigan Car Ferry & SS Badger

Thank you for the opportunity to submit comment of the continuation of this vital link between two States over a Great Lake, the SS BADGER. This 50 plus year means of connecting Ludington, MI to Manitowoc, WI (HWY 10) has spurred economic development, saved time and money in overland shipping and cut down of road wear and tear for many years. While an amount of coal dust (inert) is deposited into the Lake, the amount is infinitesimal and proven to not be a hazard. Even with that, the LMC is looking at other means to power the ship and hopefully a cleaner solution can be found over the next two years while the Badger continues to provide a valuable transit link and an interesting, fun, relaxing way to "bridge" this beautiful water gap. Thank you.

Steve Brock,  
Farmington Hills, MI (home)  
Hamilin Township, MI (vacation)

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**From:** TWP  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/23/2013 12:53:25 PM  
**Subject:** D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

I support the approval of the above referenced Consent Decree for the Lake Michigan Carferry.

Thomas W. Powers

  
Dublin, OH 43017



---

**From:** Sallie Carto  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/23/2013 12:54:25 PM  
**Subject:** United States v.Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771.

I agree with the proposed consent agreement and that it is a positive step in keeping Ludington's historically important SS Badger to continue crossing Lake Michigan. Thank you  
Sallie Carto : [REDACTED]

Sent from my iPad

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**From:** Eldon M Hall  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/23/2013 12:56:53 PM  
**Subject:** D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division

**Case Name:**

United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

I am writing this note in full support of the Consent Decree between Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger and the Department of Justice and EPA. The SS Badger has been in service for many, many years and still provides a valuable service of lake crossing service for freight and passengers, as well as a unique lifetime experience for young and old alike. Over the many years, the service has provided local economic assistance providing jobs for its employees and others in the communities of Ludington, MI and Manitowok, WI, encourages tourism related activities in both states, and shortens travel time vs ground travel for both transportation businesses and travelers. The "Badger" has proven to be a safe mode of transportation and has been continually upgraded as technology changed.

For my wife and me, the Badger significantly reduces the tiring, and sometimes hazardous, drive time of 14-16 hours, from our home in central MI to Mayo Clinic in Rochester, MN to a "reasonable" 7 hours on the road with a relaxing 4 hours on the ship.

I strongly encourage the approval of the Consent Decree.

Sincerely,  
Eldon M Hall

  
Merrill, MI 48637  


---

**From:** Mike Schiller  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/23/2013 12:58:27 PM  
**Subject:** The S.S. Badger

It's time for the S.S. Badger to end their excuses, clean up their act, and take real steps to stop dumping coal & ash in Lake Michigan.

Please do everything you can to make sure the S.S. Badger is held accountable.

---

**From:** Mary Kruse  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/23/2013 1:01:27 PM  
**Subject:** D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Assistant Attorney General

Environmental and Natural Resources Division

I have used the S. S. Badger many times during the last twenty years. It has allowed me to travel to Ewart, MI and points north and south. I attend the Woodcarving Round Up in June, the Dulcimer Funfest in July and the Midland Dulcimer Festival in August all on U.S. 10. The Badger lets me attend these and visit friends and family without having to drive through Chicago.

I am continually amazed at the size of some of the vehicles that can use the Badger. I wonder if the huge pieces of the wind power generators could pass under the viaducts on the Interstates in Chicago.

I am from Michigan and live in Wisconsin. I want the Great Lakes protected and hope that the Lake Michigan Car Ferry can find the means to keep from dumping the ash into Lake Michigan.

Mary Kruse

Kenosha WI.

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/23/2013 1:08:50 PM  
**Subject:** United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Re: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771.

I support the consent decree. Keep the heritage of carferry service here in Ludington,MI

Thank you

---

**From:** Greg  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/23/2013 1:09:49 PM  
**Subject:** United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Re: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771.

I support the consent decree. Keep the heritage of carferry service here in Ludington,MI

Greg Hasto

---

**From:** Nalani Hasto  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/23/2013 1:10:44 PM  
**Subject:** United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Re: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771.

I support the consent decree. Keep the heritage of carferry service here in Ludington,MI

Nalani Hasto

---

**From:** Brittany  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/23/2013 1:12:00 PM  
**Subject:** United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Re: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771.

I support the consent decree. Keep the heritage of carferry service here in Ludington,MI

Heather Hasto



---

**From:** Curt Vanduren  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/23/2013 1:11:29 PM  
**Subject:** SS Badger - Lake Michigan Car Ferry

To Whom it may concern,

I would like to voice my opinion about the Consent Decree with the SS Badger – Lake Michigan Car Ferry.

I believe it should be approved. The SS Badger is a part of our history here on the West coast of Michigan. So many lives have been touched by this great tradition of crossing the “pond” we call Lake Michigan.

I personally knew Charlie Conrad and his passion for reinstating the car ferry service between Ludington, MI and Manitowoc, WI. I know we can move forward again and end the discharge of ash.

The SS Badger is a piece of our history we can all enjoy and be proud of. Please help us preserve our pride of the Great Lakes.

Thank you for your time,

Curtis J. VanDuren  
Holland, MI

---

**From:** Mike Bleibtrey  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**CC:** Michele Welch  
**Sent:** 4/23/2013 1:13:29 PM  
**Subject:** D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

**Attention:**

Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division

**Case Name:**

United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

In regards to environmental compliance for the operation of the SS Badger, it seems that the proven economic benefit to this region clearly outweighs the current negative environmental impact derived from this vessel. I strongly agree that this transportation vehicle must improve its environmental impact, but I believe that standard, should be weighed against the off-setting impact of its passengers and there negative environmental impact lost by not driving there person and/or interstate commerce several additional hours around Lake Michigan. It seems the Federal Government, State of Michigan and Wisconsin, as well as The Great Lakes Consortium, could arrange a series of Grants and/or Low Interest Loans to support the upgrade of the SS Badger's propulsion system to a more economical, low environmental impact, state of the art system.

The SS Badger needs to operate, and should be given more time to solicit funding for the environmental upgrade of this much needed vehicle in this region. The loss of jobs and economical impact far out weigh the need to hold a firm time line in the ability to fund and upgrade this vessel.

Sincerely,  
Michael Bleibtrey

Mike Bleibtrey  
Michael's Merchandising  
416 Main Street  
Oconto, WI 54153



---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/23/2013 1:14:58 PM  
**Subject:** Lake Michigan Car Ferry

Attn:Attorney General, Environmental & Natural Resources Division

Subject: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Case name: US v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Car Ferry Services and SS Badger

I am writing in support of keeping the SS Badger continue plying its route across Lake Michigan. As one of the older persons who take the ferry to MI fairly frequently, it saves me a lot of driving time as it does others. I believe that there must be a way to keep it going with an environmental solution.

I believe that those who use the ferry keep a lot of pollution out of the air...maybe it's just a trade off...but I really like traveling on the ferry...making a long journey that would require a minimum of 9 hours on the road with only 5 hours on the road and 4 to relax on the ferry.

I'm planning to take the ferry this summer...and have convinced others to use this method of transportation too.

Thank you for listening to my concerns.

Marian L. Osterberg

[REDACTED]  
Madison WI 53711

---

**From:** Neil Winston  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/23/2013 1:18:24 PM  
**Subject:** Ref case 90-5-1-1-10771 Badger's two years

I hope the Badger get the two years to fix it's fueling changeover. We travel from Saint Paul, MN to Mason, Michigan every year and take the Badger across the lake both ways. It's a wonderful trip that takes me back to my youth when the sail was a dreamed-about vacation.

When I think of the gas my motorhome would burn in the swing across the Upper Peninsula I can only think that the Badger contributes to clean air in many, perhaps unappreciated, ways.

Badger, I love you and I'm rooting for you, Old Girl!

Neil Winston

[REDACTED]  
Saint Paul, MN 55104  
[REDACTED]

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**From:** doug@coolmananderson.com  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/23/2013 1:17:57 PM  
**Subject:** Badger

Assistant Attorney General  
US Dept of Justice

As a life time resident of Ludington, Michigan, I *support* the extension for the SS Badger as per the consent decree: United States V. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc.D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

For any additional thoughts I can be reached by return E Mail, Mail at address below or by phone

Douglas Shoup

[REDACTED]  
Ludington, MI 49431

Home [REDACTED]  
Cell [REDACTED]  
[doug@coolmananderson.com](mailto:doug@coolmananderson.com)

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**From:** Veronica Fazio  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/23/2013 1:21:46 PM  
**Subject:** United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

To Whom It May Concern;

I fully support any actions taken towards stopping the S.S. Badger from dumping harmful coal ash into Lake Michigan. This lake is one of the true natural beauties left in the Midwest and it would truly be a waste if we let it become anything less than that.

Thank You,

A Concerned Chicagoan

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**From:** susan boes  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/23/2013 1:22:16 PM  
**Subject:** case number 90-5-1-1-10771

Assistant Attorney General  
Environmentl and Natural Resources Division

Case Name: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc. d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger


Please consider the total impact to the life and economic resources of the community of Ludington and of Manitowac if the Carferry is not permitted to continue cross lake service.

As a side story, a personal note: We have family in Chicago, Sheboygan and SturgeonBay,( and own property in Sturgeon Bay) ), and have used the Carferry Service for 50 years!  
So Personally, you can see that dis-continuing this service would impact us in a VERY negative manner.

This Carferry has meant so much to our cities and families, I can only imagine the crisis the closing of the Carferry service would mean to so many.

PLEASE support the Consent Decree.

Sincerely,  
Susan Boes

  
Ludington MI 49431

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/23/2013 1:23:08 PM  
**Subject:** D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Please keep the SS Badger the last coal fired ship running on Lake Michigan. It is truly living history, a great experience, and a needed mode of transportation for the wind machine industry.

Thanks.

Ron McCluskey  
Joliet Il.



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**From:** Bill Alexander  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/24/2013 4:23:55 PM  
**Subject:** Reference No. 90-5-1-1-10771 S.S. BADGER

The BADGER must be kept running her working route on Lake Michigan. Aside from its great historical value, the vessel does a great deal to help keep many cars, trucks and other vehicles off the very crowded highways in the Chicago area. The cash value to both Ludington and Manitowoc in terms of wages and general shopping is very significant in those communities. Sincerely, William Alexander, Albion, ME

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**From:** Miracle Balsitis  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/23/2013 1:24:52 PM  
**Subject:** Carferry

I support the consent decree. Keep the heritage of carferry service here in Ludington.

Miracle Balsitis

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**From:** Leslie Merry  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/23/2013 1:24:59 PM  
**Subject:** S.S. Badger polluting Lake Michigan

It's time for the S.S. Badger to end their excuses, clean up their act, and take real steps to stop dumping coal ash. Sooner, not later.  
Thank you.

L Merry

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**From:** John Fitzpatrick  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/23/2013 1:28:27 PM  
**Subject:** Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

I believe that the SS Badger should be required to end ash dumping at the end of this current season. They should not be granted another year to pollute Lake Michigan.

John Fitzpatrick

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**From:** Phil Stedge  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/23/2013 1:28:58 PM  
**Subject:** United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771.

I support the consent decree. Keep the heritage (of car ferry service) here in Ludington, Ending this institution would be devastating

Thank you  
Philip M Stedge  
Kalamazoo, MI

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**From:** Emmy VandenLangenberg  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/23/2013 1:32:50 PM  
**Subject:** D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

To Whom it May Concern:

The Consent Decree should be approved in this matter for so many more reasons than a person can list. So I will provide you with an explanation of what the SS Badger holds in my life.

Throughout my childhood in Manitowoc, WI, the carferries were a constant presence in my daily life. Wherever you drove in our downtown during the 70s and 80s, you could see a carferry. This was a very busy time, the City of Midland, the Badger, and the Spartan graced our port along with the Atkinson and Viking of the Ann Arbor lines. The C&O Chessie Cat logo on the smoke stack was my favorite. My parents, Carl and Mary Blahnik, had taught me their histories and significance to the livelihood of Manitowoc. On a frigid February night in 1982, we waited on the opposite side of the Manitowoc River to capture the Badger on her last voyage from Manitowoc. I was in second grade. I slept on the couch in the Manitowoc Ticket Office as we waited. Ice coated everything. My dad captured an award winning photograph of that moment. That moment marked the drastic slow down of carferries and laker traffic into Manitowoc.

Little did I realize 10 years later, I would be sitting in that same spot, watching the SS Badger make its triumphant return to Manitowoc. I then began my 8 season career with Lake Michigan Carferry Service. I love this company and how it became my "family." My dad helped with some of the remodel work in 1991-92 and my mom also worked by my side the last few years of her life. It is the only tie we have to the historical passenger service of that long lost era on the Great Lakes. The dedication the company holds for the survival and sustainability of the Badger is reflected by the tenacity to meet the demands and needs spelled out over the last few years.

I grew up on Lake Michigan, swimming in it, and eating the fish! And this was during the years where there were more than one coal burning vessel and after decades of coal buring. I have since moved to the other side of Wisconsin and face much more concerning water issues with agricultural runoff creating algae blooms in our rivers (toxic to humans and animals). The Mississippi and St. Croix Rivers are brown and constantly have oil residue slicks on them. Storm sewer systems that still wash directly into all of our bodies of water, not to mention overflow from the treatment plants. There are much larger concerns than one track of coal ash that as far as we know is what is keeping the Asian Flying Carp at bay in Lake Michigan. Sport and Commercial fishing was at its highest points when there were larger amounts of "dirty" vessels on the lakes.

I miss the clean water, the beaches, and the sign of smoke on the horizon. Which meant in our household, even with my own children, get down to the dock to watch the Badger come in. We are looking forward to going back to make trips on the Badger!! Keep this piece of history running, give them the opportunity to do what they need to do.

From the desk (an old carferry purser's desk from Kewaunee) of..

Emmy VandenLangenberg  
Former LMC Purser and Ticket Agent  
and Carferry Supporter  
[REDACTED] cell  
LinkedIn/Facebook

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**From:** Michael Kelley  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/23/2013 1:35:23 PM  
**Subject:** 90-5-1-1-10771

I feel this consent is a fair deal for all concerned. Thank you.  
Sent from my iPad

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**From:** Larry Kroah  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**CC:** larry Kroah  
**Sent:** 4/23/2013 1:05:37 PM  
**Subject:** D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

To: Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division

Re: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

I am writing to lend my strong support to approving the Consent Decree in United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger.

The SS Badger has proven itself to be an important safe, time-saving, traffic-reducing and automobile gasoline conservation service that I use annually in transporting my 92-year-old mother from Wisconsin, where she lives, to Michigan and points east. Without the SS Badger I would need to drive south through Chicago, through Gary and northern Indiana until I got to Michigan destinations only to head south again to drive to Ohio and Pennsylvania.

Each season Lake Michigan Carferry Services has added services to augment customer-value. Community support in Wisconsin and Michigan has grown due to the increased opportunities for local employment of youth and as a boost to the Manitowoc and Ludington economies. Loss of the SS Badger would have a severe negative economic impact on the bed-and-breakfasts, motels and restaurants as well as the local service stations and the persons that are employed to work in them. But of particular importance, I believe, is the commitment that is so apparent that is found on every level of the SS Badger's crew and management in maintaining a successful operation. The ship is kept clean, cars and baggage is properly stowed, and its boarding and debarking procedures are safe. All indicators reflect a management that is responsible and responsive to its commitments and to good customer service. In short, in every way, Lake Michigan Carferry Services strives appears to be a good corporate citizen, and it is in keeping with this that I base my recommendation for the approval of the Consent Decree. Good past behavior is the best indicator of good future behavior.

Thank you for the opportunity to lend my support to keep the SS Badger alive and for time to allow its management to end ash discharge within two years.

Sincerely,

Larry A. Kroah, Ph.D.



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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/23/2013 1:05:51 PM  
**Subject:** United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771.

Re: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771.

I support the consent decree. Keep the heritage of carferry service here in Ludington,MI

Heather Hasto

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**From:** Heather  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/23/2013 1:06:41 PM  
**Subject:** United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Re: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771.

I support the consent decree. Keep the heritage of carferry service here in Ludington,MI

Thank you

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**From:** [REDACTED]@aol.com  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/23/2013 1:07:31 PM  
**Subject:** United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Re: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771.

I support the consent decree. Keep the heritage of carferry service here in Ludington,MI

Thank you very much

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**From:** Randolph Waskin  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/23/2013 1:41:59 PM  
**Subject:** D. J. Ref Number 90-5-1-1-10771

To: Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division

Re: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

Good day:

I am writing to support the Consent Decree agreement proposed in this case. While it is only a temporary solution, it preserves a useful transportation link and a ship of great maritime historical importance.

I am a native of Michigan and currently reside in Wisconsin. I am 53 years old, and have spent time on Lake Michigan every year since I was 4 months old. I have sailed on the SS Badger (and her sister ship, the now-decommissioned SS Spartan) often since I was 8. I am a dedicated environmentalist and believe strongly in preserving the Great Lakes environment for generations to come. While I recognize that the SS Badger's discharge of coal ash introduces a small amount of pollution into the lake, I think that more pressing issues such as municipal discharge of untreated storm water runoff and partially treated sewage, control of non-native invasive species, and stopping the excessive loss of water from the upper Lakes basin by fixing the St. Mary's River dredging errors are far more important. Further, much-needed jobs in the U.S. maritime industry on both shores will be lost if the SS Badger is forced into retirement. Finally, I suspect that every single coal-burning power plant in the country discharges more pollutants every year than does the Badger. EPA should be focusing on solving environmental problems that matter, and not on punishing niche operators without the means to retrofit their equipment at a reasonable cost solely because they are easy targets.

I strongly recommend that you grant this decree, keep the SS Badger sailing, then go back into negotiations and enter into a permanent solution that will allow her to sail as long as she is structurally and economically able to do so.

Respectfully submitted,

Randolph B. Waskin MD  
Ringle, WI

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/23/2013 1:56:56 PM  
**Subject:** D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

To: Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Div.

Case: U.S. v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc.

I don't know a lot about the situation but if a reasonable compromise has been reached to allow this carferry service to continue I am in TOTAL support of it. This service is a great asset to Michigan and Wisconsin AND to all who benefit by it and enjoy it.

I'm going to venture to say that whatever relatively small environmental impact there might be, it is GREATLY overcome by the benefits. They provide a valuable service.

Russ Kniff

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**From:** Jennifer Grimes  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/23/2013 1:33:40 PM  
**Subject:** D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

To Whom it May Concern,

Please work with our beloved S. S. Badger, which serves our community and enhances our lives. Let your partnership be an example to our youth of how co-operation can both preserve their heritage and protect their environment. You can do it!

Thank you,  
Jennifer Grimes

Sent from my iPhone

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**From:** David Bates  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/23/2013 2:02:31 PM  
**Subject:** D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

To: Assistant Attorney General Environmental and Natural Resources Division

Case Name: United States v Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc. d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

From:  
David R Bates  
[REDACTED]  
Winnetka, IL 60093-1721  
[REDACTED]

To whom it may concern:

Please know that I strongly urge the acceptance of the Consent Decree recently agreed to with the operators of the Lake Michigan Carferry SS Badger. I am a resident of the Lake Michigan shoreline community of Winnetka, Illinois as well as a Summer resident of the Lake Michigan shoreline community of Ludington, Michigan. I do not believe the SS Badger is in any way harmful to Lake Michigan. I believe that the jobs and economic impact this ship and business provide to the Midwest is what should be of importance especially in this day and age of high unemployment and flat economic growth. Each Summer, thousands of automobiles and trucks are removed from the Interstates around Lake Michigan and transported using the abundant fuel source of coal. At one time there were seven coal fired Carferries running out of Ludington, I have swam in those waters during this time. I have never feared the Carferries but I certainly fear sewage and waste that washed across the Lake from Chicago and Milwaukee. I have never seen any evidence of coal discharges on our Ludington beaches, I have seen tampon tubes, condoms, medical waste, etc. that is discharged by Milwaukee and Chicago. Lake Michigan beaches in Winnetka, Illinois are frequently closed for Ecoli pollution in the Summer. This seems to me to be of far greater concern. I once again urge that the SS Badger be allowed to sail, preserving it's beneficial effect on the economy of the Midwest. I do not in any way believe this one ship, sailing seasonally, harms Lake Michigan. Very truly yours,  
David R Bates

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/23/2013 2:08:06 PM  
**Subject:** D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division

Case Name:  
United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc, d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

Dear Sir/Madam,

I was born in Ludington, Michigan not far from the ferry terminal. My grandfather and two uncles worked for the ferry service. My 8th grade class trip was a ferry ride across Lake Michigan to Milwaukee for the day and back that evening (that was 55 years ago). The carferries have always been part of Ludington, part of their economy, and a connecting point for transporting people and materials from Michigan to Wisconsin, nearby states, and beyond without the traffic restrictions (saving both time & money) of traveling around the southern part of the Lake.

I travel to Ludington every summer from my home in New York and have recently taken the ferry. I agree that something must be done about the ash being discharged into our wonderful Lake Michigan, and that the Lake Michigan Carferry Service must do whatever possible to reduce the pollution of air and water. I feel that they should be **granted approval to work within the agreement reached with the EPA to achieve this important goal.**

Ludington is a beautiful, clean, tourist friendly city. To stop the SS Badger from operating would take something special away from the history and economy of the city. We are looking for transportation alternatives, and perhaps the proposed agreement will help preserve one in an environmentally safe way.

Just recently huge components for constructing wind generators were shipped from Wisconsin to Michigan on the Badger. The Badger is a part of Michigan history that can be brought into Michigan's future with careful planning and determination from the environmental scientists. I surely hope so. I want to take my grandsons on a SS Badger trip next summer.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Most Sincerely,

Toni (Piazza) Dean

Granddaughter of John Quinn who once painted signs for the carferry company long ago.



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**From:** Tifne Pals  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/23/2013 2:10:23 PM  
**Subject:** United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771.

I support the consent decree. There are a lot bigger things out there to worry about than a single boat that only runs five months a year, and it is an enjoyable part of Lake Michigan and Ludington history.

Sincerely,  
Tifne Pals

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**From:** Phil Van Cleave  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/23/2013 2:10:38 PM  
**Subject:** D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger  
**D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771**

**Please keep the Badger as it is.**

**Phil Van Cleave  
Sturgeon Bay WI**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/23/2013 2:11:28 PM  
**Subject:** D.J.Ref.No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Asst Atty General  
Environmental and Natural Resources Division

I'm writing to express my strong SUPPORT for the Consent Degree relating to the discharge of ash by the Lake Michigan Car Ferry. Please APPROVE this decree and allow thousands of us to continue to enjoy this unique ferry and all that it offers.

Case: United States vs Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, INC, d.b.a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger.

Go Badger!

Thank you,  
Carolyn Senty  
Madison WI

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**From:** Minnewton  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/23/2013 2:19:51 PM  
**Subject:** SS Badger

Please, please help the SS Badger continue to stay afloat and run! It is very important to three communities. It is Historical and a Landmark!

Sent from my iPad

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**From:** Alvin & Anne Horn  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/23/2013 2:23:40 PM  
**Subject:** D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771 Michigan Carferry

Dear Madam or Sir:

At the request of the Michigan Carferry (the S.S. Badger), I am submitting my comments regarding the proposed Consent Decree. I understand the Michigan Carferry company has worked closely with the Environmental Protection Agency on the Consent Decree and feels it is the best solution to the current problem of coal ash being discharged into Lake Michigan. I further understand that if the Decree goes into effect, the Michigan Carferry company will be required to end the discharge of coal ash into the lake within two years. My family and I have sailed on the S.S. Badger and found it to be a wonderful experience. Riding on the Badger gave us an appreciation for the size and beauty of the lake. However, we are very concerned about the environmental impact of the S.S. Badger on the lake. As I understand it, the water level in Lake Michigan is at an historic low. I imagine the low water level intensifies the negative impact of coal ash discharge. Also, with carbon emission levels on the rise, and the resultant threat to our planet's climate, I question the need to have this kind of mostly recreational transport. Earlier in the year, I was told the S.S. Badger was being used to transport wind turbine parts from Wisconsin to Michigan. I thought this was an excellent use of the Badger's large size as it somewhat offsets the damage the Badger is doing to the lake. As a resident of the Great Lakes concerned about the environment, I urge you to carefully consider the benefits of the Badger versus the damage to Lake Michigan and whether we can afford to wait two years before ending the discharge of coal ash. Thank-you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Anne Horn

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**From:** Dennis Schultz  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/23/2013 2:23:52 PM  
**Subject:** Ref 90-5-1-1-10771 -- please support and APPROVE THE CONSENT DECREE

**Reference Case Number - This reference number must be included in subject line  
D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771**

**Address to:**  
Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division

**Case Name:**  
United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry  
Services and SS Badger

I'm a wisconsin resident, living near lake michigan.

I hate the idea of dumping, but the Badger is such a unique historical gem. We are so lucky to have this. It's a glimpse into our past, actually the past for the entire great lakes region.

Please find a way to keep the Badger afloat, even if it isn't environmentally friendly. Until a better solution is reached.

Once it's stops, it's going to remain stopped. And that would be unfortunate.

I agree and support the consent degree. I hope you do as well. Please keep the boat running.

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**From:** Kimberly MacMaster  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/23/2013 2:32:31 PM  
**Subject:** Letter of support

To Whom it may Regard,

I am a lifelong Michigan resident and have frequented Ludington with friends and family for over twenty years. In the 27 years I have visited there I have been witness to the rise and fall of their economy there and the subsequent tie to the car ferry service. Aside from the economic boost locally there is a regional tourism surge impacting not only the western part of the state but the entire lower peninsula since the reinstatement of the S.S. Badger over ten years ago.

I respectfully request that any and all assistance you can afford to allow the Basger to co to us running be considered and subsequently permitted.

Thank you,

Representative Greg and Kim MacMaster

[REDACTED]  
Kewadin, MI 49648

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**From:** Paul McHenry  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/23/2013 2:35:11 PM  
**Subject:** 90-5-1-1-10771

Re Lake Michigan car ferry

I am writing from my home in the UK to urge you to rethink the decision to finish the Lake Michigan car ferry.

We used it three years ago whilst on a Lake Michigan circle tour and found it a most pleasant experience that we would like to repeat.

Although we are very aware of environmental issues these have always to be looked at in balance to the wonderful service that is provided.

Paul and Lesley McHenry  
Nottingham England



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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/23/2013 2:36:39 PM  
**Subject:** case number-90-6-1-1-10771

I am sending you this email about the Lake Michigan car ferry. Did you ever stop to think of the value of this business keeping so many cars and trucks off the roads between Wisconsin and Ludington, Michigan. Surely the emissions they make and the use of gasoline should enter into your decision as well as the employment the ship provides to all the people who work on it. The tourism it provides to both Michigan and Wisconsin and to Illinois also would be affected. Can't you aim yourselves a little better than this effort.

As for myself,, I am 74 and taking the ship from Manitoac to Ludington saves me many miles and wear and tear on my car and means I can continue to go to Traverse City once or twice a year. Please reconsider. Jane Swanson

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**From:** Matt Brozek  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/23/2013 2:37:57 PM  
**Subject:** Stop Badgering Our Lake!

It is ridiculous that ONE SHIP dumps more than 85% of the total amount of pollution created by freighters on all of the Great Lakes! I'm not sure what they transport, but if all this pollution comes from one source, it seems simple and logical to eliminate this pollution source (or force them to reduce it greatly in a short period of time - WE CANNOT WAIT!).

--  
Matt  
TSS Radio

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**From:** Don Dunlop  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/23/2013 2:44:00 PM  
**Subject:** Reference Case Number: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

To Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division,

As a resident in the state of Michigan, I want to voice my support for the Consent Decree that ends the ash discharge in two years into lake Michigan. In the interim, I support the Carferry's continued service on the Great Lakes. I encourage to the government to partner with Lake Michigan Carferry Service to find a solution that reasonably serves all interests and allows the SS Badger to sail indefinitely. The ship provides a historical and economical benefit to both states of Wisconsin and Michigan.

Thank You

Donald Dunlop  
Hillsdale, Michigan

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**From:** Dave & Anita Skarvan  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/23/2013 2:46:19 PM  
**Subject:** DJ. Ref No 905-1-1-10771

Assistant Attorney General Environmental/ Natural Resource division.

I am writing in regards to the Lake Michigan Carferry Service /SS Badger

I am glad to hear that it will be running for another two years my family and myself have use the SSBadger for years. I myself have been crossing Lake Michigan since 1942 . This would be a shame if this would be discontiue a lot of Manufacturing Companies use the Carferry to haul their products to save energy and money. It has brought a lot of money into our community and if this would discontiue people would be out of jobs. From what they all say at the top is you want to keep jobs and created more by shutting down the carferry you would be doing the opposite. I strongly urge you to keep the Consent Decree going so our economy stay the same or gets better.

Thank You

Anita Skarvan

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**From:** Jarrell Dell  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/23/2013 2:46:26 PM  
**Subject:**

The SS Badger is a big time and fuel saver especially to those of us who have a need to visit relatives in Wisc and Minn. I'm sure within the next two seasons the Badger's operators will be able to convert to an energy source other than coal. Operating under this consent decree will give them the time to do that, without disrupting this appreciated service.

Jarrel Dell  
Lake Ann. Mi.

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/23/2013 2:48:32 PM  
**Subject:** D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Please approve the Consent Decree to keep the S.S. Badger operating. Its service is good for both MI and WI, and all the passengers and shippers of the freight it carries over Lake Michigan.

I am a long-time Badger passenger - 40 years in 2013 - and would like to be a passenger for the next 40.

Thank you for your consideration.

Marjorie George Vis  
Grand Rapids, MI

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**From:** Jon Bittner  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/23/2013 2:33:52 PM  
**Subject:** D.J.REF.No.90-5-1-1-10771

To Whom It May Concern:

Please accept this email as support of the 2 year time frame and the "Consent Decree" for the S.S. Badger and its conversion to alternate fuel power (from coal). We believe STRONGLY and support STRONGLY the "Consent Decree" for the S.S. Badger.

Thank you.

D. J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Jon and Jo Bittner  
Crookston, Mn.

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**From:** Michael McCutchen  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD); William Hess; Thomas McCutchen  
**Sent:** 4/23/2013 2:50:02 PM  
**Subject:** D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and S.S. Badger

Hello I would like to comment on the proposed consent decree for the S.S. Badger.

I am not one of the people that has to breath the pollution that the Badger produces while idling at dock, and I'm not one of the people that live near the lake that the Badger pollutes with tons of coal ash slurry.

I'll tell you what I am though.

I'm someone who has grown up in a world of lawyer's and bureaucracy while listening to the stories of those older than me, telling me how interesting the world was before I was born (I was born in 1991, the same year the Badger was returned to car service).

Usually these stories remain only stories, but every once and a while I hear about a dragon that hasn't yet been slain, about an example like the Badger that affords us a glimpse of the world as it used to be.

Now I agree full-well that the Badger needs to stop pumping ash slurry into lake Michigan, but I would ask that the government remain flexible in dealing with the issue, not for the sake of the owners of the ship (who may, or may not be negligent) *but for the sake of all of us (and those not yet born) who have not yet had a chance to see this living piece of history.*

Based on what I have read I think the proposed consent decree allows a reasonable compromise, an opportunity to preserve a piece of history in it's natural environment, please approve it.

Things in museums are dead. Behind glass, and off limits.

Without it's coal fired engines, the Steam Ship Badger would be more or less *just another ferry*, please keep her steaming.

*Michael McCutchen*



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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/23/2013 2:50:26 PM  
**Subject:** SS Badger

Folks,

The SS Badger is a vital party of the West Michigan and Eastern Wisconsin Communities. While I believe that all parties should continue to work together to find a solution to the Ash discharge, the Government should not shut down a vital employer during tough economic times.

Keep the SS Badger steaming the Great Lakes for another 50 years!

David Barr

[REDACTED]  
Traverse City, MI 49686  
[REDACTED]

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**From:** Martha  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/23/2013 2:55:59 PM  
**Subject:** D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

The SS Badger car ferry is a small piece of nostalgia and slow paced enjoyment in a culture that is spinning out of control. Our family has enjoyed the trips across the lake for the last 20 years. Our children are in college now, but still make time for the annual trek across Lake Michigan to visit their grandparents. If there is a way to reduce the emissions and ash spew and maintain the wonderful integrity of the SS Badger as a passenger service we owe it to our children to ensure that this bit of history remains available for future generations. We sincerely hope that some agreement can be reached to secure a place in future history for this wonderful experience.

Martha Folz  
Eau Claire Wisconsin

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**From:** Benson, William  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/23/2013 2:56:09 PM  
**Subject:** BADGER=BAD NEWS Ref no 90-5-1-1-10771

Lake Michigan and all of its inhabitants have had their share of toxins--why does Badger, Inc keep prolonging what is long overdue?

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**From:** Jocie Teske  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/23/2013 3:02:13 PM  
**Subject:** Please allow us to keep the legacy.

In reference to United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771.

We are transplants to Ludington from the north and east sides of the state. We have chosen to work here, live here and raise our family here. We love Ludington. We have traveled to many locations within the US and in Europe and we always look forward to coming home to our Ludington. Now that we have three small children, our travels have significantly slowed down, but we welcome this pace due to our ability to vacation at home. Our babies adore our evening trips to the beach and know that seeing the S.S. Badger is our "alarm clock" to head home and get ready for bed. Playing at the waterfront playground is a very special occasion in our family. It usually includes a trip to House of Flavors for ice cream cones and parking ourselves in the grass to watch the S.S. Badger return from or leave on another journey. We are fortunate enough to hear the sounds of the S.S. Badger from our house. The look on our 2 year old's face when we hear the boat is beyond priceless. It is a part of our life. It feeds our economy. It brings endless pleasure to locals and vacationers. Please don't take this away. It is Ludington.

Respectfully Submitted by  
Jocelyn Teske

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**From:** Sundholm Bob and Stephanie  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/23/2013 3:01:44 PM  
**Subject:** EPA-LMC Consent Decree

In Regards to United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., DJ. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771: LMC has made every effort to comply with federal regulations concerning dumping ashes into Lake Michigan. There is no doubt that those efforts will continue and a satisfactory solution will be realized. The historical and economical reasons for allowing a mutually agreeable solution to develop are of great importance. The cross-lake service between Ludington, Michigan and Manitowoc, Wisconsin is a private enterprise and has not needed nor asked for financial assistance as has the other cross lake service. Give LMC the time to put a permanent solution into place and maintain the national treasure for future generations.

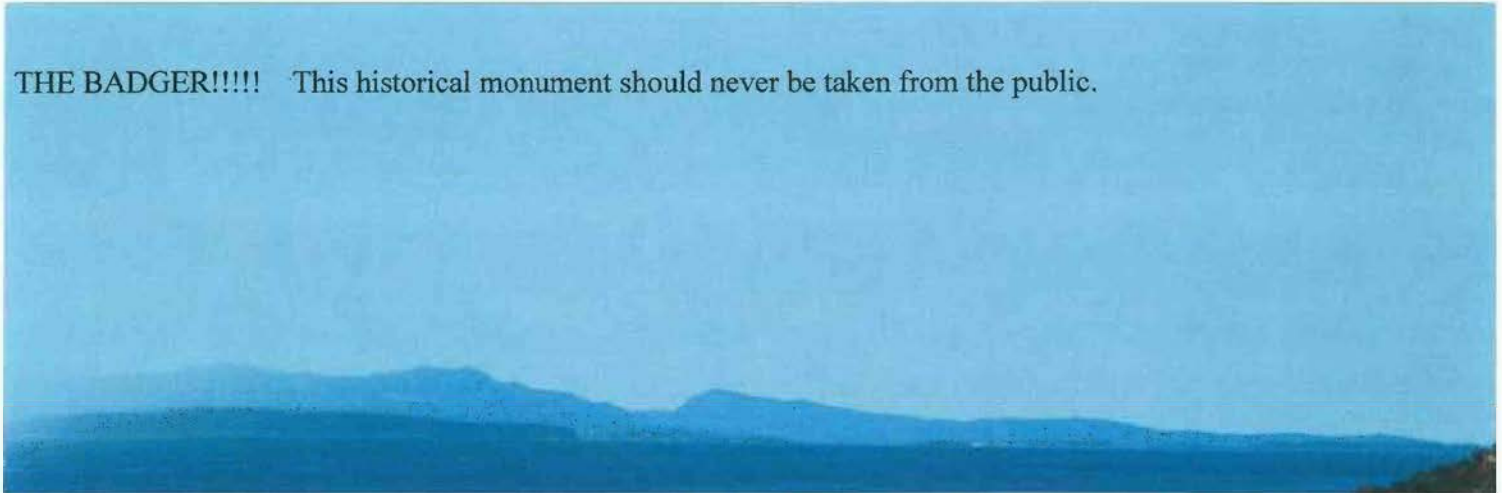
**D'Haiti, Valencia (ENRD)**

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**From:** rosiestout [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 23, 2013 1:40 PM  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)

**Categories:** Red Category

THE BADGER!!!!!! This historical monument should never be taken from the public.



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**From:** Dave Hall  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/23/2013 4:26:51 PM  
**Subject:** Public Comment

April 23, 2013

Dear Sir or Madam,

RE: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc. D.J. Ref.  
No. 90-5-1-1-10771

In regard to the above-mentioned controversy,

I fully support the consent decree arrived at concerning the operation of the SS Badger, which, I understand, will be allowed to continue service across Lake Michigan for the next two years while a solution is found for the disposal of coal ash.

I feel that this issue was turned into a witchhunt by Sen. Durbin (IL), for reasons of his own, which have no bearing here. The matter of distortion of fact by those opposing the Badger does bear on the issue. I believe that there has been great exaggeration of the hazards of the Badger's continued operation. The Spring issue of Outer Boundary magazine has a much more thorough analysis of the problem, with much more data than I've ever read in statements of Sen Durbin and other opponents of the Badger's operation. Many of those statements are obvious implications of danger with no supporting evidence.

Sorry to rattle on so long.

Dave Hall,  
[REDACTED] Ludington Michigan.

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**From:** jrnwjh [REDACTED]  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/23/2013 4:26:21 PM  
**Subject:** D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

To: Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division

**Case Name:**

United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

Dear sir,

I have enjoyed the Badger for many years and hope to continue doing so for many more. I also support the Consent Decree and wish to see it approved so that the Badger may continue to sail and provide many more years of enjoyment to many people.

Thank you,  
John R. Hancock  
Beulah, Mi.



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**From:** Ron Van Singel  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/23/2013 4:25:54 PM  
**Subject:** D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division

Case Name: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc. d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

I have watched the Badger and the other ships for the last 50+ years come and go through the channel and past the Lighthouse, first as a summer vacationer and now with my children and Grandchildren. Ludington is special to us because of the Badger. We purchased a cottage on Hamlin Lake 7 years ago, and plan to retired in this area. The Boat has always meant a lot to our family and friends, and every weekend night all summer long it is where we and our guests go to have an ice cream cone and watch the boat come in.

The Badger affects many people and Businesses in Ludington. I support the Consent Decree. We should all be working together to find a solution to eliminate the discharge of ash into Lake Michigan and keep the Badger and the City of Ludington moving forward for my Grandchildren children to enjoy .

Ron Van Singel  
The Merestone Group  
8375 Ridgestone Drive Ste. C  
Byron Center, MI 49315  
Cell: 616-437-2389  
e-mail: [ron@themerestonegroup.com](mailto:ron@themerestonegroup.com)

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**From:** BRIAN LARSON  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/23/2013 4:24:48 PM  
**Subject:** United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771.

To whom it may concern,

I think the SS Badger should be given time to convert to a better system. Independent testing clearly shows that the amount toxins in the coal ash are miniscule and lower than wood ash from campfires or even the soil in Michigan. It is also being railroaded by an unethical smear campaign financed by a competitor (Sheldon Lubar and Lake Express) and trumpeted by IL Sen. Dick Durbin who is doing little to clean up his own backyard.

Independent research and documentation regarding the coal ash as can be viewed at the following link, <http://outerboundarymagazin.wix.com/outer-boundary#!article-3/c16gd>

Sincerely,

Brian Larson

United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771.

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**From:** bradtke [REDACTED]  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/23/2013 4:17:24 PM  
**Subject:** Dept. Of Justice, Re number 90-5-1-1-10771

To: The Assistant Attorney General, I appreciate the agreement made with the Lake Michigan Car Ferry Services (SS Badger) . I doubt that a year goes by that I don't use it, many times some years. I have family in Michigan, And I live in Wisconsin. Both the family members and I live near U.S. Highway 10, so since the badger is a direct link to this highway on both sides of lake Michigan, this is is a great time and mile saver for me. I hope this will be able to be used for many years to come. The other car ferry service goes from Milwaukee and Muskegon and this would not save time or miles. In fact it would be more miles than going around the lake ( though Chicago or through the upper peninsula of Michigan. Of course I always save fuel as well when I use the Badger! Thanks for listening. Sincerely, William Radtke, [REDACTED]  
road, Greenville, WI 54942

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**From:** Kwik Construction  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/23/2013 3:55:47 PM  
**Subject:** D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division  
United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

To whom it may concern,

I am sending this email in support of LMC & the Badger car ferry. I don't understand why you wouldn't grant the Consent Decree. After all, given the minute amounts of toxins in the coal ash being dumped into Lake Michigan, I would think I'd rather have them than the millions of gallons of raw sewage the city of Milwaukee dumps into Lake Michigan with apparently no concern to the EPA. Sounds to me like someone's lobbying to close down the Badger.

---

**From:** Bill Ueck  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/23/2013 4:15:35 PM  
**Subject:** Lake Michigan Carferry

Please help to keep the Carferry sailing we use it every year my wife and I truly enjoy it.  
Thanks from Bill and Dorothy

Sent from my iPhone

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**From:** Lisa Dietenberger  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/23/2013 4:15:16 PM  
**Subject:** D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division

In regards to the Consent Decree associated with United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger I feel that it should be approved. Having lived near Lake Michigan my whole life I have a great appreciation for the resources that the lake provides. A large part of this appreciation has been developed because of traveling across the lake on the SS Badger as a child. Now I can see that same interest and appreciation being developed in my children by traveling on the SS Badger. This appreciation, interest and respect for the lake and its many resources will be valuable for future generations to see that the lake can be used for many purposes and still be protected. The benefits that Lake Michigan Carferry brings to both sides of the lake should not be lost.

Sincerely,

Ronald Dietenberger  
Germantown, WI

---

**From:** Mary Wroge  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/23/2013 4:10:10 PM  
**Subject:**

I take the ferry every summer to Ludington, Michigan, and back. This saves on gasoline and vehicle emissions not to mention wear and tear on the roadways and vehicle thus keeping the vehicle for longer periods of time and avoiding pollution. I am only one family, and there are many more riding this ferry daily. This is the ultimate car pool so to speak. I realize that there are damaging effects from the coal, but if we plan on trimming these effects, then we need to start thinking about omitting coal from every business and household using it to heat their homes and so forth. This ferry allows Ludington and Manitowok to thrive in a struggling economy and provides various jobs. The ripple effect goes beyond the Badger ferrying business and well into the shores of both Wisconsin and Michigan. Not to mention, the Badger is a piece of history that should be allowed to continue to tell its story every day. Please proceed with open minds and find a way to support these two affected states and this historical monument.

Thank you for taking the time to read my pleas for the Badger...Mary Wroge

---

**From:** Lorie Klinger  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/23/2013 4:10:02 PM  
**Subject:** Badger Consent decree

I support the badger consent decree!



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**From:** Bill Parry  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/23/2013 4:06:20 PM  
**Subject:** D. J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Sir,

I believe the Badger should be retained at any cost. This is a national asset which serves the cities of Ludington and Manitowoc. The Badger's loss would have significant negative effects on both cities, as well as surrounding states. The Badger provides a great service for citizens of Michigan and Wisconsin especially and for all citizens traveling across the Northern US.

Considering all the colossal waste-of-money projects the federal government funds, funding alterations to the Badger is certainly a worthwhile use of our tax dollars. Unlike the great majority of federal government projects now funded, funding for the Badger would have a multiplier effect on surrounding economies, and a great benefit for all citizens in the region.

Please do what is necessary is retain the Badger in service. Bill Parry

---

**From:** David Schroeder  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/23/2013 3:58:58 PM  
**Subject:** SS Badger - D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

**To: Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division**

**Re Case Name:**

United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

As a regular user of the SS Badger, please add my name as endorsing the consent decree. The SS Badger is not only an important link in commerce and travel between Michigan and Wisconsin, it is a part of America's and Michigan's history that requires careful attention. As SS Badger management works to reduce coal ash, the savings in greenhouse emissions from each season's vehicle cargo not driving hundreds of thousands of car miles around Lake Michigan needs to be carefully added to the equation. In total, the working agreement to maintain this important part of Michigan's economy must be maintained. Thank you for working to support this State and its citizens.

David P. Schroeder  
Consultation, Evaluation  
and Management Services  
4011 Kalamazoo SE  
Grand Rapids, MI 49508-3602  
phone: 616-822-7879  
fax: 616-455-1384

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**From:** Gene Tracy  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/23/2013 4:01:44 PM  
**Subject:** I support the consent decree  
**Attachments:** image001.gif

April 23, 2013

To whom it may concern,

I support the consent decree relating to the vessel Badger which sails out of Ludington mi. Keep the heritage of car ferry service here in Ludington.

Gene F. Tracy

[REDACTED]

Ludington MI 49431

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**From:** Dave Hoelcher  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/23/2013 3:58:07 PM  
**Subject:** United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771.

I have lived on Lake Michigan all my life & raising a family here. Nostalgic or not, we can NOT allow this polluting to go on. Stop that car ferry now. David Hoelcher, [REDACTED] Niles, MI 49120

=====  
===== dhoelcher(at)gmail(dot)com =====  
=====

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**From:** Sheila Preston  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/23/2013 3:55:57 PM  
**Subject:** SS Badger Consent Decree Agreement

**Reference Case Number -  
D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771**

I would like to express my opinion on the Consent Decree agreement that Lake Michigan Carferry has signed with the Department of Justice and EPA that requires the SS Badger to end the ash discharge within two years. I am in favor of this agreement because the SS Badger is a huge part of our local economic success. It is a unique ship which brings people and industry across Lake Michigan and improves our summer economy during a tough economic time. The Badger has been an integral part of the city of Ludington's history. It is the last ship of its kind and provides a peek at a time gone by.

I think it is wonderful that the EPA is willing to work out a compromise for the present. This will allow the SS Badger to problem solve a lasting solution to the ash discharge.

Please allow this Consent Decree to be enacted.  
Thank you

Sheila Preston  
[REDACTED]  
Ludington, MI 49431

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**From:** Kathy Winczewski  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**CC:** Kathy Winczewski  
**Sent:** 4/23/2013 3:53:28 PM  
**Subject:** Lake Michigan Carferry

I support the consent decree for the Lake Michigan Carferry (Badger). Keep the heritage of the Badger here in Ludington.

Kathy Winczewski  
[REDACTED]

Ludington, MI 49431

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**From:** John Langknecht  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/23/2013 3:49:45 PM  
**Subject:** D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

I am writing to express my support for the subject Consent Decree in the case of United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

sincerely,

John M. Langknecht

  
Manassas, VA 20110

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**From:** Jim Treece  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/23/2013 3:44:45 PM  
**Subject:** D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

To: Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division  
Re: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

The owners of the S.S. Badger have had ample time to respond to the EPA's notices that the vessel needs to overhaul its propulsion system in order to comply with environmental regulations. Please do NOT give them another extension or permission to fall short of full compliance.

I have travelled on the S.S. Badger before, and I hope to again — after the vessel is retrofitted with equipment so as not to further pollute the Great Lakes.

Signed,  
Jim Treece

  
Detroit, MI 48207



---

**From:** Phil & Dayna Lambert  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/23/2013 3:39:42 PM  
**Subject:** Lake Michigan ferry

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Phil & Dayna Lambert** <[pjdjla@gmail.com](mailto:pjdjla@gmail.com)>

Date: Mon, Apr 15, 2013 at 9:26 AM

Subject: Assistant Attorney General, Enviromental Resources Division case # 90-1-1-10771

To: [pubcomment-ees.enrd@usdoj.gov](mailto:pubcomment-ees.enrd@usdoj.gov)

I can remember when the high speed ferry in Muskegon went into service , it was a typical situation on how the government involves itself in capitalism i.e government loans to the business of their choosing . I have traveled on the vomit comet , and each time was an experience to remember .I,m sure once the government puts an icon such as the Lake Michigan Car Ferry out of service we'll see an immediate hike in rates from the competition, wait, there will be no competition . Maybe the money the State of Michigan saves in it's involement in this hypocrisy could go towards another " Turtle Fence " in Muskegon .

Sincerely Fed Up With Michigan ,  
Phillip J. Lambert

---

**From:** LoisTom Dykstra  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/23/2013 3:37:41 PM  
**Subject:** D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

This letter is in very strong support of the consent decree re. United States v. Trans Lake Michigan Shortcut, Inc. We have appreciated the use of the ferry and know of others who have as well. The ferry has provided a real shortcut service to those unable to use the fast service from Muskegon (campers and families with RV's, etc.). To lose the ferry would prohibit a lake crossing opportunity to many from Michigan, Wisconsin, and beyond. In addition it would have a large economic impact on the port communities involved. We must keep the ferry running under the consent decree!

Thomas and Lois Dykstra, [REDACTED] Holland, MI

---

**From:** don wineland  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/23/2013 3:37:05 PM  
**Subject:** D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

We support the continued operations of the SS Badger across Lake Michigan.

Thanks You

Don Wineland

DRW Inc a SDVOSB

P.O. Box 100 ( shipping 22855 Balsa ave. )

Prior Lake, Mn 55372

952-913-2344 Mobile

952-461-4616 Home

Donald R. Wineland

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**From:** don wineland  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/23/2013 3:34:03 PM  
**Subject:** SS Badger Support

We support allowing the SS Badger to continue to operate across lake Michigan.  
Thanks

DRW Inc  
P.O. Box 100 ( shipping 22855 Balsa ave. )  
Prior Lake, Mn 55372  
952-913-2344 Mobile  
952-461-4616 Home  
Donald R. Wineland

---

**From:** Todd Hyatt  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/23/2013 3:28:17 PM  
**Subject:** ss badger

Please rule in favor of the badger  
It is the pride of the Ludington and Manitowok communities, and its absence would be a great detriment

---

**From:** Larry Kozien  
**To:** 'pubcomment-ees.enrd@usdoj.gov'  
**Sent:** 4/23/2013 3:24:58 PM  
**Subject:** FW: SS Badger (United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771)

United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

*Larry Kozien*  
Air Products Equipment Company  
1555 Louis Avenue  
Elk Grove Village, IL 60007-2313  
Phone: (847) 437-5952 ext 8667  
Fax: (847) 437-7026  
email: [larry@airproductsequip.com](mailto:larry@airproductsequip.com)

P please print only if needed

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**From:** Larry Kozien  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 23, 2013 2:22 PM  
**To:** 'pubcomment-ees.enrd@usdoj.gov'  
**Subject:** SS Badger

I support the consent decree that will allow Lake Michigan Carferry to continue to operate on Lake Michigan. This ship is vital to the economies of Ludington and Manitowoc.

My family discovered the wonderful Ludington experience more than 50 years ago. As a child, I looked forward to our annual vacations from Chicago to the land of beaches, lighthouses and carferries. As an adult, I often brought my wife and daughter to enjoy the special experiences that I had known. And now, my wife and I plan to retire in the place where we have been fortunate to have owned a second home for the past 15 years. It is more than a home away from home. It is home!

The carferry brings many people to the Ludington area every year. Some are bound for other points, some have reached their destination. My granddaughter has already fallen in love with the "boat-boat". It is my hope that she will be able to continue the tradition that began for our family many years ago.

*Larry Kozien*  
Air Products Equipment Company  
1555 Louis Avenue  
Elk Grove Village, IL 60007-2313  
Phone: (847) 437-5952 ext 8667  
Fax: (847) 437-7026  
email: [larry@airproductsequip.com](mailto:larry@airproductsequip.com)

P please print only if needed

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**From:** Larry Kozien  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/23/2013 3:21:52 PM  
**Subject:** SS Badger

I support the consent decree that will allow Lake Michigan Carferry to continue to operate on Lake Michigan. This ship is vital to the economies of Ludington and Manitowoc.

My family discovered the wonderful Ludington experience more than 50 years ago. As a child, I looked forward to our annual vacations from Chicago to the land of beaches, lighthouses and carferries. As an adult, I often brought my wife and daughter to enjoy the special experiences that I had known. And now, my wife and I plan to retire in the place where we have been fortunate to have owned a second home for the past 15 years. It is more than a home away from home. It is home!

The carferry brings many people to the Ludington area every year. Some are bound for other points, some have reached their destination. My granddaughter has already fallen in love with the "boat-boat". It is my hope that she will be able to continue the tradition that began for our family many years ago.

*Larry Kozien*  
Air Products Equipment Company  
1555 Louis Avenue  
Elk Grove Village, IL 60007-2313  
Phone: (847) 437-5952 ext 8667  
Fax: (847) 437-7026  
email: [larry@airproductsequip.com](mailto:larry@airproductsequip.com)

P please print only if needed

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**From:** Joanne Townsend  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**CC:** editor@MuskegonChronicle.com  
**Sent:** 4/23/2013 3:20:52 PM  
**Subject:**

Sirs:

About 60 years , to the day of our marriage, my parents came from Manitowoc to Ludington on the Badger to attend my wedding at Western Michigan University. The Badger had made its " maiden voyage, " but just a few days earlier! Since then we have gone on the Badger many many times to visit family in North Dakota . This saved us much time and also gas for our trip. It also was great fun for our 3 sons as well!

We think it would be a travesty to have the Badger dry docked. Not just for the above reason or the romance of it, the area needs the Badger for transporting other things across the lake. While we agree ash is a problem, we wish that the governmental agencies would be much more vigilant about the emptying of ships ' ballasts of detritus into the lake. We now live on the Lake Michigan shoreline so that is also a concern for the lake and the shoreline itself.

On that note we support giving the Badger 2 more yrs. to alleviate the problem.

Thank you,

Dr. Jack and Joanne Townsend



---

**From:** Joanne M Westphal  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/23/2013 3:20:47 PM  
**Subject:** D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

To whom this may concern:

I am writing to support the Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger continued service across Lake Michigan. This service is indispensable in summer to tourism and general transit between Wisconsin and Michigan. The absurd traffic situation in the Chicago area makes this service a vital and appreciated transportation alternative to amount of traffic trying to funnel through the Chicago Loop.

As a professor of Landscape Architecture at Michigan State University, I find myself ambivalent to the requirement that the EPA is placing on this car ferry service for two reasons: 1) I teach sustainability and regenerative design in nearly every lecture I deliver at Michigan State; however, 2) I also believe in authenticity in any project where rehabilitation will permit the on-going use of a treasured historic site (or in this case, historic ferry). It is mind-boggling to me if I think about the scores of crossings that these coal powered ships made 365 days per year, not so many years ago. Where was the EPA then? Does it make any sense at all to require the last remaining ship to comply with today's air quality standards, when its contribution to any damage Lake Michigan has suffered from this industry in the past will be but a minute fraction of the damage today. People have a right to see the soot and ash that these historic vessels spewed from their stacks, so they appreciate what air pollution looked like a half century ago.

I never thought that I would find myself arguing against the Clean Air Act, but I believe there are times when the context of a situation, makes the Act appear unreasonable. This is one of those times.

In closing, we need this ferry and the service it provides. I wish it was available throughout the year, that is how valuable it is to commerce and transit. I appeal to the Justice Department to release this enterprise from the restrictions so that all Americans can experience what a ferry of this vintage represented to the growth of this country/region and the contamination that was a part of the price for economic prosperity.

Sincerely

Joanne M. Westphal, PhD, MD, FASLA, FCELA

--

552 W Circle Dr, Rm 314  
Human Ecology Bldg  
Michigan State University  
East Lansing MI 48824  
517-355-9729  
517-432-8108 fax

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/23/2013 3:19:45 PM  
**Subject:** United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1

Ref: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

To Whom It May Concern:

For many reasons I support the consent degree which permits the Lake Michigan car ferry "S.S. Badger" to continue in operation. The discharge of coal ash into Lake Michigan would be a very poor reason for putting an end to the economic benefit that the ferry provides. The ferry is itself a historical treasure, and for this reason it's a draw to tourists. In fact, whatever problems it causes, the history alone justifies insuring its survival.

I say this as the resident of a city with a competing lake ferry (the Muskegon-to-Milwaukee Lake Express), which, according to news reports, has important political friends. This other ferry, an oil burner, is also a source of pollution, but as a private business seeks unfair business advantage against the S. S. Badger by lobbying on the environmental issue.

As I say informally to people, "It isn't as though the Badger is the only source of coal-burning pollution in the Great Lakes." There is, of course, an environmentalist lobby that is unappeasable.

The Badger may or may not be a great aid to commerce simply as a means of transport between two minor cities, one that could be replaced by a non-historic and supposedly less-polluting vehicle. The history makes it a draw. And I believe that the owners deserve credit for keeping a historic vehicle operating on a strictly private enterprise basis. (Bear in mind that the Lake Express would not have come into existence without government aid and loan guarantees.) The Badger, as an enterprise, is not a drain on the public purse, but the welfare and unemployment benefits that its laid-off employees would draw, if you killed it, would indeed be such a drain.

Did you know that, during World War II, U.S. Navy personnel learned how to operate the Skinner Unaflo engines that they would run during battle on U.S. Navy ships by apprenticing on the Ludington ferries? I would just say, informally, to the authorities in charge of this decision, "You simply can't kill the only steam piston-driven marine power plant on the Great Lakes." The technology is historic, and it is a curiosity. Please leave it alone.

Thank you for your attention.

T. John Jamieson  
[REDACTED]  
Muskegon MI 49442  
[REDACTED]

---

**From:** David Hart  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/23/2013 2:47:34 PM  
**Subject:** D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Attn: Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division

Case Name: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

This is probably the first time I've ever commented on DOJ case but here goes. I am in favor of the proposed settlement between the SS Badger, DOJ and EPA. I think that the SS Badger performs an important service in providing a car ferry service across Lake Michigan between the communities of Ludington, Michigan and Manitowoc, Wisconsin. Moreover, I have no horse in the game. I don't belong to the communities of Ludington, Manitowoc, Milwaukee or Muskegon. I grew up in Ohio and moved to Wisconsin later in my life. I don't live near any of these communities (the nearest one to me is nearly five hours away). My opinion is that of a tourist.

1) Despite all that is said, taking either of these ferries for myself doesn't make any practical sense for when I travel east. While Lake Express is quicker, that edge is completely removed by having to slug through Milwaukee traffic in getting to it. Calculating the various cost factors, it is just quicker to drive and avoid either ferry. But this assumes that taking a vacation away from your house makes sense at all. We don't take vacations that make sense, we take vacations to have experiences. This is where the SS Badger has it all over its Lake Express rival.

What the Lake Express is just a big overgrown ferry. We have them up here on Lake Superior. They are very practical and if you are just going from point A to point B everyday it makes sense for people to take them for commuting or to get to an island. They don't even have a name for the ship, they just call it the "Lake Express".

What the SS Badger has it all over the Lake Express is style. It really feels like you are taking almost a cruise. For a short period in your vacation which mostly involves going past endless rest stops with fast food restaurants you have a short period where you can relax and imagine you are in a time gone by.

2) The communities involved, Ludington and Manitowoc are much smaller communities than Milwaukee or Muskegon, The impact of the loss of the SS Badger would be much greater and most likely permanently damage both communities. Muskegon certainly could survive the loss of the Lake Express and I'm sure that most people in Milwaukee don't even know that the Lake Express even exists

3) Finally, Manitowoc has a really cool maritime museum that would be affected by the closure of the ferry service. That doesn't sound like much but when I visited there I had no idea that the community made submarines for US Navy during WWII and they have a sub you can visit there. I just found it fascinating and it just added to the whole nostalgia and historical feel of the entire trip, something that would be completely absent from going on the Lake Express.

In the large scheme of things the pollution that this car ferry creates does not change the ecological balance of the lake compared with any of the industrial communities near the lake that still use coal for factories or power plants. However, I think in the long run the SS Badger must play by the same pollution rules as the Lake Express as long as it has the same loan advantages as the Lake Express had in its creation as well as acknowledgement that the communities involved should be able to contribute funds involved to help the SS Badger convert its coal furnace to oil and there should be great tax advantages to this vessel. The analogy I would give is that the SS Badger is equivalent to investing in

an historic house rather than telling someone that old house is too old and you need to move into a new prefabricated house.

David Hart  
Ashland, Wisconsin

---

**From:** Paul & Sharon Casey  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/23/2013 3:15:11 PM  
**Subject:** Consent Decree - S.S. Badger

Please approve the Consent Decree for the S.S. Badger Car Ferry. My husband and I have been using the Badger for over ten years. It has saved us so much time around the Lake plus gasoline expense. Thank you. Sharon & Paul Casey

---

**From:** Ira Wolfson  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/23/2013 3:14:58 PM  
**Subject:** Lake Michigan Car Ferry

To Whom it May Concern,

My family and I sincerely believe that the S.S. Badger is a national treasure that should be preserved. If Lake Michigan Car Ferry can end the pollution problem in two years as the pending bill proposes, than service should definitely be continued.

Thank you very much, Ira Wolfson and family...

---

**From:** Cary & Tanya Markham  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/23/2013 3:12:59 PM  
**Subject:** D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Please approve the Lake Michigan Carferry Consent Decree agreement.

**Case Name:**

United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

Thank you,

Cary Markham

---

**From:** Judy Thorp  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/23/2013 4:28:37 PM  
**Subject:** United States vs Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, inc, D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Assistant Attorney General,  
Environmental and Natural Resources Division

**Case Name:** United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger, D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Dear Sir or Madam:

I am writing in support of the Consent Decree.

I have grown up here in Ludington where the carferries are a part of life.

The Pere Marquette Railroad and its carferries were instrumental in the economic and social development of Mason County and the City of Ludington. At one time Ludington was the third busiest port on Lake Michigan. The carferries economic contribution continued with the C&O Railroad and continues albeit in a much smaller way now with the SS Badger.


Ludington is a popular destination for vacationers attracted by the city's location on the shores of Lake Michigan and the many recreational opportunities it affords. Aside from the daily sailings of the historic steamship *Badger* in the summer, there is little indication today that Ludington's beautiful harbor was among the busiest commercial ports on the Great Lakes in the last century, third only to Chicago and Milwaukee on Lake Michigan. That great history will now be remembered through the new Port of Ludington Maritime Museum which is being developed by the Mason County Historical Society <http://ludingtonmaritimemuseum.org/>. I invite you to explore this web site to learn how the Mason County Historical Society is planning to renovate the historic former Coast Guard Station at Ludington to house the museum. The history of the carferries in one of three major themes in this project.

The SS Badger continues that tradition of providing economic well-being to its employees who are Ludington and Mason County residents. The SS Badger has also come to play a very important role in the cultural life of Ludington and the 100,000's of visitors who come here each summer. As well as being an economic force in the community, the SS Badger is the modern symbol of Ludington's Maritime history.

It is imperative to the economic and cultural well-being of this community that the SS Badger continues to run. The Consent Decree is the best possible way for this to happen. I personally support this. The real threats to Lake Michigan from invasive species and storm sewer runoff should be attacked rather than this Consent Decree.

Sincerely yours,

Judith A Thorp

  
Ludington, MI 49431

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[www.judyht.etsy.com](http://www.judyht.etsy.com)



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**From:** Petet Bxxxxxx  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/23/2013 4:37:08 PM  
**Subject:** DJ Ref # 95-5-1-1-10771

Re the "SS Badger"

The Lake Michigan car ferry is a necessary (and beautiful) way to save hundred of miles and related fuel in transiting the eastern and western shores of Lake Michigan. While I'm sure the EPA has good intentions in monitoring the emissions put forth by "The Badger," the company has agreed to comply with coal-ash removal within two years. This should be enough for the EPA to go on to other, more pressing issues (e.g., nuclear and other far more toxic waste). It's also my understanding the "The Badger" has plans to convert its boilers to oil or clean-burning natural gas in the future. In short, this iconic steamship, the last on the Great Lakes, provides jobs for two historic, Small-town American Cities in need of jobs, saves considerable traffic congestion around the greater Chicago area, provides passengers with an experience not otherwise found within the borders of America, and saves hours of transit time for commercial enterprise and the public in general. It's time to cut back on the myriad Rules, Regulations, Fees, and Fines imposed on the American people - and the "SS Badger" is a good starting place!

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Peter Bodman

---

**From:** Frame, Mike  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/23/2013 4:39:26 PM  
**Subject:** Badger

I am for the continued operation of the Badger in Ludington Michigan.

Mike Frame  
Business Applications Support  
Clabber Girl Corporation

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**From:** Daniel Ressel  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/23/2013 4:46:13 PM  
**Subject:** S.J.Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-110771

Please allow the consent agreement to to permit a vital part of our lake heritage to survive by making the necessary adjustment to it powering of the SSBadger  
Thank you

---

**From:** Tom Hopp  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/23/2013 4:53:39 PM  
**Subject:** Ref. Case No.: 90-5-1-1-10771 Public Comments - Lake Michigan Carferry Service

Asst. Attorney General  
Envir. & Natural Resources Division  
Ref: Case No. 90-5-1-1-10771 Consent Decree - Lake Michigan Carferry

I am writing in support of the Lake Michigan Carferry Service (S.S. Badger) and their consent decree agreement with the US EPA to allow continued [seasonal] discharge of ash for an additional two more years. The positive economic activity created by the operation of this vessel greatly benefits the towns of Ludington, MI & Manitowoc, WI. Shutting down this ferry operation solves nothing.

In my personal opinion, there are much larger sources of water pollution that the EPA should be concentrating their efforts on than the rather small amount of basically inert coal ash that is the subject of this action. The recent combined sanitary / storm sewer overflows into Lake Michigan at Chicago and Milwaukee come to my mind.

Respectfully,

Thomas Hopp  
Fremont, OH 43420

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**From:** Derral VL  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/23/2013 4:56:49 PM  
**Subject:** United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Re: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

I support the consent decree. Allow the owners the specified time to make changes and keep the ship running.

Derral VanLoon

---

**From:** Linda Miller  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/23/2013 5:00:02 PM  
**Subject:** SS. Badger

This country is made up of so many small towns who rely on local businesses for survival. Ludington, MI and Manitowoc, WI are two of those small towns. Both towns partially rely on the business accompanying the SS Badger carferry every summer. Over 200 direct jobs and many more indirect jobs depend on the sailing and customer influx from the SS Badger. This is in states that continues to suffer from high unemployment rates. Tourism is the bread and butter of many downtown businesses in both these small towns.

So.....there's the economics of this situation, which is something that can be measured. The other part of the SS Badger that can't be replaced is the history. The SS Badger is an icon in both towns. It docks in Ludington, MI as the home port. Home town citizens and visitors alike gather along the shoreline and the pier to wave the Badger out and welcome it home each day. Generations of families have listened for the horn blasts of the Badger as it enters the home port each day. The SS Badger is the heart of this small town.

The mercury levels emitted in the coal ash are insignificant, in terms of lethality for plant and sealife - less than an ounce of mercury over the entire season. Strides are being made to comply with the edicts of the EPA to reduce the amount of coal ash emitted into the lake. The SS Badger's owners are making progress in improving the environmental safety of Lake Michigan by reducing the amount of ash released into the lake.

Please help us support and save the SS Badger. It is not only our economic stability but also our history and the heart of our community.

Sincerely,

Linda S. Miller

---

**From:** Karen Garland  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/23/2013 5:04:02 PM  
**Subject:** United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771.

I support the consent decree to maintain the carferry service in Ludington, MI as a piece of the local heritage, and the local economy, and something I have personally enjoyed when I visit the area.

*Karen Garland*

*7th and 8th grade Science and Religion Teacher*

*Holy Family School, Grand Blanc*

*(810) 694-9072*

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**From:** Linda Miller  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/23/2013 5:04:36 PM  
**Subject:** FW: SS. Badger United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc. D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

I inadvertently left off the Reference number on this email. Wanted to be sure it was acknowledged so I'm resending it.

Thank you.

Linda Miller

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** pubcomment-ees.enrd@usdoj.gov  
**Subject:** SS. Badger  
**Date:** Tue, 23 Apr 2013 17:00:02 -0400

This country is made up of so many small towns who rely on local businesses for survival. Ludington, MI and Manitowoc, WI are two of those small towns. Both towns partially rely on the business accompanying the SS Badger carferry every summer. Over 200 direct jobs and many more indirect jobs depend on the sailing and customer influx from the SS Badger. This is in states that continues to suffer from high unemployment rates. Tourism is the bread and butter of many downtown businesses in both these small towns.

So.....there's the economics of this situation, which is something that can be measured. The other part of the SS Badger that can't be replaced is the history. The SS Badger is an icon in both towns. It docks in Ludington, MI as the home port. Home town citizens and visitors alike gather along the shoreline and the pier to wave the Badger out and welcome it home each day. Generations of families have listened for the horn blasts of the Badger as it enters the home port each day. The SS Badger is the heart of this small town.

The mercury levels emitted in the coal ash are insignificant, in terms of lethality for plant and sealife - less than an ounce of mercury over the entire season. Strides are being made to comply with the edicts of the EPA to reduce the amount of coal ash emitted into the lake. The SS Badger's owners are making progress in improving the environmental safety of Lake Michigan by reducing the amount of ash released into the lake.

Please help us support and save the SS Badger. It is not only our economic stability but also our history and the heart of our community.

Sincerely,

Linda S. Miller



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**From:** Vickie Vetting  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/23/2013 5:08:43 PM  
**Subject:** D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

to: Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division

**Case Name:**

United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

As a citizen of Wisconsin, I support the Consent Decree agreement with the Department of Justice and EPA. I feel that this continued operation of the SS Badger is supportive of the continued economic growth of the Upper Midwest.

Victoria Vetting

[REDACTED]  
Plymouth, Wisconsin 53073-3838  
[REDACTED]

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**From:** Harvey Greemann  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/23/2013 5:12:32 PM  
**Subject:** United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771.

I am a property owner in Ludington and believe the Ludington Car Ferry should STOP polluting Lake Michigan. It is filthy and should not be allowed another day of polluting our great Lake Michigan. The EPA and Courts should enforce the law, do not be cowards and let this pollution continue. Converting to another power source is easily possible and putting off the decision only helps the owner, not the public, the Lake or the City of Ludington.

**Harvey W. Greemann**

CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE: This message contains confidential information intended only for the use of the individual(s) or entity to whom it is intended even if addressed incorrectly and may contain information that is confidential, proprietary or legally privileged. If you received this message in error, please notify us and delete the original message. Thank you.

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**From:** Scott Jabas  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/23/2013 5:19:14 PM  
**Subject:** D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

ATTN of: Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division

**Case Name:**

United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

I am very hopeful that the future of the SS Badger and its valuable service is secure. I am a faithful semi regular user of the service and would be disappointed to see it legislated out of existence due to what I see as selective application of a pollution restriction that does not consider the benefits provided by the SS Badger and its employees. We continue to see Lake Michigan assaulted by the City of Milwaukee and its inadequate sewage treatment system with nothing on the foreseeable future planned to address the issue. The SS Badger at least has a plan that will conclude the ash deposits and just needs the additional time with which to comply. Please grant the waiver and thank you for your efforts to protect the water and the people of the states of Wisconsin and Michigan and the other users of the SS Badger ferry service.

Sincerely,

Scott Jabas

[REDACTED]  
Neenah, WI 54986

---

**From:** Sheri & Bob Wilkins  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/23/2013 5:22:11 PM  
**Subject:** D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

The Badger is one ship in all the Great Lakes, really is this even worth looking into at this time. There isn't enough of an impact on the environment for this single ship to justify the cost of all associated with this effort. Please consider the environmental impact of the ILLEGAL IMMAGRINTS crossing the boarder and concentrate on something that might actually make a difference. The amount of trash left behind by the groups of people crossing into the country is staggering. Another suggestion would be doing something constructive like consolidating the Semi-depleted Fuel Rods from the many NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS in our nation. Thos babies have been left to sit in pools even after a plant is decommissioned. Please tell me there are far more pressing issues than this ferry that runs  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the year in worlds six largest body of fresh water. The whole thing is absolutely ridiculous considering all of the other more beneficial things that could be done to preserve our natural resources.....

---

**From:** danshimek  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/23/2013 5:22:53 PM  
**Subject:** D.J. Ref 90-5-1-1-10771

This is to support the settlement extending the conversion period for the S.S. Badger.

It is a water craft equivalent of a landmark, which serves as beneficial travel vehicle between two states, which saves energy consumption by those having to travel through the Chicago area.

I also understand that it is environmentally better than the ferry that runs out of Milwaukee.

Holistically, it remains an asset to the country.

Thank you.

Daniel Shimek  
Cornwall, New York  
with a condo in Manitowoc

---

**From:** Bayberry  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/23/2013 5:23:42 PM  
**Subject:** RE: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771.

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**Subject:** United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771.

I believe the Ludington Car Ferry should STOP polluting Lake Michigan. It is filthy and should not be allowed another day of polluting our great Lake Michigan. The EPA and Courts should enforce the law, do not be cowards and let this pollution continue. Converting to another power source is easily possible and putting off the decision only helps the owner, not the public, the Lake or the City of Ludington.

John Erickson

[REDACTED]  
Rockford, Mi 49341

---

**From:** Jon & Lori Austin  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/23/2013 5:29:46 PM  
**Subject:** Reference Case Number: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

April 23, 2013

Assistant Attorney General  
U S D O J – ENRD  
P. O. Box 7611  
Washington D. C. 20044

Dear Sir:

I am writing this in support of the continued operation of the S. S. Badger. Please reference case number 90-5-1-1-10771 in the case of the United States v Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Short Cut, INC. d/b/a Lake Michigan Car Ferry Services & the S.S. Badger.

My husband and I live in the Metro Detroit area, but we recently purchased a vacation condo in Ludington. It is a town we have always loved, taking our children there to enjoy the lake and surrounding area every summer as they were growing up. We look forward to sharing more good times there in the future. The S.S. Badger is a huge part of the charm in Ludington as well a major boost to the local economy.

We ask you to please carefully consider approving the Consent Decree.

Thank you for your time.  
Respectfully Yours,  
Lori and Jon Austin

████████████████████  
Madison Heights, MI  
48071

████████████████████  
Ludington, MI  
49431

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**From:** Roger Franke  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/26/2013 1:36:32 PM  
**Subject:** Ash

Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

To Whom It May Concern: We hope that you pass the consent agreement concerning ash deposits that you have negotiated with the S. S. Badger. Being persons who enjoy the services of the Badger, we feel certain that they will abide by the agreement in an attempt to better the Great Lakes environment for all of us.  
Patricia Franke



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**From:** Susan  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/23/2013 9:25:49 PM  
**Subject:** Badger Carferry Ref # D.J.Ref.No. 90-5-1-1-10771

I am so happy that the Badger will continue to sail -- I have sailed on these carferries all my life - since I was a child. I will be 70 this year so there have been many, many experiences and memories made with these ships. I remember all of them from the Pere Marquette to the Spartan, Badger and City of Midland.

As far as the pollution from the coal I don't feel this has hurt the clarity or the safety of Lake Michigan waters. I've been drinking from Lake Michigan all my life (I live in Chicago) and when in the state of Michigan from the same "well". I even grew up here in Chicago with the smell of coal summers and winters. As I said I'm 70 years of age, and breathing -- better than ever!

I also have seen in my travels on trips and vacations over our land, many coal run old trains, etc. Because of the small amount of waste they produce, and because of the antiquity of these machines and ships, I feel keep them running -- they are not hurting anyone -- they remind us of the ingenuity and love given to the people of this country by inventive and creative Americans over the history of our great nation.

These boats were -- and still are -- a big part of my life -- thank you for their "reprieve" and let's hope we can find a way to at least keep them running albeit from another form of energy if necessary.

Most sincerely,

Susan F. Healy and  
James E. Healy, Jr.

---

**From:** Christine Begnoche  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/26/2013 3:59:53 PM  
**Subject:** Badger

Please work for a solution to keep the historic Badger afloat as it improves it's environmental impact.

Christine Begnoche

---

**From:** McPartlin  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/24/2013 4:00:33 PM  
**Subject:** Car Ferry

Please accept the agreement for the Badger Car Ferry. The ferry has saved us both time and money.

---

**From:** Kendra Harrington  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/26/2013 2:41:51 PM  
**Subject:** Carferry support!  
**Attachments:** image001.gif

Keep the heritage of the Badger alive and in Ludington! It's only 1 boat...Jesssh. If the Carferry is taken away from this small American town, it would be DEVESTATING! The loss of jobs and business the Badger brings to Ludington would be a huge blow.

Thanks

Kendra Harrington  
*Processor*



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**From:** Janice Dyer  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/23/2013 9:02:18 PM  
**Subject:** Case #D.J. Ref. #90-5-1-1-10771

Assistant Attorney General, Environmental & Natural Resources Div.:

Re: Reference Case number-D.J. Ref. 90-5-1-1-10771

I am writing in regard to the Consent Decree agreement with the Department of Justice and EPA requiring the SS Badger to end the ash discharge within two years. I feel that this agreement should be approved for many reasons.

The SS Badger is very important to the well-being of both Ludington, MI and Manitowoc, WI. In this weak economy, the tourist business that the car ferry brings is important to the economies of the both cities. The second reason that I feel that this Consent Decree should be approved is that the coal that the SS Badger is using has been analyzed and has been found to have no environmental impact. In the past, hundreds of ships that burned coal plied the Great Lakes every day and all year long. The SS Badger is the last of these ships still sailing and just for historical value, it should be allowed to keep operating. If the EPA is so concerned about the Great Lakes, they should do something about cities like Chicago, Grand Rapids, and Milwaukee dumping hundreds of thousands of gallons of sewage into Lake Michigan every time there is a heavy rain. I am much more concerned about all that sewage in the lake than a small amount of coal ash. I would urge that the Consent Decree agreement for the SS Badger to continue service for two more years be approved.

Sincerely,  
Janice Dyer

Montague, MI 49437

---

**From:** Charles Clippert  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**CC:** info@ssbadger.com  
**Sent:** 4/23/2013 10:01:59 PM  
**Subject:** Case No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Case Name: US v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc. d/b/a/ Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger.

Dear Ass't AG: Simple common sense dictates that the Consent Decree in the above case be approved and that the SS Badger be allowed to continue to operate crossing Lake Michigan. Not only does this serve the needs of thousands of motorists during the year, but also commerce in the communities connected by the Badger and furthers the interests of tourism in Michigan and Wisconsin. Furthermore it significantly reduces carbon fuel emissions from vehicles that would probably be required to drive the 400 to 600 miles to make a one way trip to destinations west of Lake Michigan or in Michigan, Canada and points east.

Common sense dictates that the Consent Decree is an excellent solution to the alleged problem resulting from the coal fired power plant on the the Badger and the Badger should be afforded every leeway to make the proposed conversion and continue its services to the people and communities of Michigan and Wisconsin and travelers from all parts of the country.

Respectfully submitted,

Charles F. Clippert

Charles F. Clippert  
Pte. Aux Barques Twp. Trustee  
2045 Cliff Road, #46  
Port Austin MI 48467  
Phone: 989-738-7534

---

**From:** S S  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/26/2013 2:35:08 PM  
**Subject:** Case number: 90-5-1-1-10771

I would like to support the continued service of the S.S.Badger. I am asking that the Consent Decree be approved. The Badger is a wonderful asset for the State of Michigan.  
Thank you.

Sue Straley



---

**From:** Lenora Steinley  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/26/2013 2:44:07 PM  
**Subject:** Case Number D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

My husband and I along with our granddaughter have traveled on the SS Badger several times over the past several years. We love to travel and being able to take the ferry across to Wisconsin has saved us a lot of time. The trip is very enjoyable as well as educational with it's long history as a coal fired vessel. We understand that it is important that we make every attempt to keep our great lakes clean, but until such time that this ferry can make the transition from coal, the importance of this ship to Michigan and Wisconsin and the tourists of these states should be recognized.

Brian and Lenora Steinley  
Fairgrove, MI

---

**From:** Frank Luddite  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/23/2013 7:28:21 PM  
**Subject:** Case Number: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

**To:**  
Assistant Attorney General, Environment and Natural Resources Division

**Reference**  
Case Number: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

**Case Name:**  
United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and S.S. Badger

**Dear sir,**

**Regarding the Badger, I would like to respectfully comment that a decision on this case should be made based on the facts, as can easily be found, and not on the shameful, extremely incorrect figures put forth by our Senator Durbin.**

**My understanding is that the mercury emission of the Badger's ash contains approximately one seventh (1/7) of an ounce per year. If that were truly Mr. Durbin's issue he might be more concerned with all the coal fired power plants, putting out mercury by the thousands of pounds. It appears Mr. Durbin is concerned with the impact of the fundraising done on his behalf by the Lake Express, the Badger's direct competition. Perhaps Lake Express is willing to spend a lot of money to persuade Mr. Durbin to put the Badger out of business. Perhaps he feels he can use the EPA as a club to help his contributors.**

**I appreciate that the mission of the EPA is not very simple at all, what with all the conflicting interests and dirty politics. In my humble opinion, a realistic goal would be to do the most good for the environment with the tools and resources at hand. I don't think that saving 1/7 of an ounce of mercury per year is worth putting the Badger out of business.**

**One reason I can say that, is that the Badger saves a huge amount of automotive fuel and deisel fuel. I do not have the numbers, but multiplying the number of cars and trucks taking the Badger, times the miles saved, times the fuel not burned in those miles, would show a pretty huge savings in fuel, vehicle emissions, and rubber particles in the air. How does that savings compare to the 1/7 ounce of mercury?**

**Last season, and for years to come, a very large number of huge wind generator parts have been transported by the Badger, as they are manufactured in Wisconsin, and used in parts of Michigan and beyond. All the miles of highway travel saved by using the Badger results in some calculatable reduction in road wear, as these turbine parts are extremely heavy. I have seen them and have counted 76 wheels on one vehicle. Can that factor into the equation of "most good, least harm" ?**

**Again, I appreciate the mission of the EPA, and I hope you can make a fair decision, based on facts and practicality, and not on politics.**

**Thank you for your attention, sir,**

**Frank Longmore  
Ludington Michigan**

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/24/2013 6:10:54 PM  
**Subject:** Case Number - D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

To: Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division

**I am writing in reference to Case Name:**

United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

I would like to request your support to approve the consent decree in this case to keep the ferry running as they convert to gas powered engines.

Thank You,

Andy Peterson

[REDACTED]  
Grand Blanc, MI, 48439

---

**From:** Woody Harrington  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/23/2013 9:04:16 PM  
**Subject:** Case Number 90-5-1-1-10771

**Reference Case Number - D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771**

**To whom it may concern:**

**My wife and I are in support of granting two additional years to the owners of the S.S. Badger to enable them time to be able to operate without emitting coal ash into Lake Michigan. This should be sufficient time to make the required conversion while at the same time continuing a needed public transportation and preserving the jobs of those employed. We think this will also continue to benefit the local economies at both ports in Wisconsin and Michigan.**

**Thank you,**

**Woody and Susie Harrington**

**Grass Lake, Michigan 49240**

Sent from my iPhone

---

**From:** Terry Bryll  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**CC:** 'Lake Michigan Carferry Service'  
**Sent:** 4/26/2013 2:55:34 PM  
**Subject:** Comment on Case Number - D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Regarding: Case Number - D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger  
To: The Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division

I am sending this message to support the Consent Decree that provides two years for the S.S. Badger to end its ash discharge into Lake Michigan.

I have always been a strong advocate for environmental protection. However, I believe the application of this protection should provide accommodation, when appropriate, for special cases. Furthermore, I strongly believe that the S.S. Badger as the last large coal fired and steam powered vessel operating on Lake Michigan merits such accommodation to allow its continued operation. My reasons for this belief include the following.

The S.S. Badger as an operating vessel is a significant historic artifact representing a long tradition of commercial shipping on the Great Lakes.

Treating the operation of the S.S. Badger as a mere commercial operation misses important public benefits of this operation. It is rare for such large vessels to be preserved in an operating state because of the high cost of maintenance. The commercial operation of this boat provides for its continued maintenance and preservation. This operation also gives the boat greater and more meaningful public exposure than it would receive as a museum piece. I believe that the commercial operation of the boat should be regarded in terms of these significant public benefits.

I appreciate your attention to my comments and look forward to the continuing operation of the S.S. Badger.

Sincerely,

Terry Bryll  
Portland, Oregon

---

**From:** Dan Warrick  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/24/2013 12:40:04 PM  
**Subject:** Comment re: S.S. Badger: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

This is a letter in support of the agreement to permit the continued operation of the SS Badger on Lake Michigan. I have been riding the ship since I was an infant--60 some years. Please take steps to ensure its future as a real business on the lake without undue economic burden. Thank you. Sheridan F. Warrick

Sent from my iPad

---

**From:** Dale Bannon  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/26/2013 3:14:14 PM  
**Subject:** Consent Decree SS Badger

Ladies/Gentlemen,  
I support the SS Badger Consent Decree.  
C Dale Bannon

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Ah, Springtime and flowers.

THANK YOU  
for deleting my address,  
any other addresses,  
and personal information,  
from this e-mail,  
if you plan to forward it.

THANK YOU  
also for using "BCC"  
instead of "TO" and "CC"  
when initiating group e-mails.  
This helps prevent spammers & hackers  
from obtaining addresses,  
thus limiting the proliferation of spam.

---

**From:** Russell Phillips  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/26/2013 3:38:38 PM  
**Subject:** D.J. Ref. 90-5-1-1-10771 SS Badger Lake Michigan Carferry

Assistant Attorney General.

I am writing in support of the SS Badger. (Lake Michigan Carferry) I have crossed Lake Michigan many times using the SS Badger.

I believe everyone should experience the Badger at least once in a lifetime. As a matter of fact, my husband and I have reservations made with the SS Badger in May. We plan to take our motorcycles across to WI and visit many of our friends.

Please consider the approval of the Consent Decree.

Sincerely,  
Beth Phillips  
Whitehall, MI



---

**From:** Marcolette Madden  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/26/2013 3:45:27 PM  
**Subject:** D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-1071  
**Attachments:** image001.png

**Dear Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division**

**Regarding: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger**

I support the Badger EPA Consent Agreement Support Resolution because I think it strikes a very wise balance between Care for Creation and regard for the economies of Manitowoc, Wisconsin and Ludington, Michigan.

Thank you.

***Sister Marcolette Madden***

Associate Professor, Educational Studies Faculty  
Silver Lake College of the Holy Family  
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920-686-6375  
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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/26/2013 3:59:06 PM  
**Subject:** D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771 SS Badger

To Whom it may concern:

I believe that the consent decree should be allowed for the continued operation of the SS Badger. The Badger is an important part of the economy of Northwest Michigan and provides a needed service. It is also historically important. The owners are attempting to find a solution to the ash problem and need time.

Personally I do not believe that the ash discharge is a significant source of pollution. There were many hundreds of coal fired ships operating on the Lakes for the past one hundred and sixty years and there has not been any major effects to the Lakes caused by this.

Sincerely,  
John Mallard

[REDACTED]  
Grawn, MI. 49637

---

**From:** John Kupke  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/23/2013 7:56:13 PM  
**Subject:** D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

To: Assistant Attorney General, Environment and Natural Resources  
Division  
Re: United states v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a  
Lake Michigan Carferry Services and S.S. Badger

This is intended as an indication of my personal support of the proposed/pending Consent Decree, which would enable continued operation over the next two years of the S.S. Badger on Lake Michigan, while a long term solution to the ash discharge is completed. I have a home on lake Michigan [REDACTED], Ludington, MI) in the general vicinity of the route of the Badger and, like others, want preservation of Lake Michigan as a first priority. However, over the next two years with continued operation of the Badger, while a long term solution to the powering of the vessel is resolved, I am certain there will be no significant adverse environmental impact sustained by the Lake and in all probability no measurable impact of any material degree would occur. I am of this opinion based on my past 37 years of water and wastewater environmental engineering experience as a Registered Professional Engineer and as a Board Certified Environmental Engineer who places an absolute importance on the preservation of Lake Michigan.

Taking this fact into consideration in conjunction with the important economic benefits related to the operation of the Badger, to me, clearly warrants further operation of this Michigan-Wisconsin carferry consistent with the Consent Decree. There is no question that continued operation of the Badger is economically important to the region. This cannot certainly in and of itself justify it's operation in the absence of any environmental regulation. However, at this time and under the current conditions I believe continued operation through implementation of the consent decree, which provides a necessary "grace period", is an appropriate, balanced approach that best serves both our economic and environmental priorities. If you have any questioned regarding my support of the Consent Decree and continued operation of the Badger, please respond to this email address or call me at [REDACTED]. This opportunity to comment is very much appreciated.

Respectfully submitted,

John E. Kupke, P.E., BCEE

---

**From:** Mick Peterson  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/26/2013 3:48:46 PM  
**Subject:** D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771 - Lake Michigan Carferry

**Address to:**

Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division

**Case Name:**

United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

To Whom It May Concern:

After reviewing the facts of the case, I think the Consent Decree, with the possible exception of the fine, should be approved.

I am a supporter of the Badger and Lake Michigan Carferry (LMC). I believe they provide a valuable service which benefits economies on both sides of Lake Michigan. It should be noted that cars and trucks will create additional pollution (perhaps not in large quantities) when they go around the lake, even more so, if they are stuck in Chicago traffic. The Badger also provides the best means of moving over-sized loads across the lake. The service saves time, and time is money. In fairness to the opponents of the Badger, I agree that an alternative method of ash disposal needs to be in place. It is my hope this solution will be acceptable to those concerned with the environment and those who benefit from the Badger and its services.

My only point of contention is the fine itself. My proposal is to belay the fine and use the money LMC would otherwise spend on it and use it solve the ash-discharge problem, perhaps even solve it FASTER than the proposed two years. If solved faster, it would be a win-win for all parties involved. For the record, I think the two year time table is fair. I would rather see the EPA work with LMC in the spirit of cooperation, perhaps even assist them, in finding an alternative means of ash disposal.

Lastly, I think the smear campaign spearheaded by LMC's competitor, Lake Express (LE) and it's CEO, Sheldon Lubar, should be noted and is relevant to this case. Their goal wasn't saving the environment; it was elimination of their competitors. This whole Consent Decree concerns the environment; not competition. LE hired a national lobbyist, Broydrick & Associates, to block the Tiger II federal grant, which would have dieselized the Badger and ended the environment issues a few years ago. That's another reason I feel the \$25,000 fine is unfair and unreasonable. Hiring of lobbyists and simple competition is fine. However, when the competition starts propping up groups like "Stop-Dumping Coal Ash" to spread disinformation, that is unethical, and such viewpoints should be discredited and disregarded. There's a line; and Sheldon Lubar crossed it.

I hope you will consider my comments, as I appreciate your time in reading them. It is my hope that a fair resolution for all parties involved will be reached.

Sincerely,

Mick Peterson

---

**From:** Mel Boynton  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/23/2013 7:21:21 PM  
**Subject:** D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771 SS Badger Consent Decree

Dear Sir or Madam,

My family and I have used the SS Badger to reduce our car milage and timing in travel across/around Lake Michigan for 40 years. To lose this car ferry would cause further car and truck pollution and conjestion as traffic goes around, instead of across, the lake. The impacts on the economies of Ludington, Michigan and Manitowoc, Wisconsin and surrounding areas would be serious and likely permanent.

While I agree that any coal ash slurry in the lake is not desirable, I believe the SS Badger is one of the last remaining coal-fired ships still sailing the lake, down from hundreds of such ships just 50 years ago. After the pending consent decree runs for two years, I hope your future actions will include approval of some method of serious reduction of coal ash slurry by onboard filters, storage, or other technology to keep this valuable transport option operating for years to come.

Thank you,

Mel Boynton  
Summer resident of Shelby, Michigan

---

**From:** Hugh Drescher  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/24/2013 12:22:34 PM  
**Subject:** D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771 - SS Badger

Assistant Attorney General,

As a lifelong summer visitor to Ludington, Michigan, I'm concerned about both the survival of the S.S. Badger and the environmental impact on Lake Michigan.

I hope that the extension under consideration includes a plan of action for Lake Michigan Carferry to control and contain the ash. Please do not make this just another extension without a concrete plan of action.

I'm also hoping that Ludington, Mason County, the state of Michigan and even the US Government can pitch in to find a solution.

Many Thanks,

Hugh Drescher  
McLean, Virginia

---

**From:** Taylor A Rich  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/26/2013 3:40:36 PM  
**Subject:** D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771, United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and S.S. Badger

Assistant Attorney General  
Environment and Natural Resources Division

As someone in the academic community who studies and writes about matters of regulation, enforcement, and the public good, I recognize the difficulty in balancing all parties' interests in this case. I am pleased that you have found a solution that permits the *SS Badger* to continue operating.

While it is a disappointment that the EPA is not in a position to continue providing waivers exclusively on the basis of the historical significance of this enterprise and its relatively small overall impact, I am nonetheless encouraged that the proposed solution will allow the *Badger* to continue operating in advance of a permanent remediation of the ash discharge problem. The ability to continue operation is definitely a critical component of developing a long-term solution as history shows corporations that have principally operated cross-lake service over Lake Michigan have been unable to survive with the loss of even one shipping season. If the *Badger* were not able to operate for the 2013 navigation season, it would likely never sail again and the other important public benefits (particularly with regard to commercial truck traffic) of the cross-lake service would be lost.

I encourage you to approve the Consent Decree. While this is clearly an unusual problem for the DoJ and EPA to resolve, the parties have produced a unique solution sufficient to resolve the problem.

Sincerely,

Taylor Rich  
New York University

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**From:** John Shewmaker  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/26/2013 3:23:30 PM  
**Subject:** D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771, United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc.

In re: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771, United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc.

To: General Ignacia S. Moreno,  
Assistant Attorney General for the  
Environmental and Natural Resources Division,  
U.S. Department of Justice

Dear General Moreno:

I support the Consent Decree and Settlement regarding the good ship Badger. The Badger is an important mode of transportation for people living in and passing through Ludington, as well as a source of jobs. To lose this ship would be seriously to hurt the local economies of both Ludington, Michigan, and Manitowoc, Wisconsin.

A little wait to clean up the coal residue will not hurt Lake Michigan overmuch. I am a young person with an interest in environmental issues, and I, as much as anyone, want to see Lake Michigan cleaned up. I swim in it, I fish in it. But to let the Badger stop would unnecessarily hurt these small cities, without helping the Lake.

Giving the owners of the Badger time to fix the problems would benefit both the lake and the people in Ludington and Manitowoc to whom the lake is so important.

Thank you for your  
patience with this matter.

Jeremy Shewmaker

Air Castle Cottage  
[REDACTED]  
Ludington, Michigan 49431

and of

[REDACTED]  
Columbia, MO 65201

Admitted as a student  
at the University of Missouri  
School of Law, Columbia, MO,  
beginning September, 2013.



---

**From:** Kilmer, Paulette D  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/23/2013 9:37:50 PM  
**Subject:** D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

I ride on the ferry every summer at least once roundtrip between Ludington, Michigan, and Oshkosh, Wisconsin. Not only is the ride joyous and relaxing, it provides vital links to our past as a nation that depended on waterways to move people as well as goods. I am very pleased that an agreement has been reached concerning the coal ash. The family who run the ferry are very conscientious, and so I know they will expedite their efforts to comply with the agreement. I am pleased that this issue has been resolved positively. Take care, Paulette D. Kilmer (professor of communication at the University of Toledo). Take care, Paulette

---

**From:** Kathy Maclean  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/26/2013 4:08:09 PM  
**Subject:** D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Dear Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division:

I am writing to you regarding the United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger.

I urge you to approve the Consent Decree agreement the SS Badger has with the Department of Justice and the EPA.

As a local business owner, I have experienced the impact the S.S. Badger has on our business. The restaurant fills with guests almost like clockwork within a half an hour each evening after the boat docks. The S.S. Badger provides our community with the economic support our business and many others need in these tough economic times.

I have seen other small towns suffer greatly after losing large employers due to the economy, jobs being moved out of state or the country, and many other reasons. I would hate to see Ludington and Manitowoc lose an economic driver such as the S.S. Badger.

Again, I respectfully urge you to approve the Consent Decree.

Sincerely,

Kathy Maclean  
Ludington, Michigan

---

**From:** Steve Tobey  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/26/2013 3:33:24 PM  
**Subject:** D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Reference Case Number **D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771**

**Assistant Attorney General**

Environmental and Natural Resources Division

**United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc.**, dba Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

Assistant Attorney General

United States Department of Justice ENRD

P.O. Box 7611

Washington D.C. 20044-7611

This email is to recommend favorable action on Dept. of Justice Case Reference Number 90-5-1-1-10771;

United States vs. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut. Inc., Lake Michigan Car Ferry Services and S.S. Badger.

My earliest memories of travelling on the C&O Ferry across Lake Michigan are as a young boy. These trips with my family represent the type of experience which stay with you for the rest of your life. Our family has been using the S.S. Badger, and the S.S. City of Midland before her for over 50 years. The ferries carried us and various cars, bikes and motor homes between Ludington MI and Kewaunee WI and then Manitowac WI. We recognize that EPA regulations have become increasingly stringent over the years, and the discharge of coal ash and combustion byproducts into Lake Michigan has become undesirable. We understand that by upgrading the type and "quality" of the coal used as boiler fuel by the S.S. Badger, the ash discharge has continued to be in compliance with EPA standards and meets current standards, but now the discharge of any boiler ash into Lake Michigan waters by S.S. Badger is deemed unacceptable.

As an engineer, I evaluated the retrofit/conversion of the S.S. Badger to an alternative fuel (i.e. fuel oil or natural gas) and it would be an extremely complicated and cost prohibitive undertaking. There are numerous boiler engineering issues that would make this an expensive and difficult undertaking. The real-time collection and on-board storage of hot (spent) boiler ash on S.S. Badger presents formidable difficulties. Additionally, the off-loading and over-land trucking and subsequent disposal of that ash would pose additional environmental issues. Providing the Lake Michigan Car Ferry Services additional time to solve these difficult problems under a consent decree seems both prudent and reasonable.

In addition to automobiles and recreational vehicles, The Lake Michigan Car Ferry having been designed

to carry  
railroad cars is still capable of carrying over/out-sized commercial loads of massive equipment and  
machinery  
across the lake between Michigan and Wisconsin, avoiding the hazards and scheduling difficulties of  
transporting  
such loads around the south shore of the lake through the heavy traffic of the Milwaukee-Chicago-Gary  
Metro  
areas. The other ferry service on Lake Michigan, the Lake Express from Muskegon MI to Milwaukee WI,  
is not  
engineered for nor capable of handling such loads, and their turbo-diesel-fuel engines emit comparable  
amounts  
of carbon dioxide, along with other exhaust particulates and contaminants.

The S.S. Badger is an obvious "point-source" of coal ash discharge into Lake Michigan. But it should be  
kept in  
mind that compared to other point and disperse sources of coal ash entering the lake, the S.S. Badger is  
a very  
minor contributor to Region 5 Water contamination problems in the overall scheme of things.

In addition to being an iconic tourist-attraction enterprise on the Great Lakes, the S.S. Badger brings  
many full  
and part-time jobs to both Michigan and Wisconsin. It seems only fair to grant the Lake Michigan Car  
Ferry  
Service additional time under a consent decree to solve its truly difficult remediation task of coal-ash-  
slurry  
discharge into Lake Michigan to avoid the shutdown decree.

Respectfully yours,

Stephen W. Tobey, Jr.  
Synergistics  
2496 Colony Way  
Ypsilanti, MI 48197

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**From:** Kathy Haddock  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/26/2013 3:19:59 PM  
**Subject:** D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

I D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Address to: Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division

Case Name: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Service and USS Badger.

Please approve the two year extension to allow the Badger time to reduce ash output.

We have been using the service for over 8 years and think it is a historic vessel that must be preserved.

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**From:** John Donahue  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/26/2013 3:18:53 PM  
**Subject:** D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771


To: Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division  
Re: Case Name: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Car ferry Services and SS Badger

To Whom it may concern:

My name is John Donahue. I'm writing to SUPPORT the recently negotiated consent agreement between the EPA and Lake Michigan Carferry Services. Although I use the car ferry as a method of personal transportation for recreational purposes; the importance of the service as an alternative cross lake option for moving commercial freight, such as manufactured components of wind turbine technology, comes to mind. Having a redundant and safe method to move product from the midwest to destinations in the west, without complicating travel through the Chicago corridor is highly desirable in terms of cost, safety and efficiency. Additionally, the availability for group travel, tourism and quality of life are important considerations for ensuring it remains a viable enterprise and public service. I'm a bicyclist, support green initiatives and am a member of the Sierra Club. I am highly sensitive to the issues of water quality and safe waterborne transportation. Although it would be preferable that the issue of coal fuel could be addressed by more environmental safe sources, I believe the granting of the consent agreement is in the best interest of the public, business and government; along with the mandate of the EPA to protect our natural resources. Thank you for your consideration with this matter.

Regards,

John Donahue

  
Charlotte, MI 48813

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/26/2013 3:04:00 PM  
**Subject:** D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division

**Case Name:**

United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

Dear Sir,

As a lifelong environmental activist and annual customer of the S.S. Badger, I wish to express my desire that all parties work together to achieve the best outcome. The discharge of coal waste must end, but if possible, the continued operation of the cross lake ferry should be maintained. I hope this decree allows for both conditions to be met.

Sincerely,

Paul Clarke

[REDACTED]  
Appleton WI

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**From:** John Wilson  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/26/2013 3:03:47 PM  
**Subject:** D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

To: The Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division

Subject: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

Our family loves the S.S. Badger, we rely on it to get to and from Michigan in the summer time.

We are in favor of the proposed consent decree.

John Wilson  
Minneapolis, MN



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**From:** tombright [REDACTED]  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/26/2013 2:53:29 PM  
**Subject:** D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Regarding the continued operation of The Badger with the consent decree, I believe this is the best way to go.

First The Badger is a traveling historical monument, one of the last examples of travel from early in the last century and valuable in that respect. Although I live and work in Oregon, I use The Badger nearly every year and appreciate it greatly as an example of our shared past.

I am also very concerned with air quality and understand the issues of the ash. I believe that this continued operation while the problem is being addressed is the best route.

Please consider this as my approval for the continued operation of The Badger under the consent decree.

Tom Bright  
Portland OR

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**From:** Chris Vuco  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/26/2013 2:30:26 PM  
**Subject:** D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

To: Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division

**Case Name:**

United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

I feel the consent degree should be approved on behalf of the communities and individuals that benefit from the services offered by the Lake Michigan Carferry the SS Badger. I look forward to riding the ferry again this year and many years in the future.

Chris Vuco  
Sturgeon Bay, WI

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**From:** Gary & Jan Vidlock  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/26/2013 2:04:02 PM  
**Subject:** D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division

United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

I am writing to encourage you to approve the Consent Decree.

My family uses the ferry every summer.

This is vital for both Wisconsin and Michigan tourism.

Thank you.

Janice J. Vidlock

  
Oshkosh, WI

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**From:** Reggie  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/24/2013 4:46:36 PM  
**Subject:** D.J. REF. NO. 90-5-1-1-10771

Good Day

This is in regards to the dumping of coal ash into Lake Michigan by the Car ferry S.S. Badger.

I agree that in a perfect world this should not be allowed, however, neither should all the pollutants that enter the lakes via run off from farmers fields, Industrial Plants etc. Lets not forget about the air pollutants that cities such as South Bend and Chicago contribute via southerly wind currents right up the length of Lake Michigan. Also when we get heavy rains Milwaukee dumps millions of gallons of raw sewage into the lake. Older industrial plants were "Grandfathered" in not to meet the polluting standards that newer plants have to abide by.

I could go on and on but I think you get my point.

It seems to me that all the attention for Lake Michigan pollution is going toward LMC (Lake Michigan Car ferry). The amount of coal ash pollutants that the Badger dumps into the lake is a very minute portion of the whole problem. And why is it that they cannot get "Grandfathered" in, after all they been around for a long time.

Why don't the government go after the outdated industrial plants, the large cities, and somehow limit the run off from farmers fields that pollutes the lake with phosphorus.

Thank You

Reggie Brault

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**From:** Jason Roth  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/26/2013 1:39:51 PM  
**Subject:** D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Dear Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division,


Re: Case Name: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

The Lake Michigan carferry experience has been a memory of mine since a small age.

This email serves as my support to continue the tradition and approve the consent decree.

Regards,

Jason and Patricia Roth

  
Manitowoc, WI 54220

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**From:** Simply Sweet  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/26/2013 1:37:18 PM  
**Subject:** D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division

**Case Name:**

United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

We feel as though the consent degree should be approved and the ferry should continue to run while they are meeting these standards. We love taking this ferry from WI to MI and back as it saves us a lot of driving when we are going to see our family living in MI. Thank you for listening to us.

Chad and Sandra Oakley  
Luverne, MN 56156

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**From:** John Wallace  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/26/2013 1:35:23 PM  
**Subject:** D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division

RE: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc

I am a resident of Two Rivers, Wisconsin. I live approximately seven miles north of the Wisconsin port of the S.S. Badger. The Badger is a welcome sight to my community, signifying the onset of summer, but more importantly the welcome arrival of visitors to our community (including Manitowoc, Wisconsin).

It has become an annual event of my family to take my grandsons across Lake Michigan on the Badger for a fun activity of an overnight to Ludington, MI. We bring modest tourism dollars to that Michigan community which we probably wouldn't otherwise visit.

Since I am retired (Nuclear engineer from the Kewaunee Power Station), I volunteer as a Badger Greeter several times a month during the sailing season to welcome visitors to our community. Volunteers provide directions to visitors, advise of available services, and encourage visits to area attractions. I have seen first hand the delight families have as they disembark from the Badger. Many vehicles coming off the Badger have license plates from states not typically seen in our community (looking at a map makes it obvious that Manitowoc & Two Rivers are not really "on-the-way" stops). It is obvious that operation of the Badger is responsible for bringing visitors to our community and that the community benefits from this exposure.

Regarding the issue of discharges to Lake Michigan: I have no independent means to certify quantities of materials being discharged, but based on published reports, it appears the discharge of any toxic compounds is below legal limits. The total volume of benign ash does not pose an environmental challenge to Lake Michigan. I acknowledge the black stack discharge of the Badger is unattractive but I have not heard that this discharge is of environmental concern. Additionally, that discharge is of short duration and in my opinion does not detract from the net benefit of the Badger's call.

The Badger provides a view of a ship of unique historical significance. I have researched the two steam engines used to provide propulsion to the ship, and while I regret they are not available for viewing, I am simply impressed that they continue to function on a continuous basis during the sailing season. It would be a shame to see this historical vessel retired from service and probably removed from public exposure. A sterile vessel such as the ferry operating out of Milwaukee would not provide the educational value of the Badger.

I encourage you to approve the Consent Decree to allow continued operation of the SS Badger until the owners can implement modifications to eliminate the ash discharge of concern. Since this is an issue of interest within the community, I would support the addition of a requirement that the owners provide periodic (e.g. quarterly) detailed public updates as to the progress of their modification/upgrade project; this will provide assurance that progress is indeed being made and that the two year extension is not simply an extension to an ultimate shutdown.

Sincerely,  
John Wallace

Two Rivers, WI 54241

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**From:** Marc Vander Meulen  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/26/2013 1:34:25 PM  
**Subject:** D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

**To:**  
Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division

**Case Name:**

United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

The Steamship BADGER should be allowed to continue operating in Lake Michigan, including the discharge of coal ash into the lake. I would suggest that the on-going sewage spills into Lake Michigan by major cities including Milwaukee, Chicago and Grand Rapids are much more harmful than any actual or potential discharge by the BADGER and should be the focus of current environmental efforts.

Regards,

Marc Vander Meulen

[REDACTED]  
Holland, MI 49423

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



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**From:** Joanne Eicher  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/26/2013 1:33:12 PM  
**Subject:** D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division

**Case Name:**

United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

I support the continuance of this service, as I have used it for many years--actually my parents began its use when I was an infant, and I was born in 1930. We lived in Lansing, MI and my paternal grandparents lived in Appleton, Wisconsin. Now I use the service to travel from St. Paul, MN to my summer cottage in Holland, MI. Please support the consent decree.

Joanne B. Eicher

[REDACTED]  
St Paul, MN 55108

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**From:** jim Dodson  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/24/2013 1:01:18 PM  
**Subject:** D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Hi,,my name is James Dodson,,

I am from the local area,,and work in Muskegon, making deliveries to local stores,,from Ludington to Grand Haven,,and interact with a large number of people on a daily basis, I am telling you this because I think it is important that you know that people all along the shoreline of Lake Michigan use and support the S. S. Badger and hear it all the time.

I have ridden the S.S. Badger numerous times, taking my motorcycle riding north and south from Manitowac,,and never have had one trip that when I said where I was from that someone did not mention, oh that is where the big carferry is from,,we've ridden on that,,and most in a positive way. On board the S.S. Badger I have met people from all over the United States.

So other than say how it affects just the local community,,Ludington and Manitowac in particular,,I feel that every town and business along the paths that travelers pass to get to these towns in both Michigan and Wisconsin share a need for continued support to keep the Badger active,, thank you.

---

**From:** JOHN J. BECK  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/23/2013 8:07:30 PM  
**Subject:** D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

To: Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division

From: John J. Beck, MD

[REDACTED]  
Sturgeon Bay, WI 54235

Although I am a clean water advocate, I write in support of the above consent decree. The steamer S.S. Badger provides a valuable service to travelers, tourists and businesses in both Wisconsin and Michigan. I was impressed to see the wind energy mast sections which the Badger was able to transport efficiently across Lake Michigan. The Badger is a proud vessel, having been constructed along with her sister ship the S.S. Spartan here in Sturgeon Bay, Wisconsin. I trust that a solution to the coal ash issue can be resolved within the time frame of the consent decree.

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**From:** Randall Petersen  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/23/2013 8:06:28 PM  
**Subject:** D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

I fully support the Consent Decree and want to see it implemented as the BEST way forward in this matter.

I reject the Sierra Club's opposition to the Consent Agreement and feel their position is punitive and completely ignores the needs of Ludington as a community, especially its citizens.

The Consent Agreement is a more than fair reasonable compromise protecting the interests of everyone.

Thank you!

Randall Petersen

[REDACTED]  
Ludington, Mich. 49431

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**From:** William Ueck  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/23/2013 7:06:12 PM  
**Subject:** D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Hello and to whom it may concern,

My wife and I have been depending on the Lake Michigan car ferry to get us across the lake for many years now and we hope you will make every effort to keep it sailing well past 2014.

With much appreciation for your efforts,

Bill & Dorothy Ueck



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**From:** Renee Goetz  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/23/2013 9:44:30 PM  
**Subject:** D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

To: Assistant Attorney Journal, Environmental and Natural Resources Division

Case Name:

United States v. Lake Michigan Trans lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Services and SS Badger

I am greatly in favor of approving the consent agreement between the SS Badger and the Department of Justice and EPA. I use the SS Badger twice a year to visit my aging parents in Michigan. From my house in Wausau, WI it is a 10 hour drive. I cannot afford to fly and the SS Badger saves me time, money, stress and wear on my car. Please allow this historic boat to continue to provide quality service.

Thank you!  
Renee Goetz

Sent from my iPad

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/26/2013 2:09:57 PM  
**Subject:** D.J. Ref. No 90-5-1-1-10771

To: Assistant Attorney General  
Environmental and Natural Resources Division

Re: U.S. v Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and S.S. Badger

I am writing to express my support for the consent decree which will allow the company operating the S.S. Badger additional time to reduce coal emissions in the Lake. As a life long resident of lake Michigan, and having lived on both sides of the lake, I believe the S.S. Badger provides a great service to the public and I have never experienced any of the alleged negative impacts of the coal ash discharge. The Badger provides important economic benefits to residents of the Great Lakes, reduces traffic and emissions by allowing cars to bypass the bumper to bumper traffic on the I-80 corridor, thereby reducing emissions and pollution. It is one ship that serves the public 6 months of the year.

More importantly, I wish the government would focus on the pollution that enters Lake Michigan from the sewers of Milwaukee and Chicago. I regularly see plastic tampon dispensers, plastic bottles caps, and other items that float across the lake every time there is a heavy rain and the sewer systems become overwhelmed and flow into the lake. Additionally, the e-coli count has to be monitored and beaches closed along the southwest and southern areas of Lake Michigan due to these cities. This is a far more important risk and negative impact to those of us who live on the Lake Michigan.

Respectfully,  
H. Davis

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**From:** Rudy Masek  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/24/2013 1:27:11 PM  
**Subject:** D.J. Ref. Number 90-5-1-1-10771

TO; Assistant Attorney General, Environmental & Natural Resources Div.

Case Name; US vs Lake Mich. Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc. d.b.a. Lake Mich. Carferry Services and SS Badger

I am in favor of the proposed consent agreement at hand. I say this because the SS Badger is a vital part of our rich history and has a huge impact on the economies for Michigan & Wisconsin. Using the ferry saves energy and gives me time to conduct business and or relax.

It would be a shame to stop this service. By giving the company some time to make corrective measures to minimize its impact on the environment is critical. Something that I heartily support.

Regards,

Rudy Masek  
Highland, MI



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**From:** Terry Grams  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/24/2013 4:46:20 PM  
**Subject:** D.J.Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771  
**Attachments:** Badger 1.jpg; Badger 2.jpg

Assistant Attorney General  
Environmental and Natural Resources Division

IE: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans Lake Shortcut, Inc. d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Service and SS Badger

If the attached article does not identify Dick Durbin as a real dirt bag, then if what I have been told is true, his family connection to the principles of Lake Express certainly do.

Ludington through many years of sacrifice in blood, sweat and lives has earned the right to keep our National Treasure the Badger.

I certainly hope some common sense is applied to this situation and that Durbin and his pay off buddies do not prevail.

Sincerely

Terry L. Grams

# COAL ASH: Magazine traces campaign that it concludes is not about the environment, but rather competition

FROM PAGE A1

At the National Historic Landmarks committee hearing concerning the SS Badger being recommended for NHL status, Broydrick testified in opposition to the idea. The committee rejected the lobbying firm's arguments, as was reported in the Ludington Daily News at the time. According to the Outer Boundary story, later that same day Durbin wrote a letter to Ken Salazar, then U.S. Secretary of the Interior who had the ultimate authority for the decision, opposing the committee's recommendation. The designation so far has not been given to the Badger.

Broydrick also represented Lake Express in its opposition to the City of Ludington's Tiger II federal grant application sought on behalf of LMC to provide funds to repower the Badger with diesel engines. The grant was not awarded to Ludington.

Broydrick also lobbied the EPA, the U.S. Coast Guard and the Maritime Administration — all entities involved in matters pertaining to the SS Badger. It is not illegal to hire lobbyists. LMC has its own lobbyists in Washington, D.C.

And while Durbin and Broydrick push opposition to the Badger on environmental grounds, Lubar & Co lists on its web page as one of its investments, Hallador Petroleum Co., through its subsidiary Sunrise Coal LLC. The company is engaged in the production of coal from an underground mine in Carlisle, Indiana. Lubar & Co. is the second largest investor with 9.8 percent ownership. The web link to the coal company on Lubar's investment portfolio page is directly next to the web link to Lake Express.

Hallador Energy's CEO Vic Stabio told the Denver Business News in 2011 Hallador will focus on coal indefinitely. Although Hallador considered developing environmentally sustainable energy projects Stabio said the company doesn't anticipate an economic benefit from seeking alternatives to coal, the Denver publication reported.

## DEADLINE FOR COMMENT

MUST BE RECEIVED BY APRIL 26

**FOR THOSE** who still wish to submit a comment on the SS Badger-EPA proposed consent decree, it's important at this time to do so by email. The public comments must be received by April 26, not post marked. The contact information follows.

**COMMENTS TO** be EMAILED: pubcomment-ees.enrd@usdoj.gov

**REFERENCE CASE** Number: Must be included in subject line - D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

**ADDRESS TO:**

**ASSISTANT ATTORNEY** General,  
Environmental and Natural Resources  
Division

**CASE NAME:** United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

"We are a group that believes in coal as a base load [the minimum amount of power required from a power plant] electrical producer and we quite frankly don't see a threat from wind or solar, especially wind," Stabio said.

Outer Boundary stated Hallador has urged people to write members of Congress "to stop the war on coal." Sheldon Lubar is on Hallador's board of directors.

While Broydrick was working the national front, Outer Boundary states the Lansing lobbying firm of Kelley Cawthorne, whose two principles are former Michigan Attorney General Frank Kelley and former State Representative Dennis Cawthorne who once represented Mason County, did the same in Michigan. The magazine's flow chart also lists Organik Consulting and Movement Advocate as involved. Outer Boundary states Movement Advocate's managing director is Joe Serwach who the magazine says organized the "Save Our Great Lakes" campaign which the magazine ties to "Stop Dumping Coal Ash." The "Stop Dumping Coal Ash" was a web-based campaign against LMC and SS Badger. Its

ads and videos did not clearly state the people involved in the organization as it launched sometimes preposterous claims about the Badger such as showing a photo of a foot supposedly stepping in what it intimated was black coal ash on a beach. The campaign employed techniques often seen in negative political advertising.

Stop Dumping Coal Ash also was the name placed on web-based anti-Badger Google advertising that was shown to be paid for by Lake Express and Kelly Cawthorne. The Ludington Daily News in the fall verified that link when shown it by a local marketing agent who discovered it and wanted the ads off the local company's web site.

"The conclusion Outer Boundary Magazine has arrived at is simple. The only reason a movement against the SS Badger has taken place is to eliminate the competition for Lake Express car ferry service. When you follow the money trail the piggy bank resides with Sheldon B. Lubar and Lake Express, and when consideration is taken showing an orchestrated environmental movement against an insignificant operation, while large discharges like British Petroleum's refinery and the cities of Chicago and Milwaukee sewage discharges do not even show up on the activist radar, there is no other path that can be considered," the Outer Boundary story concludes.

Calls for comments this morning made to Lake Express NS Kelly Cawthorne had, as of deadline, not received response. Sen. Durbin's office said it did not know of the Outland Boundary story and would check it out.

Lake Michigan Carferry this morning praised the Outer Boundary article.

"We are pleased that Steve Krueger, of Outer Boundary Magazine, has taken this issue on. We appreciate the time and effort that he's dedicated to bringing awareness and greater clarification to the assault that LMC has been under from our adversaries," stated Terri Brown, director of marketing and media relations.



# Ludington Daily News

7-TIME COMMUNITY **NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR**, MICHIGAN PRESS ASSOCIATION



**WEEKEND EVENT:**  
Section inside today.

**LAKESTRIDE:** Help for Boston victim's family part of race. **B1**

**CONSTRUCTION:** County campground, wind park support building. **A2**



WEDNESDAY APRIL 24, 2013

www.ludingtondailynews.com

75 CENTS

## Coal ash issue motives questioned

### Magazine ties anti-SS Badger lobbying effort to competition, not environment

BY STEVE BEGNOCHE  
MANAGING EDITOR

A story "Attacking the SS Badger, the Deception of Environmental Activism," in the most recent edition of Outer Boundary Magazine, a Wisconsin-based family outdoor magazine, details what it concludes to be an effort by Lake Michigan Carferry's competitor to push the coal ash issue/environmental issue to gain the Milwaukee-based com-

#### CLAIMS

ENVIRONMENT ISSUE EXAGGERATED

**A FLOWCHART** suggests Sheldon Lubar, the founder and chairman of Lubar & Co. which lists Lake Express as its investment, hired lobbyists against the Ludington ferry based on exaggerated environmental claims.

petitor a competitive advantage — not for the good of the environment.

The lead story by Steve Krueger tries to put in per-

spective the small amounts of toxins in the coal ash discharged by the SS Badger, but more notably creates a flowchart of how the magazine believes Sheldon Lubar, the founder and chairman of Lubar & Co. which lists Lake Express as its investment, hired both a Michigan lobbying firm and a national lobbying firm to foment opposition to the Ludington ferry based on exaggerated environmental claims.

The magazine links Sen.

Dick Durbin, the Illinois Democrat and the U.S. Senate majority leader who has been notably outspoken about the Badger's coal ash, with the Lake Express's national lobbyist, Broydrick & Associates. The magazine times at least one of Durbin's seven-minute Senate floor bashings to having occurred just days after a Dec. 12, 2012 fundraiser the lobbying firm hosted for Durbin in Washington, D.C.

SEE COAL ASH, A3



The SS Badger will begin sailing again May 6.

---

**From:** Rita Stone  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/26/2013 1:29:15 PM  
**Subject:** D.J.Ref.No.90-5-1-1-10771

To: Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division

**Case Name:**

United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

Dear Assistant Attorney General,

I am writing in reference to the S.S.Badger Car Ferry that travels across Lake Michigan from Ludington to Manitowoc, WI.

Please allow the S.S.Badger to continue it's business. I love to take that ferry across the Lake because it saves me so much time and it saves me the hassle of driving through Chicago and later Milwaukee. It makes upper Wisconsin available to so many people. I've traveled it many times and find that so many trucking companies use the S.S.Badger for transporting their trucks. It saves the roads, the emissions from the trucks that pollute the air and it saves the companies time and money. At the same time it gives many jobs to the S.S.Badger crews and grounds people.

I can take a train from Holland to Chicago to Milwaukee but then I still have to go 90 miles further north and trains don't go to Manitowoc. Plus cars can't go on trains.

Please allow the S.S.Badger to continue to run. It's a nice relaxing trip across Lake Michigan that takes only 4 hours to complete. Driving it can take 6-8 hours depending on Chicago traffic. A lot of people ride that ferry! There's no way the ash can be hurting Lake Michigan as much as the vehicles driving the distance would cause damage to the roads and environment.

I ask you again to please let the S.S.Badger continue on.

Sincerely,  
Rita Stone

  
Holland, MI 49424

---

**From:** Brachman, Philip S  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/26/2013 1:57:31 PM  
**Subject:** D.J.Ref.No 90-5-1-1-10771

Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Nature Resources Division:

I am writing in full support of the Consent Decree concerning the United States v. Lake Michigan Trans Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger. I have taken this ferry service for 30 years and thus avoided a much longer vtrip between upper Michigan and upper Wisconsin. The company is very sincere in working to end the ash discharge and I am certain they will do so and thus continue this important transportation link used by hundreds of thousands of passengers annually. We passengers appreciate your support of this service. Philip S. Brachman

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---

**From:** Sharilyn Rotta  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/24/2013 4:24:48 PM  
**Subject:** DJ Ref.No.90-5-1-1-10771

Assistant Attorney  
General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division

CASE NAME

United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc. d/b/a/ Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger.

To whom it may concern, We hope by now you are aware that this whole issue is an all out campaign by Sheldon Lubar founder and Chairman of Lubar & Co who have investments in Lake Express out of Muskegon Mi to put Lake Michigan Carferry Services out of business so they can profit by it.. Dick Durbin Illinois Democrat and Us.Senate Majority Leader is also involved.

The little coal ash from this carferry is nothing compared to the discharges from the British Petroleum's refinery and the sewage discharges from Milwaukee and Chicago which is totally disgusting..People in Milwaukee call us everytime their sewer system fails to be prepared for all the junk we will be getting on our beaches in a couple of days...

---

**From:** Dave Vanderberg  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/16/2013 11:29:11 AM  
**Subject:** I think it is a travesty that The Badger did not meet its original deadline for curtailing coal ash emissions and feel that the consent decree should include some very hefty financial penalties. If it weren't for the fact that so many would suffer thr...

---

**From:** Hanna, Jon  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**CC:** Taphorn, Andrea; Hanna, Joan M.; [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 4/18/2013 4:30:57 PM  
**Subject:** D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771, United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

Re: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division:

My Name is Jon and I grew up on the lakeshore in Manitowoc. I graduated high school from Lincoln High and also received my Associate's Degree from the University of Wisconsin - Manitowoc. Everyday, for many years, I was spoiled with the beautiful view of Lake Michigan.

I currently reside in Oshkosh, but often travel back to my hometown. The Badger is not just part of Manitowoc's history and heritage, but also the rest of Wisconsin and western Michigan. When I was a young child, my family would take the car ferry from Kewaunee to Ludington nearly every summer. The cost was very affordable, and the experience for sailing across Lake Michigan was unforgettable. Once the Badger began sailing out of Manitowoc's port, that experience really hit home. Driving along the lake shore on Memorial Drive, you can see the Badger leaving port and coming back a couple times a day. Some of my friends worked in the Badger ticket office and several drove cars on and off the car ferry.

I know I am not the only one who feels passionate about the Badger. The Badger is an economic staple in not only Manitowoc's community, but Ludington's as well. Please consider all the families that will be affected by shutting down the Badger. I think more importantly, think of all the people who have not yet been able to enjoy and experience the Badger yet. Do not shut the Badger down!!!

Thank you,

Jon Hanna  
Patient Financial Counselor  
Aurora Medical Center Oshkosh  
855 N. Westhaven Dr.  
Oshkosh, WI 54904  
(Telephone) 920-456-7004  
(Fax) 920-456-7001  
(Pager) 920-258-0311  
jon.hanna@aurora.org

"It is amazing what you can accomplish if you do not care who gets the credit." - Harry S. Truman



---

**From:** Mike Smith  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/20/2013 1:22:11 PM  
**Subject:** Reference Case Number: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771; United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

Attn: Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division

Dear Sir/Madam:

Originally from Michigan now living in Minnesota my family and friends have used the LMCF for decades and in fact we have reservations on this boat in July of this year from Ludington to Manitowoc. I am writing to you in hopes that the current consent decree would be approved and keep the ferry line open, thank you, Mike Smith  
[REDACTED]

---

**From:** jeff gray  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/20/2013 5:12:36 PM  
**Subject:** Please consider this view regarding the SS Badger. Because of the historic nature of the ship and it's place in history along with the affordable passagae it affords, I ask the EPA to

forgo it's pending ruling regarding the smokestack emissions. You know the statistics better than the average person, but everything I read regarding CO2 emissions it that they are reduced and going down yearly due to the increased use of natural gas. A common sense response would be to preserve the jobs and heritage of this ship as valuable resourses in their communities especially in light of the advancements made with natural gas.

Jobs are #1 and the 5-6 month run of the SS BAdger can be handled by our atmosphere--please reconsider your action.

Sincerely,  
Jeff Gray

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/22/2013 3:44:09 PM  
**Subject:** Case Name: U.S. vs Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc. d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry & SS  
Badger REFERENCE CASE NO. D.J. REF. NO, 90-5-1-1-10771

To: Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Div.  
Re: Case Number D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

I believe the consent decree that the Lake MI Carferry signed with the Dept. of Justice & EPA requiring the SS Badger to end the ash discharge within 2 years is a reasonable compromise. I feel that approval of this decree would give the Badger time to achieve an alternative, as well as keeping several hundred people in Michigan and Wisconsin employed, as well as allowing a large number of people on both sides of the Lake to have employment they might not otherwise have.

This carferry transporting cars and people across the Lake is an experience many people have enjoyed and looked forward to. It is a relaxing journey and saves a great deal of time, My husband and I have taken the "alternative" ferry and it does not compare from a comfort and ability to relax standpoint.

Please give serious consideration and approve this decree.

Kathleen Brune  
[REDACTED]

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/24/2013 4:23:23 PM  
**Subject:** FW: D.J.Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Bernice Szczypka  
[REDACTED]

"In the end only kindness matters"

----- Begin forwarded message -----

Subject: D.J.Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Date: 4/24/13 3:21:13 PM

From: [REDACTED]

To: pubcomment-ees.enrd@usdoj.gov

I fully support the Consent Decree that the Lake Michigan Carferry has signed with the Department of Justice and the EPA. The Badger is a key economic source for both Michigan and Wisconsin. The amount of time and gas we save using the carferry is very significant to us and many others using the Badger. The unique history behind the Badger would be something we should never lose. We have taken our grandchildren to experience the uniqueness and fun of being on the Badger. We already have our reservations for this summer and I hope that we will be able to use the Badger in the future. With all the brilliant students we have at our universities I am assured that someone will be able to find a solution to the ash discharge within the two year limit set by the decree.

Bernice Szczypka  
[REDACTED]

Saginaw, MI. 48602-3245

Bernice Szczypka  
[REDACTED]

"In the end only kindness matters"

---

**From:** Tom Anderson  
**To:** pubcom-ment-ees.enrd@usdoj.gov  
**Sent:** 4/26/2013 10:47:45 AM  
**Subject:** carferry

We support the consent decree keeping our heritage in Ludington, Michigan for the operation of our beautiful SSBADGER carferry service between Ludington, Michigan and Manitowoc, Wisconsin. Please don't take this wonderful experience of crossing our beautiful Lake Michigan to all who enjoy our ship. Thank you.

Thomas Anderson  
Sheryl Anderson

---

**From:** Meaghan Greene  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/24/2013 5:01:15 PM  
**Subject:** FW: Lake Michigan Carferry - Ludington, MI  
**Attachments:** image002.png

To whom it may concern:

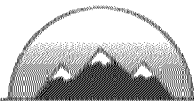
In the 20 years I have lived in the Ludington area, the Lake Michigan Carferry has been a marker of home to me. When I was a child, I would play at the beach and rush to wave to her as she came home to port. As a teenager, I found a job working on the ship as a customer service attendant, riding her three or four times a week roundtrip to Manitowoc. As an adult, I look at the ship as something so much more important than just a boat or a job, the S.S. Badger is a symbol of Ludington.

Ludington has had car ferries since 1875, and our small town has depended on them every day of the last 138 years. Whether carrying trains, cars or people, the ships must run and continue to employ citizens of Ludington and Manitowoc. If the U.S. Government shuts down the LMC, hundreds of people will lose their livelihood, and thousands of people will be impacted. Each year the carferry runs from May – October carrying passengers and their cargo across the lake in an experience which is unlike any other in the world.

Please understand that the Lake Michigan Carferry is much more than a steel ship; she is a living, breathing part of the communities she calls home. Ludington is a beautiful place to live, and we have worked hard to be the town we are today, but if the S.S. Badger ceases to sail, area businesses and people will be negatively affected. Take my words, and the words of others who have had the joy of calling the S.S. Badger home to port every day of the summer, when you make your decision.

Thank you.

Meaghan Greene  
*Benefit & Wellness Coordinator*



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1100 Conrad Industrial Drive  
Ludington, MI 49431

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Fax: 231.843.3183

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TRANS-LAKE-LMTLS-COMMENTS003343

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**From:** Jason Clark  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/24/2013 1:44:41 PM  
**Subject:** FW: Ludington, MI Carferry Support  
**Attachments:** image001.gif

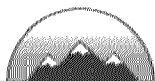
To Whom it may concern,

I'm sending this message to express my support of keeping the Ludington, MI Carferry, the SS Badger, in service. The carferry brings a ton of business to our town's local, mainly tourism-reliant, economy. Losing the carferry would be a devastating blow to our wonderful city.

This is in regards to "United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771"

Sincerely,  
Jason Clark

Jason Clark  
*Lease Processor*



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**From:** Jim Brouckman  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/23/2013 7:52:13 PM  
**Subject:** FW: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771.

I also own a slip and home across from the Badger Ludington moor site and fish Lake Michigan. The management of the Lake Michigan Car Ferry should be ashamed of the pollution they contribute to the Lake. The air quality is so bad in my condo that I need to stay inside. Please control these people who are only trying to circumvent the law to enhance their own pocket. It is shameful. Come visit us and see it for yourself. They have the resources to convert to an alternate source of power. The delay in doing so is for their profit only at the expense of our resource.

Jim Brouckman

---

**From:** Harvey Greemann [mailto:harvey@greemancapital.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 23, 2013 5:18 PM  
**To:** undisclosed-recipients:  
**Subject:** FW: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771.

This is an email I sent regarding comment about the Badger. The email address and reference were in the Ludington paper. If you agree, copy the To and Subject and send them a note.....

---

**From:** Harvey Greemann  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 23, 2013 5:13 PM  
**To:** 'pubcomment-ees.enrd@usdoj.gov'  
**Subject:** United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771.

I am a property owner in Ludington and believe the Ludington Car Ferry should STOP polluting Lake Michigan. It is filthy and should not be allowed another day of polluting our great Lake Michigan. The EPA and Courts should enforce the law, do not be cowards and let this pollution continue. Converting to another power source is easily possible and putting off the decision only helps the owner, not the public, the Lake or the City of Ludington.

**Harvey W. Greemann**

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---

**From:** Jack Prescott  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**CC:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 4/24/2013 4:50:32 PM  
**Subject:** Fwd: United States Vs. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Gentlemen:

In the matter captioned above, I strongly urge the D.O.J to grant the extension as requested by the applicant. The Lake Michigan Carferry is a vital part of the Michigan tourism industry and positively impacts all surrounding areas. Environmental concerns regarding any of the Great Lakes deserve the utmost consideration, but the Lake Michigan Carferry is not a threat and should be allowed to continue to operate while a cleaner fuel system is implemented. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Jack L Prescott  
[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Michael Shewmaker  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/26/2013 4:16:40 PM  
**Subject:** In re: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771, United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc.

In re: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771, United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc.

To: General Ignacia S. Moreno,  
Assistant Attorney General for the  
Environmental and Natural Resources Division,  
U.S. Department of Justice

Dear General Moreno:

I support the proposal to give the company running the Badger ferry line additional time to find a solution to the problem of coal ash disposal. The Badger is an important mode of transportation for people living in and passing through Ludington, Michigan and Manitowoc, Wisconsin.

I am a resident of St. Paul, Minnesota. I regularly visit Ludington and other parts of Michigan and have taken the boat many times. I regularly swim in Lake Michigan's waters and have eaten its fish. I do want the coal ash problem solved, but believe that delaying the clean up will not hurt Lake Michigan greatly.

I think that immediately shutting down the Badger will have adverse impact on small cities and on transportation. I have been told by truckers that the Badger is the only way to transport certain over-weight loads that the State of Indiana does not allow on it's roadways.

Giving the owners of the Badger time to fix the problems would benefit both the lake and the people in Ludington and Manitowoc to whom the lake is so important.

Thank you for your kind attention,

Michael Shewmaker

[REDACTED]  
Saint Paul, MN 55106

---

**From:** R Bruce Pierce  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/23/2013 8:58:59 PM  
**Subject:** Keeping the Ludington Car Ferry

22 April 2013

To Whom it May Concern:

As Regards the Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771.

I support the consent decree. Keep the heritage of car-ferry service here in Ludington, Michigan. This service is absolutely vital to the economic and social health of both western Michigan and eastern Wisconsin.

We cannot -- repeat, canNOT -- afford to do without it.

Thank you.

Sincerely yours,

R Bruce Pierce

--

*R Bruce Pierce, CAPT, CHC, USN-Ret  
Military Community Youth Ministries  
[rbrucepierce@gmail.com](mailto:rbrucepierce@gmail.com)*

*USPS address 15 Apr 2013 - 30 Oct 2013  
R Bruce & Sandra K Pierce*

*[REDACTED]  
Ludington, MI 49431*

*[REDACTED] year-round landline  
[REDACTED] year-round cell*

---

**From:** Robin Vanas  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/24/2013 12:30:04 PM  
**Subject:** Lake Michigan Carferry Consent Decree

I support the consent decree. Keep the heritage of the carferry service here in Ludington, MI!!

---

**From:** Cheri Thoreson  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/26/2013 3:33:15 PM  
**Subject:** Lake Michigan Carferry service

I would like you to know I support the consent decree to keep the carferry sailing. It is so important to our small city and economy. It has been a historical part of our area for my whole life. We depend mostly on our tourism to survive as we have lost most of our manufacturing plants. Please don't listen to just one loud voice, Thank you!

Cheri and Dennis Thoreson [REDACTED] Ludington

---

**From:** Ann Barber  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/24/2013 2:46:50 PM  
**Subject:** Lake Michigan Carferry SS Badger Ref # D.J. Ref.No. 90-5-1-1-10771

To: Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division  
Case Name: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a/ Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

To whom it may concern:

I have been a resident and business owner in Ludington for over 40 years. Our carferry is such a positive and needed influence on our town. All that we are asking is that you give them time to correct the coal ash problem, and not be swayed by the efforts of the Muskegon based ferry that is in direct competition with the Badger. Our carferry brings people to Ludington that otherwise would never find us. They spend money and fall in love with our wonderful town. We are just asking for a reasonable time for them to correct the situation so that the SS Badger can keep on running.

Ann Barber

---

**From:** Mark and Kathy Johnson  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/23/2013 9:35:10 PM  
**Subject:** Lake Michigan Carferry

We have had the pleasure of traveling across Lake Michigan many times on the SS Badger. Would certainly hate to see this last remaining piece of Lake Michigan Carferry history no longer serve the thousands of people who enjoy the 4 hour cruise across the lake. Hope an agreement can be finalized that insures the Badger keeps crossing the Big Lake!!

---

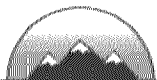
**From:** Jason Clark  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/24/2013 1:39:07 PM  
**Subject:** Ludington, MI Carferry Support  
**Attachments:** image001.gif

To Whom it may concern,

I'm sending this message to express my support of keeping the Ludington, MI Carferry, the SS Badger, in service. The carferry brings a ton of business to our town's local, mainly tourism-reliant, economy. Losing the carferry would be a devastating blow to our wonderful city.

Sincerely,  
Jason Clark

Jason Clark  
*Lease Processor*



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---

**From:** Tyler Reed  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/24/2013 1:43:12 PM  
**Subject:** Ludington Car ferry

To Whom it May Concern,

My name is Tyler Reed I am a third generation resident of Ludington. I have never worked on or for the car ferry, however I have felt its impact. My family has owned retail stores in Ludington for over 20 years in Ludington that gains a lot of business from tourists crossing on our boat. I have worked in restaurants that are greatly impacted by tourism crossing the great lakes. I am saddened that it is even a question to shut down the last coal ran car ferry on Lake Michigan. I feel as if there are many other areas of environment protection that should be discussed. Fishing in Lake Michigan has gone down tremendously over the years. Is coal ash to blame for this? I would say no. I have heard stories of great fishing from my grandfather and that was back when there were multiple ships running on coal. I beg of you to please consider the effect it would have on my beloved community if you were to shut the car ferry down.

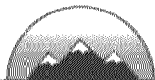
Sincerely,  
Tyler Reed

---

**From:** Jennifer Ezdebski  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/24/2013 1:39:01 PM  
**Subject:** Ludington Carferry  
**Attachments:** image001.gif

I strongly support the consent decree. Keep the heritage (of carferry service) here in Ludington. The carferry is a big part of our community and it would be devastating if we were to lose it.

Jennifer Ezdebski  
*Senior Abstractor / Title Examiner*



**WESTERN LAND SERVICES**

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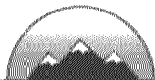
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---

**From:** Jennifer Bulley  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/24/2013 1:43:02 PM  
**Subject:** Ludington Carferry  
**Attachments:** image001.gif

I strongly support the consent decree. The Carferry is a huge part of our community here in Ludington and that should not be taken away.

Jennifer Bulley  
*Abstracting/Title Review*



**WESTERN LAND SERVICES**

1100 Conrad Industrial Drive  
Ludington, MI 49431

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---

**From:** Jim Wallace  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/23/2013 9:42:11 PM  
**Subject:** LudingtonMi Carferry

To whom it May Concern,  
In regards to case No. 90-5-1-1-1071 we strongly support the continuing operation of the Ludington Mi. Carferry also known as the "Badger". We believe it to be one of the many jewels of the great state of Michigan.

Respectfully,

Jim & Christine Wallace

██████████  
Browns town, Mi.

Sent from my iPad

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**From:** Marcia Lengnick  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/26/2013 3:22:42 PM  
**Subject:** Number-D.J. Ref.No. 90-5-1-1-10771

To: Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division  
Case Name: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut,  
Inc., d/b/a/Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

Thank you for receiving comments in support of the SS Badger, Lake Michigan Carferry in Ludington, MI  
There are many who have questioned the ferocity of Il Senator Durbin (with the help of lobbyist firm Boydrik) as continues to oppose the SS Badger on environmental grounds.

The Outer Boundary Magazine, Milwaukee, WI has been researching this issue for some months and recently published their findings/facts. I will not attempt to restate their information but will quote a paragraph from the April 24th, 2013 issue of the Ludington Daily News. The Magazine (Outer Boundary) makes it clear that the campaign mounted by Lubar and Co is NOT about the environment but about the potential competition from the Lake Express Ferry, Muskegon, MI. I quote, "The conclusion Outer Boundary Magazine has arrived at is simple. The only reason a movement against the SS Badger has taken place is to eliminate the competition for Lake Express car ferry service. When you follow the money trail, the piggy bank resides with Sheldon B. Lubar and Lake Express, and when consideration is taken showing an orchestrated environmental movement against an insignificant operation, while large discharges like British Petroleum's refinery and cities of Chicago and Milwaukee sewage discharges do not even show up on the activist radar, there is no other path than can be considered" The Outer Boundary's story concludes.

In a group of friends around the supper table last night, I raised the question.. "Now what's the government going to do?" "Nothing", responded many.. "it's the government. Money and lobbyists talk and are listened to." I sincerely hope that is not the case here. That this issue will be studied and that the true environmental enemies of Lake Michigan will be forced to change their habits/discharges. And that the Government does something, rather than nothing, in support of the continued service of the SS Badger, Ludington, MI.  
Thank you.

Marcia E. Lengnick  
Pentwater/Adrian, Michigan

Sent from my iPad

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**From:** Philip Lombard  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/24/2013 5:00:29 PM  
**Subject:** Proposed Consent Decree D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

To the Assistant Attorney General,  
Environment and Natural Resources Division  
United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., Civil Action  
No. 1:13-cv-317  
D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Dear Sir or Madam,

Regarding the proposed consent decree referenced above:  
The EPA should not allow the Badger to continue operations. They have been given four year grace period and now the EPA is giving them another grace period of two years. When does "no" mean "no?"  
The proposal includes a civil penalty of \$25,000. That is less than 1% of the company's annual revenue and about equal to 40% of one operating day's revenue. I'd dump coal ash in Lake Michigan if a fine was less than half of what I make in one day's work. (Not really, but I hope you know what I mean.) The company paid \$130,000 to lobbyists in 2012 alone!

The company should not be allowed to continue to dump their waste product into Lake Michigan but your civil penalty is laughable - like fining an NBA star player \$1000 for a flagrant foul. It's a tip at an four star restaurant.

Once again, I find your slap on the wrist to the SS Badger folks insulting. They shouldn't be allowed to dump their coal ash into Lake Michigan.

Source for revenue: letter from State Rep Dan Scripps to Hon. Sec. LaHood in 2010

Source for lobbying expense: [opensecrets.org](http://opensecrets.org)

Sincerely,

Phil Lombard

[REDACTED]  
Ferndale MI 48220

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**From:** JT Pedersen  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**CC:** info@ssbadger.com  
**Sent:** 4/26/2013 2:43:11 PM  
**Subject:** Public Comment: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

**To:**  
Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division

**Subject:**  
United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

I am writing to provide my support for the Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger. The SS Badger and services it provides—historic, travel convenience, economic, cultural—are important. I provide my support to all efforts aimed at indefinitely continuing the SS Badger's continued operation.

You may contact me directly with any questions or comments. Let's start, initially, by moving the Consent Decree forward.

Sincerely,

**J. T. Pedersen**

734 516 0139 | jt@jtpedersen.net

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**From:** Melody Johnson  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/23/2013 7:45:50 PM  
**Subject:** Re: Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., D.J. Ref. No > 90-5-1-1-10771

I support the consent decree. Keep the heritage of carferry service here in Ludington, MI.  
Melody Pierce Johnson

Sent from my iPad



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**From:** Dale Fitch  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/26/2013 3:01:57 PM  
**Subject:** Ref. No. 90-1-1-10771

Re: United States v Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc, DJ. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Dear Sir/Madam:

I would like to comment on the proposed agreement between the EPA and Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc, which would allow the carferry Badger to continue operations including discharge of coal ash into Lake Michigan for the next two years. I am a practicing certified public accountant having resided in the Ludington area for the past thirty-nine years and have observed the economic impact on the Ludington, Mason County and the surrounding area when the cross lake carferry service was stopped in 1990 and resumed in 1992. The carferry employs over two hundred local residents at jobs which provide a substantially higher rate of pay than other local employment. Traditionally, many of the carferry employees have been young people seeking seasonal employment as a means of financing their college education. The loss of these jobs will be devastating to their families and the local economy. Times are very tough here as the absence of rail service and increasing fuel and transportation costs have caused many of our manufacturing companies to relocate to larger cities causing the permanent loss of many jobs in this area.

The Ludington area relies very heavily on tourism, as that is our major industry. In July and August, many families use the Badger to cross Lake Michigan. They use the Badger to avoid driving around the lake, but also because it gives them to experience a bit of history, as all of the other historic carferry operations no longer exist. Without the Badger, there can be no doubt that many thousands of families will no longer visit our beautiful city. The loss of jobs will not only impact the those employed by the carferry, but will put many local business at risk, potentially threatening their very existence.

Last summer I traveled to Manitowoc, Wisconsin, the other port serviced by the Badger. As I walked from the dock area to the downtown business district, I saw a number of signs in windows of both homes and businesses. These signs were 8x11 sheets of paper obviously printed on someone's home computer. The signs were uniform and said "Thank you Badger," or words to that effect. I was touched as this was obviously a grass roots effort to thank all of those involved in the Badger operation. As you look around Manitowoc, that area has been especially hard hit by economic circumstances and the impact on that economy will be devastating if the Badger ceases to operate.

The action to force the Badger to cease operations was based upon the harmful effect of the dumping of coal ash into the lake, the actual effect of which appears to be more of a myth than fact supported by research. Recent articles have indicated that this may, in fact, be issue that has been greatly exaggerated by the help of lobbyists engaged by a competing carferry operating between Muskegon and Milwaukee. In any event, there are coal fired utilities and other manufacturing entities that discharge, as I am led to believe, far greater pollutants into Lake Michigan than does the Badger. It would seem logical that the government would be concerned with the worst polluters, but that doesn't seem to be the case. I think it is a sad day for our country when federal agencies such as the EPA are manipulated to become a tool to force a competitive business out of operation.

It is my hope that the proposed consent agreement will be approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Dale L. Fitch, CPA  
902 Manitou Lane  
Ludington, MI 49431

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**From:** Kathryn Griffith  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/25/2013 8:35:52 AM  
**Subject:** Reference Case Number: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Dear Sir:

The Ludington Car Ferry service provides a large tourist draw to the City of Ludington, Mason County and Michigan and Wisconsin. It also provides an additional means to transport large items without carrying them over highways and freeways. This save wear and tear on the roadways and helps to provide for less traffic delays. Just this past summer the carferry carried wind turbine parts not only for Mason County but other places in the State of Michigan. The carferries have been a part of our community for 50 years. There is no other coal fired boat on the Great Lakes. Providing them with a permit to continue operating while a solution to the coal ash problem can be found is vital.

Sincerely,

Kathryn Griffith

[REDACTED]  
Ludington MI 49431  
[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Kenneth Tabor  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/24/2013 2:27:39 PM  
**Subject:** Reference Case Number: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

TO: Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources  
Division  
CASE NAME: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc. d/b/a  
Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

TO THOSE WHOM IT MAY CONCERN: Please allow me to introduce myself. I am a retired secondary school teacher of Spanish; a retired Associate Professor of Spanish at Purdue University Calumet; and a retired clergyperson in the West Michigan Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church. I have been blessed being able to serve in various roles that touch lives in meaningful ways.

At the same time, Mayo Clinic physicians diagnosed me as having Churg-Strauss syndrome, an auto-immune disease. Since 1966, I have visited Mayo Clinic more than 70 times. The quickest and safest way to travel from my home to Rochester, Minnesota is via carferry, sailing from Ludington, Michigan to Manistowic, Wisconsin, and then driving 280 miles to the Mayo Clinic.

Having sailed so many times for medical reasons and other times for pleasure, I wish to adamantly support the Consent Decree agreement with the Department of Justice and EPA. For the benefit of our environment this agreement does more than just maintain the status quo. The LMC has promised to reduce the discharge of coal ash into Lake Michigan during the next two summers, followed by an elimination of the discharge. The discharge is mixed with available water and currently takes place over a period of minutes as the Badger sails along at 15-18 miles per hour as it crosses Lake Michigan. There is no single dump as some infer.

Lake Michigan Carferry Services is owned by a group of small business owners. They should not be considered as being "wealthy" nor should they be considered insensitive to environmental issues. They have been working toward reducing coal ash discharge for some time. What irritates me as a private citizen is how counties along West Michigan are chastised for poor air quality when the source of air contamination comes from industrial sources in Wisconsin, Illinois and Northwest Indiana. Simultaneously, some communities regularly, or accidentally discharge sewage sometimes laced with mercury and arsenic in quantities much greater than the amounts that the Badger unloads over a one-year period. Where is justice?

Please accept my support of the Consent Decree. While my support of the decree hinges partially on vacation plans, more importantly my use of the LMC services has medical implications for me. Some individuals are protesting this agreement, and I hope you realize that in most cases there are economic benefits involved for the protesters, rather than there being a show of environmental concern.

Sincerely,

(signed)  
Kenneth E. Tabor, Ph.D.

[REDACTED]  
Ludington, MI 49431  
[REDACTED]

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/26/2013 1:48:25 PM  
**Subject:** REFERENCE CASE NUMBER - D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771 ATTN: Assistant Attorney General,  
Environmental and Natural Resources Division

**To:**

**Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and  
Natural Resources Division**

**Case Name:**

**United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut,  
Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS  
Badger**

**Reference Case Number -**

**D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771**

**"Consent Decree . . .  
Should be approved!!"**

**Thank you!!**

**Best Regards,**

**Gail J. Botbyl**

[REDACTED]  
**Grand Haven, MI 49417**

**Phone / Home:** [REDACTED] (Evening)

**Cell Ph:** [REDACTED]

**email/Home:** [REDACTED]

**Phone / Work: (616) 994-4523 (8 AM - 4:30 PM)**

**email / Work: gbotbyl@miottawa.org**



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**From:** Kay Doig  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/26/2013 4:02:20 PM  
**Subject:** Reference Case Number - D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Case Name: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc. d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

To: Assistant Attorney General Environmental and Natural Resources Division

To Whom it may concern:

Definitely the Consent Decree should be approved unanimously and the ship should be allowed to run forever. There are thousands of people and communities in both Wisconsin and Michigan who benefit greatly from this ship travelling across Lake Michigan. When I think that years ago there were 12 ships making the crossing. Then it was taken all the way down to one ship and months cut out of its travel time. Certainly the ash discharge couldn't be as horrendous as raw sewage being dumped into Lake Michigan several times a year, as needed. Let's get our priorities straight.

I have travelled these ships for 57 years and probably close to 500 crossings. It would be a travesty to cut out such a historic piece of history.

All the best to the Lake Michigan Carferry Service. May my grandchildren and great grandchildren have the same wonderful experiences I have enjoyed.

Sincerely,

Kathryn Doig

Kay Doig  
DOIG CORPORATION  
7400 Quail Court  
PO Box 860  
Direct (262) 243-0235  
FAX (262) 376-3640

---

**From:** John Pettey  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/26/2013 1:57:33 PM  
**Subject:** Reference Case Number - D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

**TO: Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division**

**Case Name: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger**

Dear Sir,  
Please approve the consent decree to allow the Lake Michigan Carferry Service the 2 years to end their Ash Discharge.

My family has enjoyed the car ferry experience and I hope to be able to travel with them again.

This is an experience that will not be available again if it is stopped now.

Thank you  
John Pettey

██████████  
Wayne, IL 60184

Cell# ██████████

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**From:** Gary Cloud  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD); Gary Cloud  
**Sent:** 4/26/2013 4:23:44 PM  
**Subject:** Reference Case Number - D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division

Case Name:

United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

Dear Assistant Attorney General,  
I am a Professional Engineer registered in Michigan and a member of the engineering faculty at Michigan State University.

My wife and I are long-time Michigan residents who have family residing in Appleton, Wisconsin. We use the SS Badger several times each season to shorten the trip to Wisconsin, thereby saving fuel dollars and avoiding the "Great American Bottleneck" otherwise known as Chicago. Furthermore, we own a farm near Ludington, MI, the Badger's home port, and we understand the importance of this ship to the economy of the area.

It is always amazing to see the number vehicles, particularly of big commercial haul vehicles that are loaded into the Badger. The savings in fuel, largely derived from foreign oil, and the reduction of pollution from the vehicles hauled by the ship offset the effects of dumping coal ash into Lake Michigan. Dumping such ash has been done by many ships over a long period of time without much in the way of documented ill effects. I agree that this dumping should end sometime. But, in balance, we believe that the SS Badger should be allowed to operate for several years while progress is made to convert to an alternate fuel.

Finally, I point out that the SS Badger is a historical landmark. As one example, it is driven by probably the last of a type of 3-stage Stirling engines in active use. It is not only an historical ship, but it is live museum of steam power. I know for fact, because I have experienced it, that the engineering staff of the Badger will give very nice tours of the machinery spaces.

Sincerely yours,  
Gary Lee Cloud  
Ph.D., P.E., FSEM, FInstP, CPhys  
University Distinguished Professor  
Michigan State University  
web: [www.egr.msu.edu/~cloud](http://www.egr.msu.edu/~cloud)



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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/26/2013 1:51:14 PM  
**Subject:** S.S. badger Ref. # 90-5-1-1-10771

Attention Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division,

Ref. Case # 90-5-1-1-10771

Case name: U.S. V. Lake Michigan Trans - Lake Shortcut Inc., d/b/a Lake <Michigan Car ferry Services and SS Badger.

The Badger is a great ship that has added so much to the Michigan economy. It adds tourism, carries trucks, and windmill parts to name just a few and it is a pleasure just for a round trip ride.

I am the Chair Person for the Historic District in Muskegon, Michigan and it would be a sad day to see another Historic ship be put to rest. The Badger is the last of the old ships on the Great Lakes that is still running.

Thank You

Jackie Hilt

---

**From:** Jon Lee  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**CC:** Jon Lee  
**Sent:** 4/25/2013 8:40:24 AM  
**Subject:** S.S. Badger

Sirs,

I would like to express my support for the agreement between the owners of the S.S. Badger and the department of whomever. The case # is 90-5-1-1-10771. It would be a travesty if this service is put out of business by the eunuchs in this administration.

I was involved in conservation (as opposed to preservation) before any of you morons were born. And there is no environmental impact significant enough to justify your attempt to put them out of business.

Viva la revolucion!

Jon H. Lee

---

**From:** Michelle Hoover  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/24/2013 4:07:45 PM  
**Subject:** SAVE OUR SHIP  
**Attachments:** image001.gif

To whom it may concern:

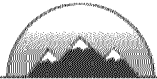
I'm writing on behalf of the case: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771. Please accept this as my public comment in regards to the previously mentioned case.

I have been a resident of Mason County for 25 years and have been actively following the concerns and possibilities of our beloved SS Badger. I sincerely hope for all the employees, businesses in both Ludington and Manitowac, and the various people who take the Badger for business or pleasure, have the opportunity to reap the numerous benefits that come directly from the sailing of the SS Badger. I support the consent decree. Keep the heritage (of carferry service) here in Ludington. Please take this statement as proof that we want nothing more than for our Badger to sail the beautiful Great Lakes between Ludington, MI and Manitowac, WI.

Thank You-

Michelle Hoover  
Ludington, MI 49431

Michelle Hoover  
*Title*



**WESTERN LAND SERVICES**

1100 Conrad Industrial Drive  
Ludington, MI 49431

Toll Free: 800.968.4840

Local: 231.843.8878

Fax: 231.843.3183

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**From:** Garrison, William  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/24/2013 4:17:49 PM  
**Subject:** Save the Badger

Please make sure that this ship is saved.

The amount of history, memories and livelihood it brings to the Western Shores is insurmountable.

Discontinuing its usage would be detrimental.

Thanks,

**Bill Garrison**  
Pricing Analyst, IL / MOValley  
[wgarriso@wm.com](mailto:wgarriso@wm.com)

**Waste Management**  
700 E. Butterfield Rd.  
Lombard, IL 60148  
Cell 630.742.7899  
Tel 630.652.9229  
Fax 877.702.4202

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**Recycling is a good thing. Please recycle any printed emails.**

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**From:** Wilson Dean  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/26/2013 3:14:31 PM  
**Subject:** SS Badger, Reference Case Number D.J.Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division

Case Name: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc.,  
d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

Dear Assistant Attorney General:

I am a 70 year old woman now and still have fond memories of crossing Lake Michigan on the carferries as a child. The SS Badger is a unique working piece of history. It is full of educational opportunities for young and old alike. Watching the precise loading and unloading of the trucks with their cargo and the many vehicles is an unforgettable experience. Visiting the history room to learn about the great lakes shipping and its relationship to the railroads and its importance to commerce between Michigan and Wisconsin is a wonderful time.

What a waste it will be if the SS Badger is no longer crossing Lake Michigan. Please keep the SS Badger running for present and future generations.

Val Dean  
[REDACTED]

Manistee, MI 49660

---

**From:** Elwood Miles  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/26/2013 3:16:07 PM  
**Subject:** SS Badger

I'd like to see leniency in having this 'legacy' steamer come into full compliance with modern emission standards. I crossed Lake Michigan on it a few years ago and quite enjoyed the fact that it's, as I understand it, the last remaining coal burning ship in the United States. Yes, it trailed a bit of smoke. But so do some old steam trains (like the one I ride at Cass, WV annually). A small amount of this pollution (and I do rate myself as 'progressive' and 'green') can be tolerated for the sake of remembering our heritage.

Elwood Miles  
Asheville, NC

---

**From:** Jay Graff  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/26/2013 1:46:53 PM  
**Subject:** SS Badger

The SS badger is truly a jewel to be treasured. I do hope there will be mediation to allow it to continue to serve those of us in WI and MI. The Historic value this vessel is unmatched on the great lakes. I strongly urge that any resolution allow the SS Badger to continue to operate.

SFC ( R ) Jay D. Graff

VP Waupun Historical Society

---

**From:** Amanda Quick  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/24/2013 1:55:17 PM  
**Subject:** SS Badger

This email is in reference to the United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

**I SUPPORT THE CONSENT DECREE. KEEP THE HERITAGE OF CARFERRY SERVICE HERE IN LUDINGTON.**

Thank you,  
Amanda Quick



---

**From:** Kate Sanford  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/24/2013 1:46:03 PM  
**Subject:** SS Badger  
**Attachments:** image001.gif

RE: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc. D. J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

I support the consent decree. Keep the carferry service here in Ludington. My children love watching the Badger from the park. I want to take them on a cross lake trip when they are old enough to remember the joys of the Badger. Please allow the S. S. Badger to run in its current capacity so that many families can enjoy the heritage.

Thank you,

**Kate Sanford**  
*Processor*



**WESTERN LAND SERVICES**

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Ludington, MI 49431

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**From:** Dee Jasick  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/26/2013 1:47:18 PM  
**Subject:** SS Badger Car Ferry

It seems like since the Badger is the last coal powered ship in the United States it should be grandfathered in to operate as a working museum. Since it only operates 3 mos out of the year, according to the EPA independent consultant, the coal ash isn't even measurable. US 10 is connected by the Badger...will there be another connector...possibly a bridge? Is there any other highway that drops off into a body of water (Lake Michigan) and picks up on the other side. The Badger is in no way competition for the Cross Lake ferry out of Muskegon, MI. The Cross Lake Ferry is for passengers only. The Badger is used for passengers as well as semitrucks hauling cross country. It gives the truckers the rest they need to continue on with very important job...delivering many items we Americans need and want. The city of Ludington will greatly miss the tourism brought to their city. This will lose many jobs, not only in Ludington but Manitowac, WI as well.

Please allow the Badger to continue. It will be greatly missed.

Thank you for your consideration.

Denise Jasick

[REDACTED]  
Whitehall MI 49461  
[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Richard Herman  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/26/2013 4:12:50 PM  
**Subject:** SS Badger Consent Decree

To Whom It May Concern.

I sincerely hope that the SS Badger Consent Decree will be approved. I have used this Car-ferry service for many years and can attest to its value to the region.

I am very concerned for the Lake Michigan Carferry organization and its future as they have no trade association or lobby group to call upon for assistance. Our government needs to better understand that "one-size-fits-all" policies kill. The fact that this small organization is willing and able to work toward eliminating the discharge of coal ash is honorable. They must be given the opportunity to do so.

Sincerely,  
Richard L Herman

  
Pickett, WI 64964

---

**From:** Bruce Smith  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/23/2013 7:09:54 PM  
**Subject:** SS Badger

I'd like to express my support for approving the Consent decree proposed for the SS Badger. I think the Badger is an important part of the L. Michigan culture and economy and would hate to see it disappear. Thanks, Jeanne Svec

---

**From:** Rick and Ellen Smith  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/26/2013 1:50:49 PM  
**Subject:** SSBadger

Do what it takes to keep the Badger runnig. For many people this is as close to what they can afford as a cruise with a family.

---

**From:** Staffan Axelsson  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/26/2013 3:41:03 PM  
**Subject:** Stop allowing S.S Badger to dump coal ash into Lake Michigan

**United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771.**

It's unacceptable that the S.S. Badger keeps dumping coal ash into Lake Michigan, this should have been cleaned up years ago.

Clean up or close up.

Thanks,

Staffan Axelsson

Round Lake, IL 60073

---

**From:** J Putnam  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**CC:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 4/26/2013 3:15:50 PM  
**Subject:** Subject: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division

Re: United States v Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

I appreciate and approve of the Consent Agreement with the DOJ and EPA. I feel the Consent Agreement advances protection of Lake Michigan while protecting the jobs and tourism associated with the SS Badger. The SS Badger is an important piece of the history, culture and economy of the Lake Michigan area. I believe the Consent Agreement should be approved.

John Putnam  
[REDACTED]

Midland, Michigan

---

**From:** dennis emerson  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/24/2013 2:44:11 PM  
**Subject:** Support for the Consent Decree between DOJ/EPA and SS Badger

Reference Case Number - D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

To:

Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division

**Case Name:**

United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger.

I support the proposed Consent Decree between the DOJ/EPA and the SS Badger.

Actually, I don't understand why the DOJ/EPA are spending their valuable time on this subject in the first place when we have many more important environmental issues to deal with.

Please allow this historic ferry to continue doing business.

It provides jobs.

It provides both a tourist service and a commercial service.

It pays taxes.

It does little to no real damage compared to the filthy pollution and foreign species that the 'international' vessels dump in the Great Lakes every time they purge their ballast tanks.

What is the DOJ/EPA doing about this?

Does noone have any common sense anymore?

It would be a damn shame if this vessel stopped sailing.

Have any of the Federal people involved in this case ever even sailed on this vessel?

Sincerely,

Dennis K. Emerson

████████████████████  
Maple Grove, MN 55311  
████████████████████



---

**From:** Zach Sweet  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/24/2013 2:19:08 PM  
**Subject:** Support of the SS Badger  
**Attachments:** image001.gif

Regarding United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

I support the consent decree. The SS Badger is a huge asset to our community and our heritage. Let's keep our heritage alive!

Zach Sweet  
*Accounts Receivable Specialist*



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Ludington, MI 49431

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---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/26/2013 1:50:57 PM  
**Subject:** The S.S. Badger

I love riding the Badger. I regret that there are regulations that change the way the boat is powered. The mechanics of the boat work, and requiring changes will make using this means more expense for me and others. This will discourage people from using the boat, and may cause the company to not make profit. Without sufficient profit, their ability to give jobs, and encourage tourist traffic to Ludington, will be gone.

Please make the situation supportive, rather than restrictive, to the SSBadger.

Thank you,  
Ruth Libby

---

**From:** Jack and Char Harper  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/24/2013 2:56:14 PM  
**Subject:** U. S. vs. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake-Shortcut, Inc.

**In reference to United States vs. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc.  
D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771**

**I am supporting the extension of two more years to allow the LMC S.S. Badger owners time to come up with a solution to the ships discharge of coal ash into Lake Michigan.**

**I was employed and worked on the car ferry's three summers and a fall in 1953, 54, and 55 while in high school there were seven car ferries running then going to three ports in Wisconsin from Ludington, Michigan. During that time I cannot recall seeing fish kill showing up on our beaches. I like to fish and back then the fish populations were consistent and steady and the same types year around. Things began to change when ocean freighters invaded the Great Lakes through canals bringing in all sorts of living sea creatures in their discharge and/or just clinging onto their hulls. Also, improperly handled sewage is flushed into Lake Michigan especially from large cities who believe Lake Michigan is a giant toilet. We get the results from those cities clear across the lake and up our beaches. Of note - I have never seen any of those cities sending manpower or money to help clean up their mess. I have also been told that airplanes now flying create more air contamination than all the trucks and cars in the world. Shall we detour and forbid them from flying over Lake Michigan?**

**Taking into consideration these items and many others I just cannot see how we can sink the Badger without at least further trying to solve the discharge problem. Please approve the two year extension.**

**If you look at the city of Ludington, its beaches, parks and the way we are trying to grow to everyone's benefit, you will see we are really trying to do what is best. Please throw us a life preserver. You will not be sorry, and we will be very grateful.**

**Thank you, Jack W. Harper  
Ludington, Michigan**

---

**From:** Sarah Knudsen  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/24/2013 4:59:05 PM  
**Subject:** U.S. v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut  
**Attachments:** image001.gif

United States V. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc. D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771.

To Whom it May Concern:

I support the consent decree regarding Lake Michigan Carferry. The Ludington community depends on the S.S. Badger and shutting it down would drastically upset the economic climate of our town. Our community is passionate about this ship for a variety of reasons and it is vital that its service in Ludington continues.

**Sarah Knudsen**  
*Land Department Coordinator*



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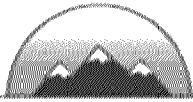
**From:** Katie Rowan  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/24/2013 2:03:07 PM  
**Subject:** U.S. vs. Lake Michigan trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., D.J. Ref. No 90-5-1-1-10771  
**Attachments:** image001.png

To Whom it May Concern:

The Badger carferry is a piece of history, I who am new to the Michigan area had heard about it for years prior to coming here from my Grandparents who had taken my mother on it almost 60 years ago. It is still a destination to this day for people from all over the country and to stop the carferry from continuing on her historical trek across lake Michigan is not only an injustice to history and the heritage of the towns on both sides of the lake, but an injustice to the thousands of people who come here every summer either on the ferry itself or as a destination. It would also be devastating to the people here who depend on that influx of tourism as a livelihood, the people who work on the ferry and the families on both sides who use the ferry as a means of travel to see one another. In a time when the economy is already strained, why would the government deliberately make it harder for people to make a living?? I can't help but wonder why when there are so many horrific things happening to our environment today that this is even on the radar. Seriously. I think the government and the EPA need to take a look around and realize their time could be better spent than to harass this historical and peaceful little dot on the map and its loyal inhabitants about their favorite boat. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Katie Rowan  
*Title Examiner*



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**From:** Roxanne VanLoon  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/24/2013 1:45:04 PM  
**Subject:** United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., D. J. Ref No 90-5-1-1-10771

I support the consent decree. It is important to the communities of Ludington, Michigan and Manitowoc, Wisconsin to keep the carferry service offered by The Badger operating.

Thank you,  
Roxanne VanLoon

---

**From:** RICHARD TEICHEN  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/23/2013 8:26:00 PM  
**Subject:** United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771.

I support the consent decree for the continued operation of the SS Badger Carferry. Issues of pollution in the Great Lakes, in reality, are relative and subject to matters of degree. The SS Badger coal ash discharge is in some way mitigated by the reduction in fossil fuel emissions that would have been emitted by vehicular traffic driving around Lake Michigan. These saved car and truck emissions are in no way insignificant.

The Cities of Chicago and Milwaukee possess governmental waivers to dump raw sewage into Lake Michigan, during flooding events, as has occurred just this last week. In the summer months, the beaches frequently must be closed due to fecal contamination from sewage discharges. There is absolutely no mitigating offset here in granting these waivers to Chicago and Milwaukee....as there is with the SS Badger.

I support the continued operation of the Badger for its historical significance, as well as the services and convenience that it provides for the traveling public.

Respectfully,  
Richard L. Teichen

--

Richard L. Teichen  
Naperville, Illinois



---

**From:** Chris Edwards  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/23/2013 8:11:07 PM  
**Subject:** United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771.

Assistant Attorney General, U.S. DOJ-ENRD, P.O. Box 7611, Washington, DC 20044-7611.

I support the consent decree. Keep the heritage (of carferry service) here in Ludington, please.

Signed;

Christopher (Chris) Edwards  
formerly of 210 N. Lewis st. Ludington, MI 49431  
presently;

██████████  
Warrenton, VA, 20186

Chris Edwards  
████████████████████



---

**From:** RICHARD TEICHEN  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/23/2013 8:07:24 PM  
**Subject:** United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771.

I support the consent decree for the continued operation of the SS Badger Carferry. Issues of pollution in the Great Lakes, in reality, are relative and subject to matters of degree. The SS Badger coal ash discharge is in some way mitigated by the reduction in fossil fuel emissions that would have been emitted by vehicular traffic driving around Lake Michigan. These saved car and truck emissions are in no way insignificant.

The Cities of Chicago and Milwaukee possess governmental waivers to dump raw sewage into Lake Michigan, during flooding events as has occurred just this last week. In the summer months, the beaches frequently must be closed due to fecal contamination from sewage discharges. There is absolutely no mitigating offset here in granting these waivers to Chicago and Milwaukee....as there is with the SS Badger.

I support the continued operation of the Badger for its historical significance, as well as the services and convenience that it provides to the traveling public.

Respectfully,  
Richard L. Teichen

--

Richard L. Teichen  
Naperville, Illinois



---

**From:** Dave Maltbie  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/26/2013 2:59:44 PM  
**Subject:** United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., D.J. Ref. No. 90-S-5-1-1-10771

I am writing this email in support of the Lake Michigan Carferry Service. The loss of this service would cripple the economy of both Ludington, Mi as well as Manitowoc, Wi. Please let this service continue and tell Sen. DURBIN to back off as there are many other industries causing more pollution than the Carferry.

Sincerely,

David Maltbie

---

**From:** Toni Vincent  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**CC:** John Wilson  
**Sent:** 4/24/2013 1:48:06 PM  
**Subject:** United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc. D. J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771  
**Attachments:** image001.gif

To whom it May Concern,

I am a resident of Ludington Michigan and would like to comment on my position regarding the Ludington Car Ferry, The Badger.

I have lived in the area off and on for several years, and know the car ferry to be important to the economy of our town. During the summer months many tourist use the car ferry to come into Ludington on bicycles, cars, trucks, RVs and walking. Over last summer I meet wonderful people from around the world that took the car ferry to get into our beautiful city. If it were to shut down, tourism, our lively hood, in the area would take a great hit.

I am originally from Kentucky, where coal is a big part of our industry. I understand the car ferry uses Kentucky coal to fuel it across our great lake. Therefore not only would our lively hood here be affected, but the coal industry in Kentucky would as well. I understand the concern with coal being dumped into the lake, but I am a firm believer that what comes from the earth, is not harmful to return. It is a matter of how and where. I don't understand all the ends and outs, but what I do know is we need the car ferry. It has been running for more years than I have been alive and I can't see what harm it has brought anyone. Don't take our car ferry away. Help us found a better and more efficient way to keep it alive.

Thank you.

**Toni Vincent**  
*Processor*



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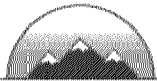
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---

**From:** Grant Klein  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/24/2013 1:39:33 PM  
**Subject:** United States V. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc. D.j. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771  
**Attachments:** image001.gif

I support the consent decree. Keep the heritage of carferry service here in Ludington.

Grant Klein  
*Processor*



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---

**From:** megan shelly  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/24/2013 1:56:32 PM  
**Subject:** United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc. D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Hello,

This letter is in regard to United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc. D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

I am a resident of Ludington, MI. My family has been here for several generations and we've witnessed the impact the Badger has on this area environmentally and culturally.

I am writing to say that I **DO NOT** support the consent decree to keep the carferry service here in Ludington.

I believe that the Badger was given fair warning 5 years ago to make adjustments to their environmental hazard output, and neglected to do so. Lake Michigan has suffered immensely for the pollution that results from the Badger's continued service, which impacts far more than just the residents of this area and their cultural heritage. To extend the allowance of coal ash pollution in the Great Lakes would not reflect sound environmental policy and only act to propagate other businesses to not take seriously the requests made by the EPA to reduce environmental hazards affiliated with their business.

I do understand the cultural and economic value of the carferry in this area, however, as previously stated, a motion to have the issue corrected was issued several years ago and ignored instead of respected.

Please do not extend the coal ash discharge allowance for the Badger for two more years.

Thank you,  
Megan Shelly

---

**From:** Debbie Nellis  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/26/2013 2:26:05 PM  
**Subject:** United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc. DJ. Ref. No. 90-S-1-1-10771

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing in support of the S.S. Badger/Lake Michigan Car Ferry.

Please understand that the car ferry brings in most of the venue for the city of Ludington, Michigan. In this difficult economy, the S.S. Badger not only employs many local people, but it brings tourists to the area and to the State of Michigan.

Michigan needs as much help as it can get and terminating the sailing of the car ferry would be devastating to many people and to the State.

Should proper channels be investigated, it would be determined that more pollutants are emptied into Lake Michigan from the Chicago area than from the car ferry.

Thank you,  
Debbie Nellis

---

**From:** Kristi Larsen  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/24/2013 1:43:50 PM  
**Subject:** United States V Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc. D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771  
**Attachments:** image001.jpg; image002.gif

Hello,

I am a resident of Mason County and have enjoyed many years of the Carferry service. As a child we would go to the end of the breakwall and watch as the Badger left port. It was an amazing thing to see in the eyes of a child. I now have children and we enjoy the tradition as many do in our community. Many evenings are spent at the beach and when the whistle blows we rush to a spot where we can see the Badger going out. To see my children smiling and waving brings tears to my eyes as I remember myself doing the same. A few summers ago I had the privilege of working for Lake Michigan Carferry Service. The experience was unbelievable. I learned the history of not only the ships but people in our community and other communities. Hearing all the wonderful stories from passengers who have made it tradition to travel on the carferry brought such joy to my day. We all have wonderful memories, stories, and history with the carferry, don't take that away from us. I completely support the consent decree, keep our heritage alive.

Sincerely

Kristi Larsen  
*Processor*



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**From:** Ken Maltbie  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/23/2013 8:36:53 PM  
**Subject:** United States v.Lake Michigan TransLake Shortcut,Inc,D.J.Ref.No 90-5-1-1-10771

I support the consent decree.Keep the heritage (of car ferry service) here in Ludington.I object to Sen.Dick Durbin of Illinois telling lies about our car ferry.Let him take care of his own problems in his own state like pollution, Asian carp getting into our Lake Michigan and sewage from waste water to just name a few. He appears to be in the pocket of Lake Michigan Express which I'd like to point out received federal money for their boat.Our boat is independently owned and operated with civilian money and lots of pride and honest sweat.The consent decree should be approved. Sally Maltbie

Sally  
Sent from my iPad



---

**From:** Sara Plowe  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/24/2013 1:42:38 PM  
**Subject:** US vs. Lake MI Trans-Lake shortcut, Inc.  
**Attachments:** image001.gif

Re: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc.  
D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

To whom it may concern:

I support the consent decree!! As a young man, my Grandfather worked on the Lake Michigan Carferry and as a young college student I was employed by the Lake Michigan Carferry Service. I know first-hand how important the Badger is to my community and I support the consent decree!

Sincerely,

Sara Plowe

Sara Plowe  
*Abstractor*



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**From:** John Cottenham  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/26/2013 2:00:25 PM  
**Subject:** USS Badger

Consent agreement should be approved.

We use the ferry between Ludington and Manitowoc several times a year to facilitate the visiting of our family in WI. It saves us many tiring hours of driving either through the UP of MI or Chicago.

John Cottenham, Gladwin, MI

Water

Environmental Protection Agency  
Ms. Susan Hedman  
Chicago, IL

RECEIVED  
APR 09 2013  
U.S. EPA REGION 5  
OFFICE OF REGIONAL ADMINISTRATOR

Milwaukee, WI 53219  
March 28, 2013

Dear Ms. Hedman:

It appears the Lake Michigan Carferry Company's SS Badger will continue to pollute with toxic coal ash. Four tons daily.

Some even want to designate SS Badger as a historic landmark. One would think that operating any business presumes making communities, and the environment, better.

A national historic landmark should be a showcase of progress, and an emblem of stewardship, for future generations.

People involved in commerce, and in shipping, will be much more satisfied working, if they know that their work is having a positive effect, rather than a continually harmful one.

I think this is a great opportunity to get out the drawing boards and begin design on a modern, best technology, safest ship possible. An SS Badger for our time.

It would be an investment in an economic sense. We could create and build a world class ship right here in the midwest. Less CO<sub>2</sub>, less toxicity, much more efficient.

It would be a gift benefitting generations to come. People will want to patronize, ship goods, and travel on a new SS Badger.

Our expanding knowledge about our not so impervious and forgiving planet, should be absorbed, and be used to guide us to do what we can.

Yours truly,

John Menger

## Martinez, Isidra

---

**From:** Jay Beadle [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, April 06, 2013 3:48 PM  
**To:** Hedman, Susan  
**Subject:** [POSSIBLE SPAM] Badger 509 tons of coal waste

Susan,

You are hired to protect us and not put off tough decisions. Time should be up for the Badger owners. Why would we let one ship dump all this waste?

I am trying to figure out what 500 tons of coal ash looks like and how this affects our water and wild life. Do you have any answers?

Regards,

**Jay Beadle**  
Senior Vice President

### **MB** Real Estate

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[jbeadle@mbres.com](mailto:jbeadle@mbres.com)

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T. PONTY  
[REDACTED]  
EAN CLARKE, WI  
54781

ORC

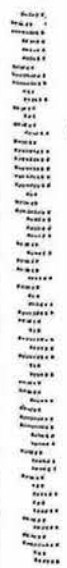
SAINT PAUL MN  
13 APR 2013



Ms SUSAN HESMAN, ADMINISTRATOR  
US E.P.A, REGION 5  
RALPH METCALF FEDERAL BLDG.  
77 W. JACKSON BLVD.  
CHICAGO, IL 60604-3590

RE: Consent Decree "Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shutoff"

5025433511



April 13, 2013

Federal District Court for the Western District of Michigan & E.P.A. Region 5  
Administrator, Ms. Susan Hedman

SUBJECT: Consent Decree, Plaintiff: United States of America

Defendant: "Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut,  
Inc." (Lake Michigan Carferry)

Please consider the following comments concerning the pending Consent Decree before the Court:

A. Proposed Consent Decree fails to provide timely relief.

- 1 The Vessel General Permit for the S.S. Badger had an explicit termination date, December 19, 2012, and that was known years in advance.
- 2 Operators/owners of the S. S. Badger (LMC) secured and benefited from a \$75,000 grant in 2011 with the expressed purpose of exploring an alternative to coal fuel. This acceptance demonstrates a tacit acknowledgement of the ash generation issue.
- 3 The technology to collect, convey and contain coal furnace ash has been well known for decades and is in common utilization by every such installation without significant exception.
- 4 The seasonal operation of the S.S. Badger provided numerous off-season opportunities to take corrective action, yet no such action was taken.

RECEIVED

In view of these indisputable facts, the owners/operators willfully chose to take no timely corrective action. Allowing an additional two years of continued ash dumping of nearly 1000 tons of coal ash is unreasonable in the extreme.

B. Owners/Operators of the S.S. Badger engaged in reckless behavior, heedless of the public welfare, contributing to the contamination of Lake Michigan, over which they have no exclusive ownership or property right.

- 1 It is a well established fact that coal ash commonly contains 'heavy metals', among them, mercury.
- 2 The owners/operators, after it was made known to them by the EPA that mercury was being discharged in excessive concentrations in the coal ash, continued the practice for the remainder of the 2012 shipping season. This is a willful, criminal act and must be subject to criminal action, not merely civil penalties.
- 3 Lake Michigan is the drinking water source for countless communities and individuals. 'Heavy metals', among them mercury, are also known to bio-accumulate in the food chain and will continue to jeopardize future generations.

Accordingly, continued dumping of coal ash in Lake Michigan for an addition two years, as in the proposed consent decree, represents an irresponsible and reprehensible act that can not be condoned by the court, nor any trustee of the public welfare.

C. The proposed forfeitures are inconsequential, and in fact, create an economic incentive to violate.

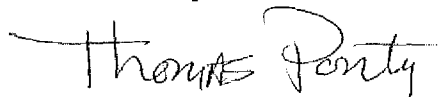
- 1 The assessment of \$25,000 for the willful dumping of mercury containing coal ash for months during the 2012 season is less than the potential forfeiture for a single day.
- ... assesses absolutely no cost for hundreds

Proposed "forfeitures" of this kind encourage continued violation and delay with the assurance of no adverse consequences. Such economic incentives to violate must be cancelled by appropriate fines.


CONCLUSION:

Failure to take corrective action in the face of a well-known hazard (ash dumping) constitutes wonton, reckless behavior, heedless of public safety or welfare. The actions of the owners/operators (Lake Michigan Carferry) are like an irresponsible bus driver, speeding toward a busy intersection with a 'STOP' sign in full view. Employees and others directly affected by these actions are being needlessly put in jeopardy of losing their jobs. They are, in fact, blameless passengers on the 'bus', held as economic hostages. The owners/operators of LMC have deliberately put the court and the Administrator in the unenviable position of either allowing Lake Michigan to continue to be an ash dumping ground or wreaking economic havoc on the employees of LMC and others. The court, however, has a larger responsibility: to reject the false alternatives in the proposed consent decree, protect the public welfare, and reject being essentially blackmailed by an irresponsible owner/operator.

Sincerely,



Thomas Ponty, P.E. Wisconsin License # 31496-6

  
Eau Claire, WI 54701



April 13, 2013

Federal District Court for the Western District of Michigan & E.P.A. Region 5  
Administrator, Ms. Susan Hedman

SUBJECT: Consent Decree, Plaintiff: United States of America

Defendant: "Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut,  
Inc." (Lake Michigan Carferry)

Please consider the following comments concerning the pending Consent  
Decree before the Court:

A. Proposed Consent Decree fails to provide timely relief.

- 1 The Vessel General Permit for the S.S. Badger had an explicit termination date, December 19, 2012, and that was known years in advance.
- 2 Operators/owners of the S. S. Badger (LMC) secured and benefited from a \$75,000 grant in 2011 with the expressed purpose of exploring an alternative to coal fuel. This acceptance demonstrates a tacit acknowledgement of the ash generation issue.
- 3 The technology to collect, convey and contain coal furnace ash has been well known for decades and is in common utilization by every such installation without significant exception.
- 4 The seasonal operation of the S.S. Badger provided numerous off-season opportunities to take corrective action, yet no such action was taken.

RECEIVED

APR 15 2013

U.S. EPA REGION 5  
OFFICE OF REGIONAL ADMINISTRATOR

In view of these indisputable facts, the owners/operators willfully chose to take no timely corrective action. Allowing an additional two years of continued ash dumping of nearly 1000 tons of coal ash is unreasonable in the extreme.

B. Owners/Operators of the S.S. Badger engaged in reckless behavior, heedless of the public welfare, contributing to the contamination of Lake Michigan, over which they have no exclusive ownership or property right.

- 1 It is a well established fact that coal ash commonly contains 'heavy metals', among them, mercury.
- 2 The owners/operators, after it was made known to them by the EPA that mercury was being discharged in excessive concentrations in the coal ash, continued the practice for the remainder of the 2012 shipping season. This is a willful, criminal act and must be subject to criminal action, not merely civil penalties.
- 3 Lake Michigan is the drinking water source for countless communities and individuals. 'Heavy metals', among them mercury, are also known to bio-accumulate in the food chain and will continue to jeopardize future generations.

Accordingly, continued dumping of coal ash in Lake Michigan for an addition two years, as in the proposed consent decree, represents an irresponsible and reprehensible act that can not be condoned by the court, nor any trustee of the public welfare.

C. The proposed forfeitures are inconsequential, and in fact, create an economic incentive to violate.

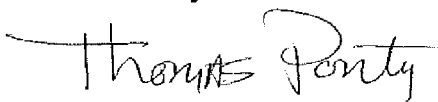
- 1 The assessment of \$25,000 for the willful dumping of mercury containing coal ash for months during the 2012 season is less than the potential forfeiture for a single day.
- 2 The proposed consent decree assesses absolutely no cost for hundreds of days of operation (continued dumping) over the 2013 and 2014 operating season.

Proposed "forfeitures" of this kind encourage continued violation and delay with the assurance of no adverse consequences. Such economic incentives to violate must be cancelled by appropriate fines.

**CONCLUSION:**

Failure to take corrective action in the face of a well-known hazard (ash dumping) constitutes wonton, reckless behavior, heedless of public safety or welfare. The actions of the owners/operators (Lake Michigan Carferry) are like an irresponsible bus driver, speeding toward a busy intersection with a 'STOP' sign in full view. Employees and others directly affected by these actions are being needlessly put in jeopardy of loosing their jobs. They are, in fact, blameless passengers on the 'bus', held as economic hostages. The owners/operators of LMC have deliberately put the court and the Administrator in the unenviable position of either allowing Lake Michigan to continue to be an ash dumping ground or wreaking economic havoc on the employees of LMC and others. The court, however, has a larger responsibility: to reject the false alternatives in the proposed consent decree, protect the public welfare, and reject being essentially blackmailed by an irresponsible owner/operator.

Sincerely,



Thomas Ponty, P.E. Wisconsin License # 31496 - 6

  
Eau Claire, WI 54701

RECEIVED  
MAY 14 2009  
10:00 AM  
MAY 14 2009  
10:00 AM

## Martinez, Isidra

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From: Laura Davis [REDACTED]  
Sent: Tuesday, March 26, 2013 6:13 PM  
To: Hedman, Susan  
Subject: EPA Badger ferry decision and Lake Michigan

Dear Dr. Hedman:

I am very disappointed to read that the EPA is allowing the Badger Ferry to continue to discharge coal ash into Lake Michigan.

This decision seems wrong to me in so many ways:

\*\* A former 2008 EPA decision had allowed the Badger's owners to continue to pollute Lake Michigan while they were supposed to be making changes to convert the boat to a cleaner fuel source. As I remember, the prior decision gave the owners of the Badger 5 years to clean up the boat. Why will another 2 years make any difference if nothing has changed to this date. It appears to me that there is no intention to clean up the boat's fuel.

\*\* Every other boat on the lakes have already changed to cleaner fuel or been retired. Why are the Badger's owners not expected to comply with the pollution laws when all others have already done so. Additionally, the amount of pollution that the Badger discharges into Lake Michigan exceeds all the polluting discharge from all of the Great Lakes freighters combined!

\*\* Lake Michigan is the fresh water source for millions of people. Can we, as a society, continue to allow this type of pollution when fresh water is a life-sustaining need for millions in the metro area, and the lakes are already stressed by continued drought and overuse. Also, the discharge of coal ash, which includes mercury, lead and arsenic, must impact fish, and ultimately, people who consume the fish.

This appears to me to be a very bad decision that protects a politically connected business. I am very saddened and disturbed by this recent decision and believe that the EPA is a vital agency with a role to fight for the greater goal of public health and safety.

I hope this decision can be reviewed and the Badger's owners be required to comply with the agreement they had already agreed to.

Thank you for your attention to this issue and your continued service.  
Laura Davis  
Inverness, Illinois

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**From:** Bill Cook  
**Sent:** Sunday, April 14, 2013 8:10:48 PM (UTC-05:00) Eastern Time (US & Canada)  
**To:** ENRD, WebContentMgr (ENRD)  
**Subject:** case number D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771- public comment

Dear Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division:

We would like to voice our public comment in favor of "Saving the Badger" in reference to case number D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771.

The case is the United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger.

We are in favor of the Consent Decree which has been filed in federal court in Grand Rapids by the Department of Justice.

Please be reminded that the Badger is the only remaining steam powered ship on the Great Lakes and continues to be a vital component to the tourism in the greater Ludington area. This two year extension will allow time to further study and implement an energy saving form of power.

We strongly encourage your support of the Consent Decree to continue operation of the S.S. Badger.

Respectfully submitted,  
William Cook  
Susan Cook

[REDACTED]  
Ludington, Michigan

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**From:** Pierard, Kevin  
**To:** Nelson, Leverett  
**Sent:** 4/16/2013 4:33:12 PM  
**Subject:** FW: S.S. Badger Coal Ash Discharge to Lake Michigan to Cease by End of 2014 Sailing Season

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**From:** Otto J. Schlatter [mailto: ]  
**Sent:** Saturday, March 23, 2013 1:17 PM  
**To:** Pierard, Kevin  
**Subject:** Re: S.S. Badger Coal Ash Discharge to Lake Michigan to Cease by End of 2014 Sailing Season

So you are going to fine them for something they had a permit for? Seems like you would offer them \$25,000 to convert their engines to something clean burning instead just being bound and determine to destroy them.

Just a thought.

Otto

On Mar 22, 2013, at 5:07 PM, "Pierard, Kevin" <[pierard.kevin@epa.gov](mailto:pierard.kevin@epa.gov)> wrote:

<image003.png>

MEDIA CONTACT: Anne Rowan, 312-353-9391, [rowan.anne@epa.gov](mailto:rowan.anne@epa.gov)  
Phillippa Cannon, 312-353-6218, [cannon.phillippa@epa.gov](mailto:cannon.phillippa@epa.gov)

**F O R I M M E D I A T E R E L E A S E**

No. 13-OPA010

## **S.S. Badger Coal Ash Discharge to Lake Michigan to Cease by End of 2014 Sailing Season**

CHICAGO (March 22, 2013) - The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency today announced the lodging of a proposed consent decree that requires Lake Michigan Carferry Service, Inc. (LMC) of Ludington, Michigan, to eliminate the discharge of coal ash into Lake Michigan by the end of the 2014 sailing season.

In 2013 and 2014, the ferry will reduce its discharge of coal ash and LMC will pay a \$25,000 civil penalty for violating mercury water quality standards in 2012, according to the proposed consent decree.

"This consent decree offers the fastest and most certain path available to EPA to stop the discharge of coal ash from the Badger into Lake Michigan," said EPA Region 5 Administrator Susan Hedman. "The enforcement agreement reduces the discharge of coal ash more quickly and with greater oversight than would occur during the appeal of a decision to issue or deny a permit – a process that often takes several years."

The S.S. Badger was authorized to discharge coal ash under the 2008 National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Vessel General Permit. A permit provision authorized that discharge until December 2012. The S.S. Badger is the last coal-fired ship operating on the Great Lakes.

Last year, LMC applied for an individual NPDES permit to allow the S.S. Badger to continue discharging coal ash into Lake Michigan. In light of the settlement announced today, EPA does not plan to make a decision on that permit application.

DOJ and EPA will accept and consider comments on the proposed consent decree during a 30-day public comment period, to be announced shortly in the Federal Register. The proposed consent decree is available on the DOJ website at [http://www.justice.gov/enrd/Consent\\_Decrees.html](http://www.justice.gov/enrd/Consent_Decrees.html). Additional information about the S.S. Badger is available at <http://www.epa.gov/region5/water/npdestek/badger/>.

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**From:** Pierard, Kevin  
**To:** Nelson, Leverett  
**Sent:** 4/16/2013 4:32:29 PM  
**Subject:** FW: S.S. Badger Coal Ash Discharge to Lake Michigan to Cease by End of 2014 Sailing Season

Rett - this is the first of several I will forward. There were no responses from EPA to these e mails

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Monday, March 25, 2013 9:56 AM  
To: Pierard, Kevin  
Subject: Re: S.S. Badger Coal Ash Discharge to Lake Michigan to Cease by End of 2014 Sailing Season

What does this mean for the future of Ferry service?

Chuck Chenevert

-----Original Message-----

From: Pierard, Kevin <pierard.kevin@epa.gov>  
To: Pierard, Kevin <pierard.kevin@epa.gov>  
Sent: Fri, Mar 22, 2013 5:14 pm  
Subject: S.S. Badger Coal Ash Discharge to Lake Michigan to Cease by End of 2014 Sailing Season

MEDIA CONTACT: Anne Rowan, 312-353-9391, rowan.anne@epa.gov Phillippa Cannon, 312-353-6218, cannon.phillippa@epa.gov For Immediate Release No. 13-OPA010 S.S. Badger Coal Ash Discharge to Lake Michigan to Cease by End of 2014 Sailing Season CHICAGO (March 22, 2013) - The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency today announced the lodging of a proposed consent decree that requires Lake Michigan Carferry Service, Inc. (LMC) of Ludington, Michigan, to eliminate the discharge of coal ash into Lake Michigan by the end of the 2014 sailing season. In 2013 and 2014, the ferry will reduce its discharge of coal ash and LMC will pay a \$25,000 civil penalty for violating mercury water quality standards in 2012, according to the proposed consent decree. "This consent decree offers the fastest and most certain path available to EPA to stop the discharge of coal ash from the Badger into Lake Michigan," said EPA Region 5 Administrator Susan Hedman. "The enforcement agreement reduces the discharge of coal ash more quickly and with greater oversight than would occur during the appeal of a decision to issue or deny a permit - a process that often takes several years." The S.S. Badger was authorized to discharge coal ash under the 2008 National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Vessel General Permit. A permit provision authorized that discharge until December 2012. The S.S.

Badger is the last coal-fired ship operating on the Great Lakes. Last year, LMC applied for an individual NPDES permit to allow the S.S.

Badger to continue discharging coal ash into Lake Michigan. In light of the settlement announced today, EPA does not plan to make a decision on that permit application. DOJ and EPA will accept and consider comments on the proposed consent decree during a 30-day public comment period, to be announced shortly in the Federal Register. The proposed consent decree is available on the DOJ website at [http://www.justice.gov/enrd/Consent\\_Decrees.html](http://www.justice.gov/enrd/Consent_Decrees.html).

Additional information about the S.S. Badger is available at <http://www.epa.gov/region5/water/npdestek/badger/>.



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**From:** Pierard, Kevin  
**To:** Nelson, Leverett  
**Sent:** 4/16/2013 4:33:36 PM  
**Subject:** FW: S.S. Badger Coal Ash Discharge to Lake Michigan to Cease by End of 2014 Sailing Season

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Saturday, March 23, 2013 10:22 AM  
To: Davis, Lillie  
Cc: Pierard, Kevin  
Subject: Re: S.S. Badger Coal Ash Discharge to Lake Michigan to Cease by End of 2014 Sailing Season

so why are you only targeting the s.s. badger, what about coal fired locomotive's ?  
i know of many

---- "Pierard wrote:

> [PR HEAD2]

> MEDIA CONTACT: Anne Rowan, 312-353-9391, rowan.anne@epa.gov<mailto:rowan.anne@epa.gov>

> Phillippa Cannon, 312-353-6218,

> cannon.phillippa@epa.gov<mailto:cannon.phillippa@epa.gov>

>

> For Immediate Release No. 13-OPA010

>

> S.S. Badger Coal Ash Discharge to Lake Michigan to Cease by End of

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>

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>

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>

>

**Martinez, Isidra**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, March 24, 2013 2:05 PM  
**To:** Hedman, Susan  
**Subject:** SS Badger

Ms Hedman, I am outraged by the decision to continue to allow the Badger to pollute our lake for another 2 years. When you say "we have a deadline for them to stop" you are ignoring the fact that they already had a deadline that they ignored. You are supposed to protect us and our environment. I am at a loss to see how you are doing your job properly.

Please exert the EPA's authority to stop this now. I will be writing to everyone else that is involved.

Sincerely,  
Gary Tarr

[REDACTED]  
Darien, IL 60561  
[REDACTED]

## Martinez, Isidra

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**From:** Adrienne Kostreva [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 22, 2013 5:33 PM  
**To:** jackson.lisa@epa.gov; Walts, Alan; Hedman, Susan  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** The Badger Ferry

Good day:

I quickly scanned the EPA Leadership Directory to source your names. As a Chicago resident, I must express my complete outrage, and disgust, that the Badger Ferry will be allowed to continue its practice of toxic polluting on Lake Michigan for another two years. Do you *really* believe that coal ash will be retained in on-board storage? More than 500 tons of toxicity each of those years, with extremely hazardous compounds and pollutants. To be specific - 509 tons of coal ash a year waste concentrated with arsenic, lead, mercury and other heavy metals.

How is that justified? It's not, in any way and it's impossible to provide any sort of sane, scientifically sound or remotely rational basis.

From the press:

The basis of the agreement is expressed in the following language found in the Consent Decree, we read, "WHEREAS The United States and LMC (jointly, the "Parties") have agreed that settlement of this action is in the best interests of the Parties and in the **public** interest (**how so?**), and that entry of this Consent Decree without further litigation is the most appropriate means of resolving this matter;"

The Badger contributes \$35 million each year to the economies of the port cities of Ludington, MI and Manitowoc, WI. Local officials and residents have played a key role in helping everyone involved in the process understand the importance of the Badger to the Port Cities. (*Yes, and it is a MAJOR polluter.*)

"The Badger has a huge economic impact on the Ludington Area (*and a detrimental environmental impact...for decades...on the Lakes*), but the historic ship is also a big part of the heart and soul of our community," stated Ludington's Mayor John Henderson. "We are very pleased that the EPA and Lake Michigan Carferry were able to work out an agreement that will allow the Badger to continue to be an icon for our community long into the future." And, of course, I know that the pressure was on local legislators to lobby for the ferry company, was it not?

According to Manitowoc Mayor Justin Nickels, "Manitowoc's long maritime history has been an important part of our identity for many years, and the Badger is a very visible (*and archaic*) reminder that the tradition continues. The car ferry is a big part of our tourism industry and is a valuable transportation alternative for our local manufactures. We congratulate Lake Michigan Carferry and the EPA for working together to ensure the continuation of this important transportation asset for Wisconsin and Michigan."

Wisdom, both scientific and environmental, is solely lacking in this sad decision.

Ms. Jackson, Ms. Hedman and Mr. Walts, this is an extremely detrimental outcome, one that makes absolutely no sense at all. The EPA has truly sacrificed Illinois and other concerned lake-adjointing states that are affected by this retrograde and foul business operation. Does it matter that this is an historic vessel from the 1950's? Not at this point. Put it in mothballs and stop the pollution. Do the ferry company and the Manitowoc Mayor care about the ferry's polluting effects on adjacent states? Most certainly not. Environmental sense, concern, and I add - wisdom -- are not granted by revenue dollars to a business, nor election to office.

Regards,  
A. Kostreva

## Unknown

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**From:** Beth [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, April 26, 2013 6:14 PM  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Subject:** 90-5-1-1-10071

Dear Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources:

I would like to see the Consent Decree concerning the Lake Michigan Carferry accepted. I think the 2 year timeline to eliminate ash discharge is reasonable.

I have enjoyed the convenience and pleasure of being a passenger. I want the service to continue. I also want to protect the environment. The Consent Decree satisfies both sides of the equation.

Thank you for considering my opinion in this matter.

Sincerely,  
Elizabeth A. Ward-Donahue

Beth Ward-Donahue, Artist  
[REDACTED]  
Midland, Michigan 48640  
[REDACTED]

## Unknown

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**From:** carol wagner [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, April 26, 2013 7:48 PM  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Subject:** 90-5-1-1-10771

My Family are have been frequent sailors on the Badger for years. It is a short cut from our home in Wisconsin to our summer home in lower Michigan. We are able to save time, gas and stress because we are able to travel on the Badger. We feel that it is important for the Badger to be allowed to continue serving the traveling public as well as commercial interests who are able to transport goods across the lake. Our local community produces windtower parts that are then transported on the Badger. This is important as driving such a huge vehicle through urban areas is dangerous. The obvious solution is the Badger.

I understand the need for doing away with the ash situation but feel that it is in the interest of all that the Badger be allowed to continue sailing, I know that the problem will be solved and shutting down the Badger is NOT the solution.

Thank you.

Carol Wagner

[REDACTED]  
Valders, Wi 54245  
[REDACTED]

## Unknown

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**From:** Pen Curry [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, April 26, 2013 10:44 PM  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Subject:** 90-5-1-1-10771

I support the long-range environmental plan of the S.S,  
Badger and their plan approval by the agency.

Each time we sail, we imagine the many vehicles kept off the roads between Michigan and  
Wisconsin by that sailing.

Thank you.  
Penelope Curry  
[REDACTED]  
Apple Valley. MN. 55124

## Unknown

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**From:** alpinemodels [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, May 03, 2013 8:17 PM  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Cc:** media@ssbadger.com  
**Subject:** Approve the Consent Decree agreement

Ref case number D.J. Ref. No.90-5-1-1-10771

Please approve the Lake Michigan Carferry Consent Decree.

The SS Badger has been sailing and moving people across Lake Michigan for 60 years, Safe and Reliable plus it is a very big boost to the ports it serves.

Sincerely,

Michael De Ghetto  
Fountain Valley California



## Unknown

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**From:** alexander1 [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, April 26, 2013 4:56 PM  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Subject:** Assistant Attorney General, Environment and Natural Resources Division D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

I strongly agree that the S.S, Badger should be granted the Consent Decree for ash discharge. The towns of Ludington and Manitowoc depend on the tourism and attraction for employment and historial values for their continued upward success. The power and wonder of the steamship is so uplifting to all who visit her. My husband and I see her off and welcome her home everyday and have crossed the lake many times with her. We visited Springfield Illinois capital building last week in hopes to have a word with Senator Durbin but congress was not in session. Springfield Illinois has saved many beautiful landmarks, please allow us to keep our steamship operational. Wm & Sharon Alexander - summer home in Ludington.

---

**From:** harold tuchel  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/27/2013 10:19:54 AM  
**Subject:** badger

More tree hugging over-reaction about the badger...on lake Michigan. The EPA is a job killer.....

Tired of illegal immigration: Do Something about it: [www.numbersusa.com](http://www.numbersusa.com)

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**From:** barblux[REDACTED]  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/26/2013 7:23:15 PM  
**Subject:** Badger

We took the USS Badger a few years ago, to cross from Mich. to Wi. It was a wonderful family experience. It saved us much car riding time. Thank you for listening to our comments.

Sincerely,

Barb Lux, Yorkville, IL

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**From:** Jane Horstman  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/26/2013 5:21:56 PM  
**Subject:** Badger

We strongly support the consent decree!!!!  
Keep the heritage here in Ludington, our favorite hometown.

Jane and Fred Horstman

---

**From:** Trisha  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/27/2013 10:01:32 AM  
**Subject:** Badger Car Ferry Consent Decree Agreement D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

**Reference Case Number - This reference number must be included in subject line**  
**D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771**

**Address to:**  
Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division

**Case Name:**  
United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

Dear Sir or Madam;

I agree with the signature of the consent decree to allow the Badger Car Ferry to continue running at the same time providing for the conversion to a natural gas fueled boiler. I ride the Badger every year for years and it does provide an economical and convenient method of travel across Lake Michigan avoiding a long drive for me either through Chicago or the Upper Peninsula of Michigan.

Thanks for listening.

Jerry Lund

██████████  
Madison WI 53716

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**From:** Pam  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/26/2013 10:43:01 PM  
**Subject:** Car Ferry Consent Decree

RE: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Please allow the Consent Decree to pass for the Lake Michigan Car Ferry, The Badger, to continue operating while seeking a solution for the coal ash dumping.

We totally support the Consent Decree for the Lake Michigan Badger to be passed, and feel the Badger service is an integral part of Ludington's allure and charm, as well as vital to the City of Ludington's economy.

Thank you,

Sincerely,

Pamela Reed

Sent from my iPad

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**From:** Victor Gustafson  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/26/2013 8:07:05 PM  
**Subject:** Car ferry

It should be beached long ago , as was going to be a diesel years ago, instead it's a coal burning black smoke belching polluter.

Sent from my iPad

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/26/2013 7:58:14 PM  
**Subject:** Case # D. J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

TO: Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division

Case Name: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans - Lake Shortcut Inc., d/ba Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

This is to express my support for the Badger service and that it should be allowed to continue it's service for many years to come. It is a historic and national asset. We have used it many times in the past 65 years. When I was a child; when my family and children were visiting parents in WI and MI; and now retired visiting relatives). Although it's basic service focus has shifted to tourist from freight, it's management has made major strides to serve the tourist and vacation oriented public. It's service saves endless hours of driving for most of the people who use it. Their industry is sort of a one of a kind, thus it is time consuming and costly to make changes and the source of vendors is very limited making changes very expensive.

I understand that they are progressing as fast as can be expected to eventually solve the coal ash problem. Therefore, I request that you grant them an extension so that they can continue to operate this valuable service for many years to come. Thank you for your consideration

David L. Perry, Traverse City, MI



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**From:** Richard Stahl  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/26/2013 9:38:37 PM  
**Subject:** Case Number: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771 Comments regarding S.S. Badger

Assistant Attorney General, Environment and Natural Resources Division

Case Name:

United States vs. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

I wish to cast my vote in favor of the SS Badger and a continuation of service between Ludington, MI and Manitowoc, WI. After reading the article published by Outer Boundaries regarding the political interference that I believe has taken place there should be no further action against the owners of the SS Badger. In my estimation, this has turned into a witch hunt, and who ever has contributed the most money to those in power in this case will be the winner.

In closing, I have already lost faith in the legislative branch of our government as nothing of high importance is getting accomplished and now I am about to add the EPA and the justice department to that list. We still have the greatest government in the world and the foundation for our form of government is still in place, but the walls are crumbling. Now you need to do what is right, get all of the facts not hearsay or false accusations and base your findings on hard fact with substantiated information and findings.

Thank you,

Richard Stahl  
Ludington, Mi

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**From:** Bill and Julene Pichel  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/26/2013 9:54:21 PM  
**Subject:** Comment on SS Badger Consent Decree

I would like to say that my wife and I have taken the SS Badger across Lake Michigan and found the experience to be very enjoyable and relaxing (especially when compared to driving through or around Chicago). I would urge all the parties involved to come to a fair solution that will allow the SS Badger to continue sailing without undue financial burden to solve the coal emissions problem. It seems that the Consent Decree would do that.

Thank you,  
William Pichel  
Julene Pichel

████████████████████  
Mitchellville, MD 20721

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**From:** CHTetzloff@aol.com  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/27/2013 3:19:52 PM  
**Subject:** Consent decree - S. S. Badger

We urge you to approve the consent decree.

The last several times our family traveled across Lake Michigan on the S. S. Badger, we notice a large part of the cargo consisted of large wind turbine structures.

The S. S. Badger, it appeared to our family, was a much safer--and ecologically cleaner--method of getting those wind turbines to their destination.

If those turbines had to be transported by truck, not only would much more pollution have been produced but also public safety on the highway with those huge turbine towers on flat bed trucks would have been compromised.

Please approve the consent decree.

Carl Tetzloff

[REDACTED]  
Eden Prairie, MN.55344-4754  
[REDACTED]

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**From:** Robert Borden  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**CC:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 4/26/2013 7:18:27 PM  
**Subject:** consent decree

Refer: United States v Lake Michigan Trans lake Shortcut Inc.  
D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

I strongly support the Consent Decree keeping the history, charm, adventure and the heritage of the Car-ferry Services in Ludington, Michigan.

My wife and I have sailed on the USS Badger several times and it is a trip that we have enjoyed and will, with your blessing, enjoy many times again in the future.

Please – keep the car-ferry service active so our children & grandchildren can enjoy the same thrill that we have had.

Thank you for the opportunity to express our feelings about this service.

Robert Borden  
[REDACTED]  
Fenton, MI 48430

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**From:** JoAnne Amador  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**CC:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 4/26/2013 7:15:02 PM  
**Subject:** consent decree

Refer: United States v Lake Michigan Trans Lake Shortcut, Inc.  
D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

I support the consent decree. Keep the carferry service running in Ludington, Michigan

JoAnne Amador  
[REDACTED]  
Fenton, Mi 48430

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/26/2013 8:16:26 PM  
**Subject:** Consent Decree

To whom it Concerns,

Not only should the USS Badger be allowed 2 years to conform, I feel they should be exempt from the emissions standards as they are a historic part of history andf allowed to operate as they have in the past!

Ray Fehrmann

[REDACTED]  
Merrill, Wi 54452

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**From:** Chuck & Glenna Paukstis  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/26/2013 10:26:46 PM  
**Subject:** D. J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Assistant Attorney General  
Environmental and Natural Resources Division

Case Name: United States vs Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc.  
DBA: Lake Michigan Carferry Services and S. S. Badger

Re: Badger-EPA Consent Decree

Dear Sir/Madam:

We feel that the Consent Decree should be accepted for the following reasons:

1. From all the information we have seen, the amount of mercury released in the coal ash discharged into Lake Michigan in a seasons operation is less than one sixth of an ounce and is within the levels allowed by EPA guidelines. Many utilities and manufacturing companies emit far more mercury into the atmosphere, which settles everywhere, each year.

2. The coal ash discharged into Lake Michigan, while substantially inert, does settle to the lake bottom as a fine grit. We feel that allowing the Badger to continue it's present discharge of coal ash under a two year extension is warranted, especially when considering that other more extensive dischargers have been granted greater and extended periods for compliance – our understand is that Chicago, for instance, has a consent decree extending for 16 more years to discharge combined sewage overflow into Lake Michigan under storm conditions. Storm / sanitary sewer outflows from Milwaukee have resulted in out beaches having to be closed.

3. The Badger's ability to transport oversize truck loads saves money for truckers, while reducing truck time on the roads and their travel around the south end of Lake Michigan and contributing to traffic congestion there.


4. The Badger is the last coal burning boat on the Great Lakes and has been nominated as a National Historic Landmark.

5. Ludington has been the home of cross-lake carferry service almost continuously since 1874. In the 1950's, Ludington was homeport for 7 coal fired carferries which operated 365 days per year, sailing to 3 Wisconsin Ports. Now, operating primarily as a passenger ship, it is estimated that the Badger attracts more than 100,000 passengers annually, adding significantly to the economies of Ludington and Manitowoc. Should the Badger cease running, many of those passengers would drive to their destinations, contributing to automotive air pollution and traffic congestion.

6. The economies of Ludington and Manitowoc would suffer considerable should the Badger cease running.

Since changing the fuel type or proper disposal of the coat ash is a complicated undertaking, we feel a two year extension to resolve the issue is not unreasonable and therefore the Consent Decree should be accepted.

Glenna and Charles Paukstis

  
Ludington, MI 49431

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**From:** Lowell Olson  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/26/2013 5:18:33 PM  
**Subject:** D. J. Ref. No 90-5-1-1-10771

Case Name: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc.,d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

Assistant Attorney General, Environment and Natural Resources Division

Dear Sir:

I feel the Consent Degree should be approved. We have enjoyed the services of the carferries for many years. They have employed many people over the years. My husband and brother-in-law worked on the careferries back in the fifties. It saves time, gas, and relaxing using the Badger and it runs in all kinds of weather. It is a good heavy vessel. About 200 jobs are created and that is very important in this economy. It also boosts the trade in Ludington and Manitowoc.

Sincerely,  
Ruth Olson



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**From:** Rev. Thomas Donohue  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/27/2013 12:22:50 AM  
**Subject:** d.b.Ref.No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Resources Division

I am glad you are working hard to keep the S.S. Badger crossing Lake Michigan for a couple of years to give them time to convert their Coal Boilers to another fuel. To Interrupt this service which deep historical ties would disrupt the local economies of two very beautiful and friendly towns, one in Michigan and one in Wisconsin. The other Irony is that the service is greatly facilitating the transport of wind turbine components eliminating many miles of road transport for them as they get to their destinations to provide clean energy. On a personal level I also save much fuel with of course less emissions as I and many other cars eliminate countless hours of driving to spend a relaxing few hours on the ferry. It also makes for safer driving if I can eliminate many hours of driving, a little over 7 and 700 Kms not driven about 12 gallons of gas not used. Also if you think about it probably for every trip taken by 120 cars (I am sure they have more than that on a trip there is one less set of new tires purchased, one less set of 4 tires discarded, about 150 gallons of gasoline not used, at least 10 oil changes less and 10 fewer oil filters replaced. Although it is more intangible I suspect that the Badger, by eliminating many hundreds of thousands of miles of road trips saves many from being involved in an accident. Well worth the effort I hope you agree

Rev. Tom Donohue

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**From:** Anthony Brancato  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/26/2013 7:21:48 PM  
**Subject:** D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-1-10771

Concerning the S.S. Badger

I can only speak as an occasional tourist. The Badger is certainly a pleasant experience for families.

Our children enjoyed it greatly. Recently, without our children, they are adults now, on a short vacation we enjoyed again..

The Badger is certainly a tourist attraction as well as benefit, environmentally and economically, both locally and state wide.

Anthony/Linda Brancato  
North Carolina

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/26/2013 9:01:54 PM  
**Subject:** D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division

**Case Name:**

United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

Please let the SS badger continue sailing on Lake Michigan for the next two years. This vessel is a historic ship and should continue to operate. The asian carp is a lot bigger threat to the great lakes than the Badger. States of Michigan and Wisconsin will be big losers if this trans-lake route falters.

Thank-you

Jerry Lomashewich

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**From:** Kim Skeltis  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/26/2013 7:02:43 PM  
**Subject:** D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771; U.S. v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and S.S. Badger

Dear Assistant Attorney General, Environment and Natural Resources Division:

My husband and I are new Ludington, Michigan residents, moving here last August. Before I lived here, I didn't understand or appreciate exactly what the S.S. Badger means to this region of the state – especially to the two towns at either end of the route. I have a better understanding now, which is why I am enthusiastically writing my letter of support for the consent decree.

To understand the importance of a ship like the S.S. Badger to a town like Ludington of 8,000 residents, think of another city that depends on an industry for survival, and that has spill-over effects in job creation and economic development. Perhaps Detroit and the auto industry is a comparison. While not apples to apples, it's the case of an industry supporting many ancillary industries in a town – and one that would look quite different if taken away.

Imagine a town in northern Michigan where the lifeblood of its economy is made during a short period of 5 months – May through September – when the weather is balmy and school is mostly out of session. A town made up of mostly small, entrepreneurial businesses that depend on the added influx of tourists to survive. That's what the Badger contributes. With four crossings a day and employing hundreds of seasonal employees, it's the ancillary benefits that can't be overlooked. Our restaurants are full. Our hotel rooms are occupied. Our small business owners who run gift shops, gas stations and groceries have people filling their doors spurred by the seasonal travelers coming in for a day, a night or a few days on the Badger.

The Badger represents also something else – a slice of Americana and a reminder of all that is good in the world. This nostalgic trip taken across one of America's beautiful Great Lakes gives someone a piece of nostalgia quite hard to find in our social media-driven, hand-held-device-dependent society. And it goes both ways – both people on the ship, and those on the shore who run to the docks each day to wave at the passersby – usually people they don't even know. If the Badger is stopped from operating, this slice of nostalgia, Americana and a taste of a simpler time will be lost forever. There isn't another one like it. And we can't afford to lose this treasure.

So I ask – no, I **IMPLORE** – you to look in your heart of hearts and see this as so much more than an environmental issue – it's a humanity issue. It's about a little town having a treasure like no other that brings both joy and economic prosperity. I shudder to think how Ludington and Manitowoc would recover if the Badger is lost.

Thank you for your time.

Kim Skeltis

[REDACTED]  
Ludington, MI 49431

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**From:** Amy Waller  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**CC:** Amy Waller  
**Sent:** 4/26/2013 11:42:09 PM  
**Subject:** D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771 -- United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

Dear Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division,

I and my entire extended family support approving the Consent Decree on ending ash discharge for the SS Badger. The Badger has been a unique and valued part of my family's history for four generations and we want to register our support of the Consent Decree and continued operation of the Badger in compliance with new environmental guidelines.

Thank you,  
Amy Waller, David Anderson, Calder Anderson, and Wyeth Anderson

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**From:** Pentti Maki  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/27/2013 11:41:11 AM  
**Subject:** D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division

In reference to the case, United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger.

My wife and I are in support of Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc. and their efforts to reach an agreement concerning the environmental issues they face as mentioned in the following statement.

Lake Michigan Carferry has signed a Consent Decree agreement with the Department of Justice and EPA that requires the SS Badger to end the ash discharge within two years. This agreement is the product of many months of working closely with the EPA. We think that this Consent Decree is the best result under the circumstances. We will continue our path in ending the discharge of coal ash while still serving the public and local communities.

We believe their goals are reachable and in the best interest of the environment and the communities they serve. As with any business these days funding is not easy to come by, but we are confident that the concerted effort put forth by LMTLS Inc. along with the support of the customers they serve as well as all concerned citizens in Mi., Wi., and surrounding states will be successful in accomplishing their goal while continuing to serve the public that has depended on them and supported them for the last 60 years.

**(2013 Is The S.S. Badger's 60th Anniversary!)**

Thank you  
Ben & Jackie Lehto

God's Peace,  
Ben

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*Psalm 118:24*

*Before you criticize someone,  
you should walk a mile in their shoes.  
That way, when you criticize them, you're a mile away  
and you have their shoes (author unknown).*

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**From:** Mark Smith  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/27/2013 9:56:40 AM  
**Subject:** D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

To whom it may concern:

Please allow the SS Badger to continue operation. It provides a cost effective alternative to driving around Lake Michigan as well as preserving a vital link to our maritime past. The amount of inert material discharged by the Badger is miniscule compared to the "heyday" of these great vessels. I am more than comfortable with the impact that the SS Badger has on my environment. You people need to consider the intangibles that the SS Badger provides. These include jobs both on the Badger as well as in the two ports, enjoyment for the crew and passengers, less car travel and a glimpse into a simpler way of travel.

Sincerely,

Mark Smith

Mark Smith  
VP, Performance Process, Inc.  
715-218-8211  
msmith@ppiinc.com

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**From:** alan ehnes  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/27/2013 2:28:13 AM  
**Subject:** D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

RE/D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

If you were really serious about the environmental impact of pollution in Lake Michigan you would start by enforcing strict controls in Chicago and northern Indiana. The notion that the ferry boat Badger is an environmental hazard is ludicrous. How dare you!

Alan Ehnes



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**From:** Bob Dyer  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/26/2013 11:57:30 PM  
**Subject:** D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division

**Case Name:**

United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

I would like to express my support for the Consent Decree allowing the SS Badger to continue dumping coal ash into Lake Michigan. I believe the coal ash dumping should be allowed for an indefinite period of time. One must remember there was perhaps a thousand coal fired steamers of many sizes plying the great lakes at the beginning of the 1900s to mid century. There is no record of any ecological disaster at that time from the coal ash dumping. We are now faced with the last coal fired steamship sailing the great lakes, and that is for only for five months per year. How could this possibly be a problem when a thousand vessels were carrying passengers and freight all year long, and dumping ash?

I would also remind the Environmental and Natural Resources Division of the importance of the SS Badger is to the two communities of Ludington and Manitowoc. My family and I sail on the SS Badger every year, and it is important to us that we can.

Please give the same consideration to the SS Badger as you have to the the entities that have brought us the many biological invaders to the great lakes. With every big rain event you allow the municipalities bordering the lakes to dump sediments and poop into them that are certainly more detrimental than any perceived damage the SS Badger creates. All of this is apparently not a problem. At a time when we are lectured about fairness, I ask that your division to be fair to a small company, that does not have the resources to defend itself against the government, and to the two communities of Manitowoc and Ludington to have the SS Badger to sail for many years into the future.

Thank you for your consideration,

Robert Dyer

  
Montague, MI 49437

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**From:** Jim Tomasi  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/26/2013 11:54:08 PM  
**Subject:** D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Assistant Attorney General  
Environmental and Natural Resources Division

Case Name:  
United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

My wife and I have traveled back and forth to Michigan using the *Lake Michigan Carferry* as an inexpensive, fuel and time saving alternative to driving the entire distance. The passage provides a very pleasant and comfortable experience. The *Carferry* has been designated as a landmark ship as should continue to operate under the Consent Decree agreement with your department and the EPA. We hope you will allow the *Lake Michigan Carferry to operate* until a reasonable solution is adopted within the two-year agreement period regarding the ash discharge issue.

We also noticed in our passage that many oversized wind turbine assemblies are ferried aboard this ship. This provides a reasonable, less-dangerous, cost and fuel-saving alternative to road travel for these very large pieces of equipment.

The *Lake Michigan Carferry* is quite an experience worth cherishing and a very large piece of the history of the Great Lakes.

Hoping you approve the Consent Decree  
Respectfully,  
James L. Tomasi & Jill E. Carnegie-Tomasi  
Sharon, Wisconsin 53585

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**From:** Cheryl  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/26/2013 11:41:38 PM  
**Subject:** D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

To: Assistant Attorney General, Environmental & Natural Resources Division

Re: Case Name: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc.  
d/b/a Lake Michigan Car Ferry Services and SS Badger

We value very greatly the SS Badger Lake Michigan Car Ferry, as a unique historical treasure. It is the only steam ferry of it's type that is still in service on the Great Lakes and I believe, the entire country. Many of our state's and our country's historical treasures have been dispensed with as seemed expedient at the time, to be greatly mourned as time went on.

It is our hope, therefore, that you approve the Consent Decree to allow the SS Badger a two year period of time to find a way to dispense with the discharge of coal ash, which they are bound and determined to do in order to keep the Badger afloat and make it cleaner to do so.

We sincerely and deeply love the SS Badger, and we certainly hope that our grandchildren will be able to enjoy her beauty and her story for long years to come.

Respectfully,

Cheryl L. Oberholtzer & family

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**From:** James F. Stephen  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/26/2013 11:27:21 PM  
**Subject:** D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Continuing the Lake Michigan Badger car ferry service and phasing out the coal ash dumping is a position I support. I use the service for business trips between Michigan and Wisconsin. Again I support this reasonable compromise. Please contact me if you have any questions.  
Thank you  
Jim  
Sent via BlackBerry by AT&T

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**From:** Alex. Dommerich  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/26/2013 11:14:52 PM  
**Subject:** D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division

We think the Consent Decree should be approved for the below case:

United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

Thank you.

Jan and Alex Dommerich

Frederick, Maryland

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**From:** Anne Davies  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/26/2013 10:46:43 PM  
**Subject:** D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

To Whom It May Concern:

I understand that the Lake Michigan Carferry has signed a Consent Decree agreement with the Department of Justice & EPA. I just want to give my opinion that the Consent Decree should be approved.

Thank you.  
Anne

**Anne Davies**



And those who are peacemakers will plant seeds of peace & reap a harvest of goodness. James 3:18

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**From:** Brian Harbrecht  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/26/2013 10:25:48 PM  
**Subject:** D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

TO: Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources  
Division

REF: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a  
Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

Dear Sir or Madam;

I would like to express my strong support for approval of the consent  
decree in the subject matter. The Lake Michigan Carferry service is a  
necessary and venerable transportation link between the lakeshore  
communities of Wisconsin and Michigan. The ferry provides a positive  
economic impact in communities on both sides of the lake and all  
possible measures must be taken to maintain viability of the service.

Respectfully,

Brian Harbrecht  
Janesville, Wisconsin

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**From:** Kao, Cheng Chia  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/26/2013 9:50:00 PM  
**Subject:** D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

To whom it may concern,

I am an occasional passenger of the SS Badger, and I am glad to hear that the ship will be allowed to stay in service as it works to end its ash emissions. I know it does save greenhouse gas production by providing away across Lake Michigan for cars that does not involve each car expending energy. That's huge. It also provides lifeblood to the towns where it makes ports of call. It would be sadly, tragically missed if it were taken out of service.

Thank you,

Laura



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**From:** Ken and Becky  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/26/2013 9:39:45 PM  
**Subject:** D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Hello,

Please help to save the Badger.

It would be a terrible loss to the Manitowoc and Ludington communities as well as to people like me who enjoy taking the trip across each year.

Please help us preserve this great ship for future generations to enjoy.

B. Bornemann  
Cato, WI

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**From:** Rokicki  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/26/2013 8:18:12 PM  
**Subject:** D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

To : Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division

**Case Name:**

United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

I just wanted to send a note asking for your understanding in the matter of the SS Badger. I have used this service many times and have enjoyed it greatly. Beyond the fact that it saves time and miles driving down through the congested Chicago area, it is a mode of transportation that many do not have the opportunity to experience.

One of the great experiences that my young daughter and I had was taking the Badger on a round trip across the lake. While I had done this trip many times on my own, the trip with my daughter was by far my best one. The joy she had at 10 years old to explore the ship and see and feel it as it leaves dock and crosses the lake, then re-docks is one she will remember for the rest of her life, as I will remember it with her. Getting to see the railroad tracks that run up to and onto the ship in the cement was amazing.

Please do not take this experience away from other families. I would hazard a guess that for many mid-west families this would be the biggest ship they may ever be on. Seeing how this is the last coal fired ship on the great lakes, it seems criminal to make it cease operations. Especially when you consider how many of these used to travel the lakes and how much ash they all used to dump. Even if it for historical purposes, it would seem that this ship should be allowed to continue running as is.

Thank You for considering this matter.

Dan Rokicki

██████████  
Brooklyn, WI 53521

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**From:** Robert VandeVusse  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/26/2013 8:11:35 PM  
**Subject:** D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Assistant Attorney General,  
Environmental and Natural Resources Division

Re: United States vs. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

To whom it may concern:

I write in support of the Consent Agreement in the above named case. The SS Badger is an historic vessel, the last remnant of a transportation legacy on Lake Michigan that dates back to 1892. For that reason alone it deserves to continue to operate. In addition, the economic impact of its operation is vital to the communities of Ludington, Michigan and Sheboygan, Wisconsin. Its demise would bring the loss of hundreds of jobs and millions of dollars in economic activity in those communities and beyond. I urge you to allow the agreement to move forward.

Thank you for your consideration.

Kindest regards,

Robert VandeVusse

  
Holland, MI 49423

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Bob VandeVusse

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**From:** Alice Camber  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/26/2013 7:34:43 PM  
**Subject:** D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Dear Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division

In regards to D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771, Case Name: United States and Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc. d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger, I would like to offer the following comments. I strongly recommend the approval of the Consents Decree Agreement in which Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger have agreed to eliminate the discharge of coal ash into Lake Michigan by the end of the 2014 sailing season with the understanding that alternative solutions will be pursued and implemented by that date.

As a lifelong resident of Michigan and having close relatives who live in northern Wisconsin, I have frequently used and will continue to use the transportation services of the carferry. The alternatives of  
1- driving around the southern end of Lake Michigan and through the heavy traffic of Chicago,  
2- driving through the Upper Peninsula, or  
3.-taking the alternative ferry between Muskegon and Milwaukee

are not time efficient or practical for many people who must/desire to travel between Michigan and Wisconsin. Not only is the SS Badger a historical feature of the Great Lakes, it provides a necessary transportation service for many people and businesses. As one example, my sister who lives in Green Bay takes the ferry yearly to Michigan for a 2 week stay to visit relatives and friends. Without the services of the SS Badger, she would be unable to make this annual trip. Public transportation via bus/train/plane is unavailable in the rural area she visits, but the area is easily accessed by taking her car on the SS Badger.

In addition to the efficient services provided by the SS Badger to individual business and recreational travelers, the SS badger provides an efficient transport for materials/goods for large businesses. Recently the SS Badger has transported many components of giant windmills, saving green energy companies money and time in transporting their structures and reducing truck traffic as well as wear and tear on road systems. Additionally, transporting people, cars, motorcycles and trucks via the SS badger reduces the amount of gasoline and diesel fuel used by such vehicles and reduces the emissions from those vehicles.

I hope you will consider the above factors when reaching a decision regarding the approval of the Consents Decree agreement between the United States and Lake Michigan Trans'Lake Shortcut, Inc.

Thank you,  
Alice E Camber

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**From:** Bill Bergerson  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/26/2013 7:13:45 PM  
**Subject:** D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Attn: Assistant Attorney General, Environment and Natural Resources Division

RE: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc.

Dear Assistant Attorney General,

I would just like to express my support for approval of the Consent Decree in the above-referenced case, which would allow the historic SS Badger to continue service across Lake Michigan while coming into compliance with current environmental regulations.

Beyond any nostalgic appeal, this ferry also supports employment in both Michigan and Wisconsin, and provides the missing water link to US 10.

Thanks for your time and support pursuant to approval of the decree.

Sincerely, Dr. William O. Bergerson

  
Kansas City, MO 64146

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**From:** Hollykuehn@aol.com  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/26/2013 7:09:42 PM  
**Subject:** D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Assistant A.G., Environmental and Natural Resources Division:  
Please save the Badger. Historic Preservation is so important. Is the harm that dreadful?  
My journey across Lake Michigan such an iconic experience!  
Holly Kuehn, Columbus, Ohio

ass

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**From:** Scott R. Henkels  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/26/2013 6:44:36 PM  
**Subject:** D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division  
RE:United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry  
Services and SS Badger

Thank you for working with the SS Badger in an effort to allow this unique and valuable service to continue. As a native Ohioan and frequent traveler I appreciate and enjoy the use of the SS Badger on an annual basis and hope to continue to do so in the future.

Your approval of the Consent Decree would be greatly appreciated. Seeing as there has been a somewhat involved process of negotiation to this point, I would anticipate that the negotiations have been in mutually good faith with approval forthcoming.

Thank you,

Scott R. Henkels  
[REDACTED]

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**From:** David Thompson  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/26/2013 6:25:58 PM  
**Subject:** D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

To the Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division:

My family and I have found sailing on the S.S. Badger to be an enjoyable part of our travels. We hope that the efforts that the management of S.S. Badger have made toward compliance are received favorably by your office and that their valuable service may continue for many years to come.

Sincerely,

David Thompson



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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/26/2013 5:42:54 PM  
**Subject:** D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Please keep the Badger running - such a unique experience for travelers.

Debbie Hodges

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/26/2013 5:15:07 PM  
**Subject:** D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

To: Assistant Attorney General Environmental and Natural Resources Division

Case Name: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger.

I think the Consent Decree to end ash dumping within two years should be approved.

Ella Chafee

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**From:** Michael Boyce  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**CC:** 'Lake Michigan Carferry Service'  
**Sent:** 4/26/2013 5:15:58 PM  
**Subject:** D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Good Afternoon,

My name is Michael and I am writing in favor of supporting the consent decree for the S.S. Badger.

My family and I have taken numerous trips (4) on the Badger to expedite our travel to Ludington State Park in Michigan and beyond for camping. It is a very relaxing ride across the lake in a one of a kind coal fired steam ship. Just a small scent of this vessel brings back memories of a bi-gone era where there were few distractions and one could really enjoy the silence of being able to re-connect with oneself. I strongly agree that a big part of the Badger's success for many tourists is the fact that it is a part of history and little of it has changed in the way it was constructed over 60 years ago. It is like taking a step back in time traveling across the lake. This is the main reason we ride on the ship.

I strongly believe there is a simple way of preserving the vessel's historic power in order to comply with current standards. The ash could be collected onboard a small tank truck and disposed of in the same matter many current electric coal plants dispose of their ash. It may also be possible that the stacks be modified in the future to collect most of the particles being released and dispose of them in a more green manner. A huge positive on the Badgers continued service is that the Badger contributes to saving more air pollutants and the energies required to replace them than if all the vehicles that it transports were to drive around the lake. I'm confident Lake Michigan Car Ferry will make these modifications to make the Badger more green. This will guarantee future generations the ability to enjoy it as much as we do.

Thank you for listening to my comments and Thank you for allowing the S.S. Badger to continue to operate. Please approve the decree. Thank You.

Best Regards,  
Michael Boyce

Interflex  
2330 Pamperin Road  
Green Bay, WI 54313

phone: (920)434-5148  
fax: (920)434-5368

info@interflx.com  
website: interflx.com

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**From:** Jeremiah Cullinane  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/26/2013 4:57:39 PM  
**Subject:** D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Consent Decree seems reasonable to me.

[REDACTED]

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**From:** Joseph Michels  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/26/2013 8:51:35 PM  
**Subject:** D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Dear Persons,

here in Wisconsin the local government has been dumping mass amounts of raw or partially treated waste, directly into lake Michigan. This small amount of ash discharge is like a drop in the bucket, and should not be the concern here. Please give this wonderful floating museum more time to comply. - Joseph and June Michels

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**From:** Dan Cramer  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/26/2013 11:58:06 PM  
**Subject:** D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771 Lake Michigan Carferry

Assistant Attorney General  
U.S. DOJ - ENRD

Dear Sir or Madam,

I'm writing today in support of the consent decree reached between the US EPA and Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut inc.

Cross-Lake ferry service on Lake Michigan has existed since 1892. In the past 120 years, ferry service has proven its value to the industry of the midwest, and has boosted the economies of the port communities served. All 26 of the ferries built for lake Michigan service were originally built as coal fired steamers.

The SS Badger continues this tradition of ferry service on Lake Michigan. The communities of Manitowoc, WI, and Ludington, MI continue to benefit from the tourist and commercial traffic that travels through these cities. The commercial traffic carried across the lake helps reduce traffic through the congested Chicago highway system.

Lake Michigan Carferry service has operated the SS Badger for 20 years. In this time, LMC has revitalized the business. The ship has been restored to an operating condition better than she's seen in 40 years. Fuel consumption and emissions have been reduced significantly. Customer service has never been better. Of largest concern to the government, LMC has proved itself a responsible corporate citizen who is well respected in the great lakes maritime community.

The consent decree agreed to by the EPA and LMC proves to be the best solution from all sides of the issue. A firm consent decree in place allows LMC to plan and budget for continued operation while implementing the solution to eliminate the ash discharge. As stated by the EPA, the consent decree provides the shortest, most sure means to eliminate the ash discharge. Eliminating a long legal dispute is more cost effective for both the EPA and LMC.

Ash has been discharged from steamers on lake Michigan for more than 150 years. The discharge from each vessel is small compared to a power plant or large industrial facility. In addition the ash is spread across hundreds of square miles further reducing any environmental impact. In fact, I have researched, and found no documentation of any environmental impact related to ash discharge from coal fired ships. 2 more years of ash discharge from the SS Badger will not affect Lake Michigan to a measurable degree.

The SS Badger is the last operating traditional cross lake ferry, the last coal fired steamer on the Great Lakes, the last operating pair of Skinner compound Unaflow engines, and one of the last passenger services operating on the great lakes. All of this history leads to the conclusion that the SS Badger should be preserved as an operating vessel.

I would encourage the DOJ to Approve the consent decree between the US EPA and Lake Michigan Carferry Service.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Best Regards,  
Dan Cramer  
Kimberly, WI

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**From:** Linda Mueller  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/26/2013 4:39:04 PM  
**Subject:** D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771 Public Comment

To: Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division

I am writing in support of the Consent Decree agreement in the case named: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

I believe the Consent Decree agreement provides the parameters for a reasonable solution to the concerns raised by the EPA about the SS Badger's coal ash discharge in Lake Michigan while at the same time allowing Lake Michigan Carferry Service to continue to provide its valuable public service.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Mueller

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**From:** D E  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/27/2013 1:28:18 PM  
**Subject:** D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771  
**Attachments:** --static--bg\_stripesblue\_1.gif

Dear : Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division


Case Name:

United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

I think the Lake Michigan Carferry Consent Decree should be approved. The Carferry is a icon in Wisconsin Tourism and should remain in service as long as possible.

Sincerely,

Dennis J Erovick

  
Cedarburg, WI 53012



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**From:** Joyce Bathke  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/26/2013 10:21:48 PM  
**Subject:** D.J. Ref. No 90-5-1-1-10771

Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division:

The case that I am very concerned about is United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger. The SS Badger is very beneficial to the economy of Manitowoc, WI and Ludington, MI. In this time of struggling economy, these two cities need the support of the SS Badger and a favorable decision on their behalf. The SS Badger also helps our country save gasoline and diesel fuel by transporting buses, semi-trailers and cars. The wind towers that it transports will eventually produce electricity for our nation.

On a personal level, as a widow and senior citizen, it is the only way that I can visit my grandchildren in Lower Michigan as I am not capable of driving through Milwaukee and Chicago and I have a fear of high bridges.

Sincerely,

Joyce Bathke

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/26/2013 5:53:25 PM  
**Subject:** D.J. Ref.No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division

Concerning:

United State.v.Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and S. S. Badger

Dear Sir

For the past 15 or so years my wife and I have used the services of the Badger for our summer trips to such distant destinations as Alaska, British Columbia, Montana and other western points. We were traveling from Cleveland, Ohio, to these places. Our alternatives would have been driving around through Chicago, or up through Northern Michigan over the Mackinac Bridge. At our ages ( 89 and 80) these choices would have been formidable. We were saving not only fuel but physical and mental energy which at our ages would have been excessive.

For a few more years we would like to continue to enjoy the excellent services and convenience that the Badger offers us. The absence of this vessel would cause us to seriously consider termination of our visits to the western United States and Canada.

Leonard K. Tower

[REDACTED]  
Fairview Park OH, 44126  
[REDACTED]

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/26/2013 5:04:19 PM  
**Subject:** D.J. Ref.No.90-5-1-1-10771

Dear Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division,

I write this letter in reference to the case of United States v. Lake Michigan Trans Lake shortcut, Inc. d/b/a/Lake Michigan Carferry services and SS badger.

I have been making crossings since I was a boy. My elderly mother who grew up in Manitowoc remembered the launching of the City of Midland '41. My uncle ran bay ship building in Sturgeon Bay Wisconsin in the 1970's (Art Zuehlke) I ask that in memory of our maritime heritage that the Consent decree be approved and this service can continue. It is the only boat of its kind left and I hope my grandchildren will be able to make these crossings as well. The crossings are an important part of the journey home to Wisconsin from Indiana where I now live. I think the ferry should have the right to continue her crossings for the next two years. The great lakes will not be so great without this last of the great ferry boats --thanks for your attention. I pray our government will apply its regulation in such a way as to give the boat the next two years to convert to natural gas.--It is only one boat and its the only one of its kind. --Gus Zuehlke, South Bend Indiana

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**From:** LDSloan  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/23/2013 8:53:15 PM  
**Subject:** D.J. Reference No. 90-5-1-1-10771

**D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771**

**To:**  
Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division

**Case Name:**  
United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

We live in St. Paul, MN, own a cottage in the U.P and have family in the Detroit Area. The SS Badger shortens our driving time, offers a relaxing cruise on beautiful Lake Michigan (even a massage if desired) and experience part of the history of Great Lakes shipping. It is extremely valuable to leisure travelers as well as those who need to commute between Manitowoc and Ludington.

Without this service, we would have to drive to Detroit area via Chicago or the U.P. The SS Badger means we can arrive in the U.P. more rested (thus safer drivers.)

We wholeheartedly support the Lake Michigan Carferry Consent Decree agreement with the Department of Justice and EPA requiring the SS Badger to end the ash discharge within two years.

This is a reasonable approach to resolution of the ash issue while retaining a valuable consumer service. The Lake Michigan Carferry Services have made a considerable investment in the business, providing a needed service to travelers and their automobiles.

Sincerely,

Dan and Lana Sloan  
Eagan, MN

**Forward email**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/26/2013 5:58:13 PM  
**Subject:** D.J.Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

*Instructions for commenting on the Consent Decree*

**Addressed to:**

Assistant Attorney General, Environment and Natural Resources Division

**Reference Case Number:** D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771 (must be included in subject line)

**Case Name:**

United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and S.S. Badger

**Comments to be EMAILED:** pubcomment-ees.enrd@usdoj.gov

Dear Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division:

Regarding the case of the Badger ferry and significant fly ash dumping into Lake Michigan: my family has used and enjoyed travel via the historic Badger ferry for many years, starting back when it used Kewaunee as a port. We thoroughly enjoy this mode of travel, find it much easier than auto travel with small children or aging parents, and believe that it makes a critical economic contribution to both port cities, Manitowoc and Ludington. (Without the ferry, Kewaunee has suffered enormous economic losses which nothing has yet been able to replace.)

We feel that continuing to dump tons of fly ash into the lake is not acceptable, but hope that given a two year window, the ferry company will succeed in finding another means of disposing of the ash and continuing its mission, crossing the lake as it has done for a hundred years. Better yet would be an alternative fuel method which creates less solid and air pollution problems.

It is worth noting that passengers on the ferry, both families and large semis, and even the enormous windmill parts being transported, are not contributing to excessive auto traffic, extra fuel usage, or air quality problems in the corridor between Wisconsin and Michigan. I hope the ferry company will feel motivated to find a solid solution to allow their continued use of the lake and service to an appreciative clientele. We need the Badger!

Sincerely,

Jean Hildreth

[REDACTED]

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**From:** Pam  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/26/2013 10:44:27 PM  
**Subject:** D.J.Ref.No. 90-5-1-1-10771

RE: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Please allow the Consent Decree to pass for the Lake Michigan Car Ferry, The Badger, to continue operating while seeking a solution for the coal ash dumping.

We totally support the Consent Decree for the Lake Michigan Badger to be passed, and feel the Badger service is an integral part of Ludington's allure and charm, as well as vital to the City of Ludington's economy.

Thank you,

Sincerely,

Pamela Reed

Sent from my iPad

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**From:** Brian & Lynn  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/26/2013 7:21:57 PM  
**Subject:** D.J.Ref.No.90-5-1-1-10771

To Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division

In regards to case, United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc. d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

Dear Assistant Attorney General,

I'm writing in regards to the SS Badger and hoping that you will approve the Consent Decree. The Badger is unique and I know that we, as well as other relatives of mine will be taking advantage of it's services this year, as well as many more years hopefully as we have in the past.

There are so many other areas, other than the carferry, that should catch your attention, including the **raw sewage** dumped into our Lake from Milwaukee and other large cities along the coast which is most troubling! The air pollution that is produced in the larger industrial cities east of Wisconsin from large corporations is another.

Please consider this before you make your decision.

Yours truly,  
Lynn Cerkas  
Manitowoc, WI

email at [REDACTED]


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
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**From:** Deborah Scovronske [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, April 27, 2013 5:29 PM  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Subject:** D.J.REF.NO.90-5-1-1-10771

Dear Sirs,

Do you really think that the ash from the S.S.Badger IS really the cause of the air quality today? Comon' man, how long has the Badger been in service? Many, many years and NOW you want to do something about it? It just boggles my brain at times to see how long it really does take before the Government will look at an issue.

Did some fancy millionaires get a little ash on their grass?  Let them reach into their pockets for once. You know, I have traveled between Manitowoc and Ludington many times, and soon once a nice get away weekend will be gone with the cost of everything going up.

Well, you're gonna do what you want anyway, I don't know why you bother asking public opinion, does it help you sleep at night???? 

Sincerely,

Deborah A Scovronske



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**From:** Paul Prescott  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/26/2013 9:12:17 PM  
**Subject:** Fwd: United States Vs. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** Jack Prescott <[REDACTED]>  
**Date:** Wed, Apr 24, 2013 at 4:50 PM  
**Subject:** Fwd: United States Vs. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771  
**To:** [pubcomment-ees.enrd@usdoj.gov](mailto:pubcomment-ees.enrd@usdoj.gov)  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]

Gentlemen:

In the matter captioned above, I strongly urge the D.O.J to grant the extension as requested by the applicant. The Lake Michigan Carferry is a vital part of the Michigan tourism industry and positively impacts all surrounding areas. Environmental concerns regarding any of the Great Lakes deserve the utmost consideration, but the Lake Michigan Carferry is not a threat and should be allowed to continue to operate while a cleaner fuel system is implemented. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Jack L Prescott  
[REDACTED]

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**From:** Sunny Emerson  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/26/2013 11:49:07 PM  
**Subject:** Historic S S Badger Lake Michigan Car Ferry

Regarding: **United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc. DJ. Ref.No.90-5-1-10771.**

Dear Sirs,

We need to **keep the historic S S Badger running** as it has for 60 seasons. It is vital to the economy of our community and has brought and is still bringing business and pleasure to tourists and residents for many,many years. We must keep the history of our country alive fo generations to come.

One remaining ship on Lake Michigan, the S S Badger Car Ferry, still running and traveling across Lake Michigan is a vital bit of history that should remain for all who wish, to observe, partake, and enjoy.

Most Sincerely,  
Sunny Emerson  
Charles Emerson

Ludington Michigan

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**From:** Kate Pyles  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/26/2013 8:17:41 PM  
**Subject:** Katherine Pyles public comment re: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

To:  
Assistant Attorney General, U.S. DOJ-ENRD, P.O. Box 7611, Washington, DC 20044-7611

From:

From:

Katherine Pyles



Hastings, MI 49058

April 25, 2013

The Honorable Ignacia S. Moreno

Assistant Attorney General

U.S. DOJ-ENRD

P.O. Box 7611

Washington, DC 20044-7611

RE: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc.,  
D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Dear Assistant Attorney General Moreno :

As a citizen of the State of Michigan, I write in opposition to the proposed consent decree lodged in connection with the above-referenced matter, as it is neither fair, adequate, reasonable, and not consistent with the public interest for the reasons set forth below.

To date, the Defendant, Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc. (LMC), the owner of the *S.S. Badger*, has failed to adopt any measures to eliminate the discharge of its coal ash into Lake Michigan and the proposed consent decree as written does not guarantee that. The coal ash dumped into Lake Michigan by the *S.S. Badger* has been affirmatively shown to contain chemicals such as mercury, lead, chromium and arsenic, which are unquestionably detrimental to human health and the environment. Moreover, the Defendant knowingly violated the 2008 Vessel General Permit (VGP) by exceeding the discharge limits set forth under Wisconsin and Michigan water standards. Based upon the Defendant's prior violations of the law and past conduct, it is clear that the Defendant has no intention to cease this discharge or comply with the Clean Water Act or Michigan State pollution laws. Therefore, it is not in the public interest to allow the Defendant to have an additional two years to sail on Lake Michigan and continue its dumping of coal ash.

For decades, Defendant represented to Congress and state legislatures, as well as to federal agencies and state agencies in Wisconsin and Michigan, that they would retrofit the ship with everything from diesel, to oil, to natural gas. In 2008, the understanding at the time was that the *S.S. Badger's* dumping would be covered by the VGP coal ash waiver, and that Defendant would use the five year period of the VGP to retrofit the ship.

However, the *S.S. Badger* has not been retrofitted and, as public records reflect, Defendant opted instead to focus its resources on circumventing compliance. Indeed, from the period of 2008 to 2013, instead of using the off-seasons to retrofit the *S.S. Badger*, Defendant has invested in the following two-pronged strategy.

First, Defendant attempted to get an earmark in federal legislation that would allow vessels of "historical significance" that operate under a Vessel General Permits to be permanently exempt from the Clean Water Act. These attempts have thus far failed. On November 4, 2011, the U.S. House of Representatives approved an amendment to the Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Act of 2011 (H.R. 2838), offered by Representative Huizenga of Michigan and Representative Petri from Wisconsin that would eliminate the December 19, 2012 deadline and allow the *S.S. Badger* to operate in perpetuity under the conditions of the Vessel General Permit. However, the Coast Guard Reauthorization bill that passed this past December and signed into law by President Obama does not contain the *S.S. Badger* earmark language.

Second, Defendant has attempted to designate the *S.S. Badger* as a National Historic Landmark, which is currently under review with the Department of Interior. Defendant has maintained that due to the age of the *S.S. Badger*, the ship should be grandfathered from any and all environmental regulations. As Defendant has stated: "Up until 2008 it was believed that the *Badger's* historic importance as the last coal-fired steam powered ship in the U.S. would continue to make her exempt for existing environmental regulations." Statement of LMC in application documents to the State of Wisconsin, Project Narrative, p. 2.

According to Mr. Manglitz "Landmark status would be invaluable when working with the EPA to find a solution for meeting the requirements of the agency's Vessel [General] Permit that is due to expire in December of 2012." See Letter to National Park Service from Bob Manglitz, June 21, 2011; see *also* Email from Bob Manglitz to National Park Service, dated June 20, 2011 ("EPA ... threatens the economic

stability of the [Badger] operation.....owners feel that in several possible strategies that . . . would be very valuable”). Such actions by Defendant, as well as past its past history of recalcitrance, cast serious doubts on their intention to ever bring the *S.S. Badger* into compliance with the Clean Water Act.

Moreover, Defendant has no incentive to retrofit the ship as it has economically benefitted from not shifting to a new power source or installing pollution control equipment on the ship. Defendant has not had to invest in pollution control equipment or pay for proper disposal of the coal ash in a landfill; it has thus been able to keep its operating costs and tickets prices below its market competitors. Defendant further benefits financially by continuing to power its ship by coal – for which it pays a below market rate through an agreement with a Wisconsin power utility -- rather than oil or diesel, like all the other ships that operate on the Great Lakes. By keeping its expenses low in this manner, Defendant simply has undercut its competition.

In addition, the detrimental environmental impact of the *S.S. Badger* is staggering. The solid waste emissions of the *S.S. Badger* alone equate to six times that of all the other 125 commercial vessels combined that sail on Lake Michigan. Given that the intensity of the impact of mercury on fish and wildlife in the Great Lakes region is much greater than previously recognized, and that mercury concentrations exceed human and ecological risk thresholds in many areas, allowing the *S.S. Badger* to further discharge coal ash into Lake Michigan will continue to degrade the water quality. Lake Michigan is the primary source of drinking water for over 10 million people, and is a key component of the \$7 billion Great Lakes fishing industry. Therefore, it is indisputable that the past 50-plus years, during which the *S.S. Badger* has dumped 35,400 tons of coal ash, have adversely affected Lake Michigan, human health and the surrounding the environment, and aquatic life.

The time has come to stop Defendant’s blatant disregard for the law and for public health and the environment. Indeed, but for the actions of the United States through its proposed consent decree, Defendants would at this point be prohibited from continuing to pollute Lake Michigan with coal ash. As of December 19, 2012, the waiver to the VGP permit – that had allowed Defendant’s dumping – has now expired. However, the proposed consent decree, as written, would allow the dumping to continue for two more years. This position is untenable, given that the laws of Michigan expressly prohibit the disposal of any pollutant into its waters. In sum, the only action that is fair, reasonable, and in the public interest at this point is to require the Defendant to retrofit the *S.S. Badger* before it again sails on Lake Michigan.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,

Katherine Pyles

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**From:** Anna Hess  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/27/2013 5:34:37 AM  
**Subject:** Keep the Badger

To Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division ,

I wanted to comment on the case involving the United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger.

I use this ferry regularly for work and personal travel. It helps eliminate four or more hours of driving when I travel to lower Michigan.

The ferry also has a positive impact on the economics of both Manitowoc and Luddington.

I come from a family of environmentalists. I do not think shutting down the ferry will help the environment long term, especially when all of those trucks and cars will be back on the interstate going to lower Michigan.

Please keep the ferry running.

Thank you,

Anna Hess

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**From:** [REDACTED] on behalf of William Filber  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/27/2013 2:28:52 PM  
**Subject:** Lake Ferry Service

Please consider allowing the Lake Michigan Carferry Consent Decree agreement with the Department of Justice and EPA that requires the SS Badger to end the ash discharge within two years. It is very much understood and appreciated that we must protect our Great Lakes, the Lakes are the drinking water for many communities and for many factories. Not only that they provide tourist dollars for the surrounding states and maybe someday out of necessity the water for those states that are in need. So I ask that this Consent Decree be allowed, I strongly believe and hope that the SS Badger can find a solution to there discharge of coal ash within the two years, if they don't, then they must be stopped or prevented from doing any more harm to the Great Lakes. At the same time I hope that you will consider some way to prevent the Asian Carps from entering into the Great Lakes, these are very harmful and dangerous to our fresh water. They could be more dangerous then the SS Badger, so please keep it in perspective.

Sincerely

William Filber

[REDACTED]  
Spring Lake, Michigan  
49456

Sent from Windows Mail

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**From:** william wilke  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/27/2013 7:41:05 AM  
**Subject:** Lake Michigan Car Ferry

Re: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

To Whom it may concern,

I support the consent decree agreement as referenced and believe it should be approved.

William R Wilke  
Howards Grove, WI 53083



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**From:** George Strombeck  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/26/2013 11:23:58 PM  
**Subject:** LAKE MICHIGAN CARFERRY SERVICE

TO THE AUTHORITY CONCERNING THE OPERATION OF THE LAKE MICHIGAN CAR FERRY,

I HAVE HEARD THERE IS AN ISSUE WITH THE BOAT SERVICE OPERATING BETWEEN MANITOWOC, WISCONSIN AND LUDINGTON, MICHIGAN - I UNDERSTAND IT HAS TO DO WITH THE DUMPING OF THE COAL ASH INTO THE LAKE.

I WANT YOU TO KNOW THAT WE USE THIS SERVICE EVERY SUMMER, SOMETIMES AS MUCH AS THREE OR FOUR ROUND TRIPS. I LIVE IN ROCKFORD ILLINOIS, AND HAVE REASON TO GO TO PENTWATER, MICHIGAN (JUST SOUTH OF LUDINGTON). THE BOAT IS A VERY CONVENIENT WAY FOR ME AND MY FAMILY TO TRAVEL TO MICHIGAN, RATHER THAN DRIVING AROUND CHICAGO AND THROUGH NORTHERN INDIANA TO MICHIGAN.

I VERY MUCH HOPE WHATEVER THE PROBLEM IS CAN BE RESOLVED, SO THIS VERY IMPORTANT (AND NECESSARY) SERVICE WILL CONTINUE INDEFINITELY! PLEASE BE AWARE THERE ARE MANY OF US WHO WANT, AND NEED THIS SERVICE! IS THERE ANY WAY TO CATCH THOSE ASHES FROM THE BOAT BEFORE ENTERING THE WATER?

SINCERELY,

GEORGE STROMBECK

████████████████████  
ROCKFORD, IL 61107

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/26/2013 10:28:53 PM  
**Subject:** Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger (D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771)

Case No. D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Case Name: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

To: Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division

I support the Consent Decree agreement between Lake Michigan Carferry Services and the Department of Justice and EPA that will require the SS Badger to end the ash discharge within two years. This is a true win-win outcome where environmental concerns are addressed, while allowing the SS Badger to continue to operate.

The SS Badger:

- Is a vital part of the economy of both Wisconsin and Michigan, generating millions of tourist dollars.
- Provides a unique form of mass transportation.
- Saves energy by transporting vehicles that would otherwise be burning fuel.
- Is a functioning representative of Great Lakes history.

Thank you,  
Shari Mason  
Appleton, WI

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**From:** Barbara  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/27/2013 12:46:34 AM  
**Subject:** Lake Michigan Carferry

D.J.Ref.No.90-5-1-1-10771. Please consider the carferry as an important and necessary conveyance across Lake Michigan. It also contributes greatly to the economics of both sides of the lake. It also is important for all of the gas milage saved by the vehicles using the boat. Do all that you can to continue this important service.

Sent from my iPad

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**From:** Susan Stancroff  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/26/2013 4:33:27 PM  
**Subject:** Ludington Carferry

I support the consent decree keeping the heritage here in Ludington, Michigan for the operation of the carferry service between Ludington, Michigan and Manitowoc, Wisconsin.

Roy Stancroff  
Susan Stancroff

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**From:** bob moreth  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/26/2013 5:38:20 PM  
**Subject:** please allow the ss badger to continue service bob moreth 2444 [REDACTED] crown point in

<META HTTP-EQUIV="Content-Type" CONTENT="text/html; charset=us-ascii">  
<div dir="ltr"></div>

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**From:** Christine Hall  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/27/2013 2:47:00 PM  
**Subject:** public comment re: The Badger

April 27, 2013

Dear Sir or Madam,

RE: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc. D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

In regard to the above-mentioned controversy,

**I fully support the consent decree arrived at concerning the operation of the SS Badger**, which, I understand, will be allowed to continue service across Lake Michigan for the next two years while a solution is found for the disposal of coal ash.

I believe that there has been great exaggeration of the hazards of the Badger's continued operation. Senator Richard Durbin stands out among those opposing continued operation of the Badger, but his motives seem pretty transparent. "Lake Express, the smaller, newer carferry service sailing out of Muskegon, is known to have bankrolled an enormous campaign to demonize the Badger, and hired lobbyists who hosted a fund-raiser for Senator Durbin, who *then* took to the Senate floor to call for the Badger to be dry-docked." (From *Outer Boundary Magazine*, March 2012.)

Senator Durbin apparently objects not at all to the massive amounts of coal-generated pollution in his home state--presumably because of the revenue produced--while scapegoating a small-time polluter like the Badger. Coincidence, or just an ugly double standard?

The Spring issue of *Outer Boundary* magazine has a much more thorough analysis of the problem, with much more data than I've ever read in statements of Sen Durbin and other opponents of the Badger's operation.

I sincerely hope the Badger will keep sailing, while Lake Michigan Carferry continues trying to find a way to convert her to a cleaner fuel.

Thank you for your consideration of my comments.

Christine A. Hall

  
Ludington MI 49431

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/26/2013 5:23:23 PM  
**Subject:** Reference Case Number: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Please approve the Consent Decree. My children and I use the Badger (have for almost well over 10 years) to go from WI/MN border to visit family in MI. It enables a single person to make the trip with small children easily. Driving through Chicago takes the same amount of time but is much more prohibitive as far as one driver goes...

Thank you for your consideration -

Michele Jennings  
[REDACTED]

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**From:** Ed Murphy  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/26/2013 9:51:17 PM  
**Subject:** Reference Case Number - D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Dear Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division,

In regards to **Case Number: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771 and Case Name: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger**, I wanted to voice my input. I am totally opposed to allowing the S.S. Badger Carferry to continue polluting Lake Michigan, which is my drinking water and millions of other peoples drinking water. The Lake Michigan Carferry has been given multiple extensions to retrofit their ship in order to stop putting toxic pollutants into Lake Michigan. Lake Michigan needs to be preserved since it is a drinking water source for millions of people. I want to know who is allowing the continuation of this pollution to occur. This is not a debatable issue. I have taken this ship in the past prior to knowing that they polluted Lake Michigan. Are special interests being appeased by killing people with the pollution of our drinking water. Whoever allows this to continue needs to be brought to justice. **Please stop this operation until all pollution is ceased. They have been given adequate time in the past to stop this. I plead with you to oppose and stop this decent decree.**

Regards,

Ed Murphy

  
Chicago, IL  
60655



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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/26/2013 5:46:57 PM  
**Subject:** Reference Case Number - D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Asst. Attorney Gen. Environmental and Natural Resource Division  
Case Name: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans - Lake Shortest, Inc.,  
D/B/A Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS  
BADGER

Dear Sir:

As a clergyman who has traveled with the BADGER many times and taken groups I feel that many would be losing a great chance to travel via the last Steam-powered passenger vessel on the Great Lakes. Many of our groups cross the Lake in the Ludington-Manitowac area just for the opportunity to travel with such a vessel. And to save gas at the same time.

For some it has a lot of nostalgia having traveled years ago on former Great Lakes Passenger vessels now gone. To take the BADGER out of service would mean a lot of extra miles around the Lake and losing out on the opportunity to cross with an enjoyable trip on the BADGER - not to mention what it would mean to the local economies of both cities.

Here's hoping she can sail again and also make the changes necessary to remove the ash in a proper manner acceptable for all involved.

Sincerely,

Rev. A. W. Pankratz, 1605 S. Riviera Dr.,  
Stevensville, MI 49125 [REDACTED]

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**From:** Gary Cloud  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD); Gary Cloud  
**Sent:** 4/26/2013 4:23:44 PM  
**Subject:** Reference Case Number - D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division

Case Name:

United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

Dear Assistant Attorney General,  
I am a Professional Engineer registered in Michigan and a member of the engineering faculty at Michigan State University.

My wife and I are long-time Michigan residents who have family residing in Appleton, Wisconsin. We use the SS Badger several times each season to shorten the trip to Wisconsin, thereby saving fuel dollars and avoiding the "Great American Bottleneck" otherwise known as Chicago. Furthermore, we own a farm near Ludington, MI, the Badger's home port, and we understand the importance of this ship to the economy of the area.

It is always amazing to see the number vehicles, particularly of big commercial haul vehicles that are loaded into the Badger. The savings in fuel, largely derived from foreign oil, and the reduction of pollution from the vehicles hauled by the ship offset the effects of dumping coal ash into Lake Michigan. Dumping such ash has been done by many ships over a long period of time without much in the way of documented ill effects. I agree that this dumping should end sometime. But, in balance, we believe that the SS Badger should be allowed to operate for several years while progress is made to convert to an alternate fuel.

Finally, I point out that the SS Badger is a historical landmark. As one example, it is driven by probably the last of a type of 3-stage Stirling engines in active use. It is not only an historical ship, but it is live museum of steam power. I know for fact, because I have experienced it, that the engineering staff of the Badger will give very nice tours of the machinery spaces.

Sincerely yours,  
Gary Lee Cloud  
Ph.D., P.E., FSEM, FInstP, CPhys  
University Distinguished Professor  
Michigan State University  
web: [www.egr.msu.edu/~cloud](http://www.egr.msu.edu/~cloud)

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**From:** David Cleary  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/27/2013 12:06:09 AM  
**Subject:** Reference Case Number - D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Dear Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division,

In regards to **Case Number: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771 and Case Name: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger**, I wanted to voice my input. I am totally opposed to allowing the S.S. Badger Carferry to continue polluting Lake Michigan, which is my drinking water and millions of other peoples drinking water. The Lake Michigan Carferry has been given multiple extensions to retrofit their ship in order to stop putting toxic pollutants into Lake Michigan. Lake Michigan needs to be preserved since it is a drinking water source for millions of people. I want to know who is allowing the continuation of this pollution to occur. This is not a debatable issue. I have taken this ship in the past prior to knowing that they polluted Lake Michigan. Are special interests being appeased by killing people with the pollution of our drinking water. Whoever allows this to continue needs to be brought to justice. **Please stop this operation until all pollution is ceased. They have been given adequate time in the past to stop this. I plead with you to oppose and stop this decent decree.**

Sincerely,

David Cleary

  
Oak Forest, IL 60452

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**From:** Lars Hjalmsquist  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**CC:** Lake Michigan Carferry Service  
**Sent:** 4/26/2013 10:19:00 PM  
**Subject:** Reference case number D.J.Ref.No 90-5-1-1-10771

Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resource Division

Case Name: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a  
Lake  
Michigan Carferry Services and S S Badger

Please approve the Consent Decree...this carferry service is a vital link between the  
states of  
Michigan and Wisconsin.

Thank you,

Lars C. Hjalmsquist

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**From:** Richard Jenkins  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/26/2013 10:52:39 PM  
**Subject:** S.S. Badger (D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771)

I would like to express my support for the Consent Decree agreement between Lake Michigan Carferry, the Department of Justice, and the EPA, regarding the disposal of coal ash by the historic steamship S.S. Badger. I strongly believe that the Badger's historical significance and contribution to the region's economy far outweigh the negligible environmental impact of her coal ash discharge. Although I live in Massachusetts, I have on several occasions traveled to Michigan and Wisconsin specifically to ride the Badger, or with a crossing on the Badger being a prominent part of my travel plans, and I hope to continue to do so in the future. The Consent Decree will allow Lake Michigan Carferry much-needed time to develop and implement alternative means of disposing of the ship's coal ash, while maintaining the ship's historical integrity.

Please feel free to contact me if you require any additional input.

Kind regards,  
Richard Jenkins  
Lawrence, Massachusetts

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**From:** Rodney Willms  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/26/2013 10:38:38 PM  
**Subject:** S.S. Badger case 90-5-1-1-10771

Good evening

I would just like to express my vote to keep the S.S. Badger ferry boat going just as it is. This being the last coal fired vessel still running on the Great Lakes makes it a national historic vessel. We make building as national historic building and it costs many dollars to keep them up. The S.S. Badger is a fully functioning enterprise which is self supporting. Lets keep it going so the young and old alike can enjoy this part of our history. We have mostly lost all of our steam train engines to scrap we need to keep our history alive. Live history that one can be a part of gives one a much greater appreciation of our past.

Thank you  
Rodney and Doris Willms  
Brooklyn Park, MN 55428

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**From:** Liz Marquand  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/26/2013 11:56:38 PM  
**Subject:** S.S. Badger- Consent Decree (D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771)

Hello and good evening to whom it make concern!

My name is Elizabeth Marquand and I just wanted to let you know of my support for the S. S. Badger Consent Decree (D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771) and I hope it is approved. I 100% support the S. S. Badger and I think that it should continue to run for years to come. It is a beautiful ship and its multiple journeys to and from Wisconsin are an awesome experience for everyone! I've had the pleasure of traveling on the Badger twice and have loved it both times. I hope that when I have children they will be able to have the same experiences as I once did while on the Badger. The Consent Decree would be an amazing opportunity for the Badger. It would ultimately allow it to continue running while creating better emissions for our world!!

Thanks for your time!

-Elizabeth Marquand

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/26/2013 4:34:03 PM  
**Subject:** S.S. Badger

I am writing to voice my support for the S.S. Badger. This grand ship has long been of vital importance to tourism in the states of Michigan and Wisconsin. It provides critical jobs to young people throughout the summer months and supports other industries through the fuel, food, paper, gifts and other products used onboard and refurbished daily. Literally thousands and thousands of tourists cross Lake Michigan each year on the Badger, and as one generation grows older they return to bring their children and then grandchildren with them. With each crossing, these tourists disembark to drive on throughout Michigan or Wisconsin - or even beyond - which supports hotels, restaurants, state parks, and local shops. In addition, the Badger provides a fuel efficient crossing for commercial travelers such as truckers hauling wind turbines and other cargo. Finally, the historic nature of this 50 year old ship is of significance to all Americans as part of our national heritage. Please ensure that the S.S. Badger continues to operate in the years to come.

Carol Wetterhahn



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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/26/2013 4:43:48 PM  
**Subject:** S.S. Bagger

The S.S. Bagger is a lot of fun. About eight of my friends and I took the S.S. from Michigan to Wisconsin for a weeklong bike ride  
the people were very helpful and pleasant. We are planning to go back next year. I think the S.S. bagger is a wonderful asset to  
the Great Lakes, and we should do what ever it takes to keep it running

With great respect

Bruce Garrison

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**From:** Margaret Toohey  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/27/2013 10:29:12 AM  
**Subject:** SS BADGER

It would be a great loss if we no longer had the service the SS Badger provides. This service also saves us in fuel costs traveling from Wisconsin to Michigan. We would not be able to travel to Michigan as much as we do from May to October because the fuel costs would be cost prohibitive. Another loss would be the many jobs provided in both states. There is the historical value to think about also.

Thank you.

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/26/2013 8:25:18 PM  
**Subject:** SS badger

To whom this may concern.

I have been traveling on the SS BADGER for many years. Both as a short cut across lake Michigan and for pleasure. And the BADGER is a part of US maritime history. She is the last coal burning ship flying the US flag. As a past member of the US NAVY and having served on the USS CORAL SEA [CV-43] I know that operating these ships is a dying art. The Badger supports many jobs and many businesses depend on her staying in service. As it stands the economy might be getting a little better but losing jobs by shutting down the Badger is the wrong way to go. The ash left over from burning coal is an inert residue due to the complete combustion of the coal, and does not impact the environment. The SS BADGER is not a stationary source of pollution and only operates several months out of the year. And just about all of the emissions from her stack are over open waters. Anyway, these are my thoughts.

Mike Riddle

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/26/2013 4:34:55 PM  
**Subject:** SS Badger

Please approve the extension for SS Badger + The Greatest Ride on Lake Michigan Providing a Service 2nd to None!!! :+)  
Brian Donley

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**From:** Meg Mattsson  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/26/2013 5:43:05 PM  
**Subject:** SS Badger and Lake Michigan coal ash dumping - public comment

Dear EPA officials,

Given the SS Badgers history of flaunting regulations and not cleaning up its act, I feel that two years grace period to allow them to make changes is generous. The amount of coal ash and toxins dumped by the ferry into the lake and ultimately our drinking water is a huge concern. Who knows what the actual cost will be in terms of health and the environment?

From his actions, the CEO of the SS Badger's parent company is putting profit ahead of the health of all animals and people who swim, drink and fish Lake Michigan waters. Please do all in your power to monitor and hold the SS Badger staff accountable for reducing the toxic ash that they dump.

Sincerely,  
Margaret Mattsson  
Chicago IL

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**From:** Sarah Myslis  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/26/2013 6:55:55 PM  
**Subject:** SS Badger Coal Ash Extension -- Lake Michigan

These comments refer to United States v Lake Michigan Trans-Lakes Shortcut, Inc. D.J. Ref No. 90-5-1-1-10771.

Lake Michigan is the source of drinking water for the millions of people living near its shores. Allowing the SS Badger to continue dumping coal ash -- with its arsenic, lead, mercury, and other poisonous metals -- threatens the health of citizens for generations to come.

I urge the EPA to not grant more extensions past 2014. In addition, the agency should increase penalties against the SS Badger's operators. Third, they should be required to decrease dumping by a larger percentage each year than the EPA currently demands. Finally, the company should make their dumping amounts public on an easily accessible website.

Sarah Myslis  
Zion, IL 60099

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**From:** Mike Olszewski  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/26/2013 9:35:43 PM  
**Subject:** SS Badger comments

Hello,

Although I genuinely consider myself an environmentalist, I have used the SS Badger previously and intend to use it this summer, avoiding a trip around the bottom of Lake Erie through Chicago. This saves much time/hassle and most likely fuel (on my part) and is a wonderful throwback kind of experience I hope will be available for some time. I realize that the dumping of ash in Lake Michigan is less than perfect, but I firmly believe an alternative can be come up with to eliminating any use of the Badger. Please keep working toward any way to keep the Badger operating in its wonderful way, and contact me if you have any questions. Thanks. Mike Olszewski.

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**From:** Sally Cole  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/26/2013 9:36:55 PM  
**Subject:** SS Badger Consent Decree

We believe the consent decree should be granted for the SS Badger out of Ludington.  
Ref #90-5-1-1-10771

Sally cole

Sent from my iPad



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**From:** [REDACTED] Arthur Owen  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/26/2013 6:17:42 PM  
**Subject:** SS Badger Consent Decree

We have enjoyed taking the SS Badger across Lake Michigan many times and would be disappointed if their service was discontinued. I understand that the ash discharge pollutes Lake Michigan, but they should be given some time to remedy and correct their problem. Perhaps disposing of the ash on land in Michigan or Wisconsin or updating their boilers to use diesel fuel or natural gas instead of coal might be a solution. The SS Badger should be required to present an acceptable plan and time frame to have their conversions completed.

Sincerely,

Art Owen

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**From:** Boyd Black  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/27/2013 9:47:16 PM  
**Subject:** SS Badger polution

Allowing the SS Badger to continue to pollute Lake Michigan is unconscionable. It is time for the EPA to quit giving the Badger extensions and time to shut the Badger down. The owners of the Badger have had plenty of time to clean up their act and have failed to do so. There is no need for further extensions.

Boyd Black

  
Skokie, Illinois 60203

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**From:** Loretta Gallie  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/26/2013 4:05:54 PM  
**Subject:** SS Badger

We support the Consent Agreement that will keep the SS Badger operating out of Ludington, MI. The extremely small amount of mercury in the coal ash pales in comparison to the various amounts of chemicals, waste, pollutants and trash that enter Lake Michigan from the cities of Milwaukee WI, Chicago IL, and others, despite what Senator Durbin says.

Jim & Loretta Gallie

Sent from my Kindle Fire

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**From:** Thomas J. Miklusak  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/26/2013 6:31:50 PM  
**Subject:** The Badger D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

The S.S. Badger Car Ferry is an outstanding example of just what makes perfect sense in transportation choices from Wisconsin to Michigan. I have traveled across the lake 2 times on the S.S. Badger and enjoyed the safe and enjoyable trip, not to mention the time saved.

The fact that the company is investigating technology to convert from coal to gas says it all on the commitment of the company to do the right thing. Doing the right thing just doesn't happen overnight, and the S.S. Badger needs the time.

Thomas J. Miklusak

[REDACTED]  
Whiting, IN 46394

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**From:** John  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/27/2013 9:21:28 AM  
**Subject:** The BAdger

We hope the Badger will continue to travel Lake Michigan. There is far more right with it, than what can be against it.

Sincerely,  
Pat Matlock

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**From:** Ken Cunningham  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/26/2013 9:03:11 PM  
**Subject:** United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division

Reference Case Number - D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

**Case Name:**

United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing you in support of the historic carferry SS Badger. It would be a great loss if this ship was forced to stop its important service on the Great Lake of Michigan.

The Badger is an economic and tourism resource for the area. Clearly this is a “local” issue. If her sailings were to cease, the spectrum of those impacted would extend from vacationing families to the trucking industry; from those employed by the Badger to untold employees in stores and restaurants and business on both side for the lake; from the local communities and beyond.

I grew up on – and still live on – the Great Plains. Why am I writing? What can I contribute to the conversation? I speak for the living, breathing document of Great Lakes history – the SS Badger.

This great ship must be protected, preserved, and honored. She is the quintessential reflection of Great Lakes history. She is, if you will, a working artifact. One that provides critical modern-day services while transporting her passengers back to an era where the water was a highway, and the mighty ships were the carriers of the commerce. Seldom do we encounter living reminders of by-gone days. Whether it is the B-29 Superfortress *FiFi*, flying over Oshkosh ... the Union Pacific's 4-8-4 steam locomotive #844 rumbling across the Nebraska prairie, or the Michigan Car Ferry's *SS Badger*plying the Michigan waters, it is incumbent on us – the “modern” generation, commit to the support of these regal links to our past. These magnificent machines are ill-suited for the life of a museum curiosity. They retain their strength and tell their story best by doing what they were built to do so many years ago.

The SS Badger is a National Treasure. She was built for the Lake and belongs on the Lake. It would be a tremendous loss to take her off the Lake. Please do not allow this to happen.

*Ken Cunningham*


*Sioux Falls, SD 57104*

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**From:** Allan Carlson  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/26/2013 4:44:42 PM  
**Subject:** United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, inc., D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

As a resident of Ludington Michigan, I am 100% in favor of the consent decree between Lake Michigan Car Ferry and the EPA to allow the SS Badger to continue for two years the coal ash discharge into Lake Michigan. The continued operation of this vessel is vital to the residents of both western Michigan and eastern Wisconsin and this consent decree will allow the time needed to make other provisions for disposal of the coal ash so this vital service to both states can continue in the years that lie ahead. The continued operation of the Badger will contribute much to the Tourism Industry in both States.

Allan Carlson

  
Ludington, MI 49431



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**From:** Carole Pooler  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/27/2013 3:41:41 PM  
**Subject:** United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

To whom it may concern,

I am writing in regards to keeping the Badger sailing on the great lake, Michigan! The Badger is sight to behold entering and leaving the Ludington harbor. Keep politics out of the decision making.

Refer to this article--please!!

A story "Attacking the SS Badger, the Deception of Environmental Activism," in the most recent edition of Outer Boundary Magazine, a Wisconsin-based family outdoor magazine, details what it concludes to be an effort by Lake Michigan Carferry's competitor to push the coal ash issue/environmental issue to gain the Milwaukee-based competitor a competitive advantage — not for the good of the environment.

The lead story by Steve Krueger tries to put in perspective the small amounts of toxins in the coal ash discharged by the SS Badger, but more notably creates a flowchart of how the magazine believes Sheldon Lubar, the founder and chairman of Lubar & Co. which lists Lake Express as its investment, hired both a Michigan lobbying firm and a national lobbying firm to foment opposition to the Ludington ferry based on exaggerated environmental claims.

The magazine links Sen. Dick Durbin, the Illinois Democrat and the U.S. Senate majority leader who has been notably outspoken about the Badger's coal ash, with the Lake Express's national lobbyist, Broydrick & Associates. The magazine times at least one of Durbin's seven-minute Senate floor bashings to having occurred just days after a Dec. 12, 2012 fundraiser the lobbying firm hosted for Durbin.

At the National Historic Landmarks committee hearing concerning the SS Badger being recommended for NHL status, Broydrick testified in opposition to the idea. The committee rejected the lobbying firm's arguments, as was reported in the Ludington Daily News at the time. According to the Outer Boundary story, later that same day Durbin wrote a letter to Ken Salazar, then- U.S. Secretary of the Interior who had the ultimate authority for the decision, opposing the committee's recommendation. The designation so far has not been given to the Badger.

Keep the USS Bager sailing and special interests out!

A Badger user since the 60's

Sincerely,

Carole Pooler

PS To read the full article to to Ludington Daily News website at [www.ludingtondailynews.com](http://www.ludingtondailynews.com), and click on article

**Stories Commented Recently:**

- [Magazine ties anti-SS Badger lobbying effort to competition, not environmental concerns](#)

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**From:** Matt Culligan  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/27/2013 8:51:35 AM  
**Subject:** United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Thank you for agreeing to keep the Badger operating for at least a few more years. It means a great deal to the community of Manitowoc, which I am a part of. It is a beautiful part of history that should be allowed to keep operating as is, in my opinion. I think the pollution pales in comparison to the sewage dumping in Milwaukee, for example. Thanks again.

Sincerely,  
Matthew Culligan  
Manitowoc, WI

Sent from my iPhone

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**From:** Donna Hallin  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/26/2013 9:43:02 PM  
**Subject:** United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

In regards to United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10711:

We support the approval of consent decree, as written. The overall threat to Lake Michigan which the Badger poses is small and the consent decree embodies a plan, agreed to by the EPA and the ferry's owners, to resolve that perceived threat, the coal ash discharge. With the approval of the consent decree, the EPA can then look at the far more serious issues that threaten Lake Michigan and the Great Lakes Region.

Thank you for your consideration,

Donna Gean Hallin,  
Edward R. Hallin

Scottville, Mi. 49454

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**From:** Debbie Griffith  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/26/2013 6:19:22 PM  
**Subject:** United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

I would like to comment on the Ferry. This is very important for WI and MI. Why not pursue the city of Milwaukee and their dumping untreated sewage. This causes beaches to be closed plus it is sickening to think about swimming in water with sewage. Lets get this cleaned up first.

Debbie Griffith  
Neenah, WI

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**From:** Sandra Collins  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/26/2013 10:24:00 PM  
**Subject:** United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771.

This is a letter of support for the Badger-EPA consent decree allowing the discharge of ash into Lake Michigan for two more years .

I moved to Ludington 60 years ago. As a 10-year-old, I was awed by my first sight of Lake Michigan. That feeling continues to this day. At that time, seven Chesapeake & Ohio carferries steamed in and out of the Ludington harbor 24/7, 12 months out of the year, carrying cargo and passengers. Today only one remains, still carrying cargo and passengers, two times a day, six months of the year, and still making a huge economic impact on the well-being of Ludington.

The Ludington and area beaches were pristine to swim in then and still are to this day. The image that has been shown with a footprint in soiled black sand is a flat out lie. Comments by opponents on the effect of the ash discharge have been distorted and maligned. Ludingtonites love that ferry, but more so love that glorious lake. If the ferry was indeed "filthy", locals would be up in arms. The lake would always come first.

Illinois Senator Dick Durbin has repeatedly called the ferry "filthy" and talks as if the Badger is going to completely foul Lake Michigan. Too bad he can't seem to have as much passion about the Asian Carp threat coming from Chicago canals, sewer overflows and other industrial emissions. The Badger's effect on the lake is miniscule in comparison, but is being treated way out of proportion. Could it be that Sen. Durbin has monetary ties to the Muskegon ferry, as has recently been reported in the Wisconsin-based family outdoor magazine, Outer Boundary Magazine? The magazine has concluded that this issue is tied to competition, not the environment. Many local people predict that if Sen. Durbin succeeds in destroying the Badger, Muskegon will build a second ferry. Their ferry was built with federal funds, while the Badger is a private enterprise. They can co-exist.

Please allow this last-of-its-kind ferry to continue to operate. It's daily comings and goings are an integral part of our town. Ludington relies heavily on tourism since the demise of most of our industry. The Badger supplies a major attraction to this area. We invite you to come and see the quality of our beaches, and to experience the sight of the grand old ferry entering or leaving the harbor.

Collins



MI 49431

Sincerely,

Sandra



Ludington,

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**From:** Marilyn Richardson  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/26/2013 4:53:57 PM  
**Subject:** United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc. DJ. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Please register my support for the consent of the Lake Michigan Carferry, between Ludington, Michigan and Manitowoc, Wisconsin. Thus continuing two years the coal ash discharge.

This carferry is of great historical value and heritage of the Great Lakes.

Thank you for your consideration. M. Richardson, Oceana County, Michigan resident.

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/26/2013 6:33:36 PM  
**Subject:** United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc

**United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., D.J. Ref. No 90-5-1-1-10771**

It is unacceptable that the S.S. Badger continues to dump coal ash into Lake Michigan. Please do not continue to extend time to this company.

Thank you,  
Jennifer Gettings  
Homewood, IL



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**From:** Neil  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/26/2013 7:15:27 PM  
**Subject:** United States v. Lake MichiganTranslakeShortcut, Inc.,DJ Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Sir

I and my whole family are in agreement with the proposed consent decree between Lake Michigan Carferry and the EPA. Our future is dependent upon the continued operation of the Badger. It is a proud part of the Ludington area. Please

Neil Finley [REDACTED] Branch, Mi.


PS Don't allow the Rich and Powerfull to win. Please do not let us lose our jobs.

---

**From:** Pam Furdo  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/27/2013 12:21:47 PM  
**Subject:**

My family has always enjoyed riding the S.S. Badger and was worried that this ferry would be docked forever. Although changes need to be made (and I am now wondering why after years of the coal in our waters is now in issue) at least the S.S. Badger will still be on the waters....We will hope to be on the waters with the S.S. Badger this summer.....

Ships Ahoy,  
Pam Furdo and Family

See ya and send me a type soon! 

---

**From:** bonny vizler  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/26/2013 5:25:02 PM  
**Subject:**

To whom it may concern: Not only has the S.S.Badger provided an important service over a period of many years it has done so safely. If the EPA is concerned about the ash residue polluting lake Michigan then the EPA should be required to either replace the Badger with a less environmentally intrusive car ferry or update or replace the present power plants with those polute less.

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/27/2013 4:27:09 PM  
**Subject:**

I support the continued ability of the USS Badger ferry sail on the great lakes. It is an important transportation option and living historical specimen.  
Roger Lyon  
Wisconsin resident

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/26/2013 5:10:27 PM  
**Subject:** US v. lake mich. trans-lake shortcut, Inc, DJ ref. no 90-5-1-1-10771

We support the consent decree between the Lake Michigan Carferry and the EPA to allow the SS Badger continue for 2 years the coal ash discharge. Senator Durbin from Illinois seems to have a unusual interest in a historical ship that is a much less serious problem than the environmental problems created by businesses in his own state, we wonder if reelection is on his mind. Please support the consent decree,United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc, DJ, Re. No. 90-5-1-1-10771.

Respectfully,

Richard and Carol Page

[REDACTED]  
Pentwater, MI 49449

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**From:** Rise McIntosh  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/26/2013 5:51:24 PM  
**Subject:** US vs Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc

I am writing in regards to the issue of our Badger in Ludington, Michigan being allowed to continue to operate on Lake Michigan. I have lived here all my life and can't imagine not having the Badger running. The economic impact would be horrible for our area. Senator Durbin appears to have our Badger in his sights. I find it very interesting that he tends to twist the facts to his advantage. The Lake Express was started with grant money, which seems an unfair advantage against an individual trying to make a go of his ship. I strongly urge you to let our ship continue to operate and tell Senator Durbin to take his "interests" somewhere else. Thank you for taking time to read this.

Sincerely,  
Rise' McIntosh  
Sent from my iPhone

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**From:** Nancy Solomon  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/27/2013 11:27:45 AM  
**Subject:** what's happening?

Have any of you put on your responsible government pants and decided to make the Badger stop dumping toxins into the water my grandchildren drink NOW? Not 2015. Now.

Nancy Solomon

[REDACTED]  
Chicago, IL 60626

landli [REDACTED]

mobil [REDACTED]

email [REDACTED]

websi [REDACTED]

Dear EPA / Assistant Attorney General

Refer to: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771  
United States vs. Lake Michigan  
Trans-Lake Shortcut

I say no more coal ash from the  
S.S. Badger in Lake Michigan. Traditions  
are important in this country but when they  
become detrimental to our health and way  
of life then it is time to have the  
maturity to move on and find newer, safer  
traditions.

Sincerely,

Daniel Koningisul (an American concerned  
about our future)

Ann Arbor, MI 48104  
suite 186



April 23, 2013

To: Assistant Attorney General  
US DOJ - ENRD  
P.O. Box 7611  
Washington, DC. 20044-7611


Re: DJ Ref. # 90-5-1-1-10771

Dear Assistant Attorney General,

I understand the love of the SS Badger for nostalgic reasons. But I fail to see the reasoning in letting them dump their toxic coal ash, contaminating our Lake Michigan. There is no reason they can't find a proper way to dispose of the ash in a safe, healthy way.

The love we have for the SS Badger is tied directly to the love of our lakes. So it is counter-productive to let one ruin the other.

Julie King

  
Garden City, MI 48135

Jennifer Schlicht

Ann Arbor, MI 48108

Assistant Attorney General  
U.S. DOJ-ENRD  
P.O. Box 7611  
Washington, DC 20544-7611

Regarding DJ Ref No. 90-5-1-1-10771  
United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc.

Dear Assistant Attorney General:

I respectfully request that you strengthen the proposed consent decree that requires the owners of the S.S. Badger to eventually cease dumping coal ash into Lake Michigan. The December 2012 deadline originally agreed upon has come and gone and it should be made explicitly clear that no more extensions should be allowed. I have worked in Ludington and realize the residents there depend on the ferry. However, it should not be at the expense of the health of Lake Michigan - and of Michiganans who eat mercury contaminated fish. Please increase the penalties for pollution so it becomes more financially attractive to improve and not just pay for the right to pollute.

Thank you for your consideration. Sincerely, Jennifer Schlicht

Dear Assistant Attorney General,

Re: DJ Ref # 90-5-1-1-10771

As someone who lives in Michigan and highly depends on the water of the Great Lakes, it's important to myself, as well as many others, that the water we use is clean. Not just to drink, but also ~~to~~ to wash in or swim. The S.S. Badger dumps basically all of its coal ash into our lakes, more than all the ferries that pass through mixed together. I don't want to be drinking that, and I definitely would not want my future children drinking it or swimming in it. All I'm asking is to reduce the amount of coal ash dumped in our lakes, not only for me, or my loved ones, but for everyone who comes in contact with the water of the Great Lakes.

Sincerely,



(Miranda King)

 Garden City, MI

48135

Assistant Attorney General

U.S. DOJ - ENRD

P.O. Box 7611

Washington, D.C. 20044-7611

D.J. Ref No. 90-5-1-1-10771

United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut

Many toxic chemicals that are commonly found in coal ash are known to pollute water and pose health risks to the public.

Arsenic, lead, & mercury, along with Selenium & other heavy metals, are known to increase cancer rates,

can cause developmental disabilities in fetuses & children, and harm local wildlife. Since it is hazardous, coal ash


should be managed to prevent water and air pollution & to protect public health. In reference to the

S.S. Badger, I ask that you greatly reconsider its use of coal and the longterm effects it will have on Lake Michigan and all surrounding states.

By allowing them to skirt the direct cause of pollution →

With petty fines, you are dumbing down the importance of the health of the public, as well as the longterm effects of water pollution.

Water is the source of all life, nothing is more important.



Deirdre Barnett

[REDACTED]  
Ypsilanti, MI 48197

Dear Assistant Attorney General,

I am writing to you on behalf of Michigan residents and all U.S. citizens who rely on the Great Lakes for water, commerce, and recreation. The issue I would like you to address is in regards to United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., D.J. Ref. No. 90-S-1-1-10771. This case addresses 500 tons of coal ash the S.S. Badger dumps into Lake Michigan each year. As a biologist with training in endocrinology and cell biology, I am deeply disturbed by the cocktail of carcinogens being introduced to our freshwater resources. I am not against the continued operation of the Badger, however, it is unreasonable that the badger should continue to dump more coal ash than the next 125 largest ships operating on the ~~great~~ Great Lakes combined. The Badger was given ample time to revise its ways by 2012, and by neglecting their obligations, the staff of The Badger has failed the people who depend ~~to~~ on our lakes for their well being. We demand The Badger close the difference between the \$112,500 they pay in penalties between 2012 and 2014 and the \$705,226 necessary to clean up their mess.

Thank you for your time,

John Roberts

  
Ann Arbor MI 48103

Assistant Attorney General  
U.S. DOJ - ENRD  
P.O. Box 7611  
Washington D.C. 20044-7611

SENT 10 A.M. CENTRAL TIME.

APRIL 15, 2013

From: Clare Patterson [REDACTED]  
Subject: D.J. Ref. no. 90-5-1-1-10771 Lake Mich Ferry  
Date: April 15, 2013 9:51 AM  
To: pubcomment-ees.enrd@usdoj.gov  
Cc: info@ssbadger.com

Assistant Atty General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division

→ Case: United States v. Lake michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc, d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

Please approve the Consent Decree which will allow continued operation of SS Badger.

I have used this service several times in the last 3 years and would like to continue. My brother lives in Ludington MI, I live in Wisconsin, so this is obviously the best way for me to see him.

I am of the firm opinion U.S. produced coal is an excellent fuel for this purpose, and the relatively small amount of discharge does no damage to Lake Michigan.

Oversized loads can go on this ship. The competition in Milwaukee cannot serve that need. They also have had several interruptions of service, due to mechanical troubles, even though their equipment is only a few years old. Newer is not better, in this case.

Thanks for considering my opinion.



-Clare Patterson [REDACTED] Oshkosh WI 54904

"Nearly all men can stand adversity, but if you want to test a man's character, give him power."  
-Abraham Lincoln

D. J. REF. NO 90-5-1-1-10771

SENT U.S. MAIL ALSO.

-CR



April 11, 2013

Assistant Attorney General  
U.S. DOJ-ENRD  
PO BOX 7611  
Washington, DC 20044-7611

RE: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Dear Assistant Attorney General Environmental and Natural Resources Division

I am writing in regards to following case: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger. As a participating community member of Ludington and Scottville, I respectfully request that you approve the Consent Decree.

Shutting down the Badger would be devastating to the economic recovery in many communities in the upper Midwest, including the Ludington and Scottville areas. It provides 200 jobs directly and supports another 500 indirectly and has a combined overall economic impact of \$35 million for surrounding communities. The Badger provides critical transport and cargo shipping for Midwest businesses and helps sustain the region's tourism. It prevents the use of 1 million gallons of fuel each year and eliminates the emission of pollutants that would otherwise contribute to smog and climate change.

I urge you to approve the Consent Decree that allows Lake Michigan Carferry Services to bring the Badger into compliance over the next two years and supports the hardworking men and women of our community who rely on the jobs provided by this iconic business.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John M. ...", is written over a horizontal line.

[REDACTED]  
Berkeley CA 94708

April 13, 2013

**D.J Ref No. 90-5-1-1-10771**

**Case name: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-lake Shortcut Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger**

**Assistant Attorney General, USDOJ**

**ENRD**

**PO Box7611**

**Washington, DC 20044-7611**

**Dear Sir/Madam.**

**We live in California for 9 months of the year. The remaining three months we spend in Ludington, MI. It is heartwarming to witness the renewal of vitality in the community during that time. Ludington's former manufacturing has dwindled and summer tourism is now the economic base for this small community. Stores reopen, motels become active. The Badger is key to all this seasonal vitality which keeps the community on an even keel.**

**As for the ash it produces, we are led to believe that its disposal is a problem that can be solved and procedures are underway toward this end. The EPA has OKed this summer's Badger business which is significant for the Great Lakes as well as Ludington.**

**Most importantly, the Badger protects the environment by reducing vehicular traffic for businesses and families wanting to avoid the Chicago area. It is a significant environmental part of the fabric of the Great Lakes, and a treasured participant in their life whose worth is immeasurable.**

**Sincerely,**

*Betsey & Sheridan Warrick*

**Betsey and Sheridan Warrick**

15 April 2013

Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division  
U.S. DOJ - ENRD  
PO Box 7611  
Washington, DC 20044-7611

Case Name: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan  
Carferry Services and SS Badger

Reference Case Number: D. J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Dear Sir or Madam,

I would like to urge you to approve the Consent Decree signed with Lake Michigan Carferry in order to enable the translake service to continue.

I have friends in Michigan and relatives in Wisconsin and have used this service to combine visits in the area. As a link in US 10, this is important to continue.

In addition, the vessel is like a working museum. It illustrates an important part of the heritage and history of the region while still rendering a valuable service in the areas of transportation, tourism, and education.

Please do everything in your power to ensure that this route continues to serve the traveling public.

Sincerely,



Rex and Donna Carlaw

Kingston, Washington 98346-1405

[REDACTED]  
Brighton, MI 48114  
April 15, 2013

Assistant Attorney General  
U.S. DOJ - ENRD  
P.O. Box 7611  
Washington, D.C. 20044-7611

To Whom It May Concern:

Regarding Reference Case Number:  
D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Case Name: U.S. vs. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake  
Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan  
Carferry Services and SS Badger

I am writing to you in support of the Consent Decree signed by Lake Michigan Carferry and the Department of Justice and the EPA. I would like to see the SS Badger continue to operate while addressing the environmental issues. Taking the ferry across to Wisconsin is a key Great Lakes experience; it is wonderful for families to shorten time in the car and for everyone to understand how vast Lake Michigan is. I often take the ferry to visit relatives in Minnesota, and thoroughly enjoy the beautiful voyage while avoiding Chicago. The SS Badger is part of Michigan history that should continue to be available for future generations to share. I urge you to support, <sup>and approve</sup> the Consent Decree and let the Badger keep sailing. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,  
Heather Allen

April 20, 2013

Assistant Attorney General  
U S D O J – ENRD  
P. O. Box 7611  
Washington D. C. 20044

Dear Sirs,

I am writing this in support of the continued operation of the S. S. Badger. Please reference case number 90-5-1-1-10771 in the case of the United States v Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Short Cut INC. dba Lake Michigan Car Ferry Services & the S.S. Badger.

The Badger is the last remnant of a much larger cross lake system that has been in existence for over 100 years. It is the only remaining steam powered ship on the Great Lakes and has been a vital component to the tourism in the greater Ludington area.

Ludington only survives on its tourism and the Badger is an enormous part of that tourism. Not only does the Badger bring over 100,000 people through our community each summer but thousands come to watch it leave and enter our Harbor. It is the essences of Ludington!!

The two year extension requested will allow time to further study and implement a new more 'GREEN' form of power.

I personally think, however, that the historic value of the last remaining steam ship of the thousands that worked the great lakes in times past, should carry much more weight than it seems to, but that aside, this community, especially in these tough times, cannot survive a blow of this magnitude to its fragile economy.

Thanks in advance for your careful consideration in this vital matter.

Respectfully,

Bill Cook  
Susan Cook

[REDACTED]  
Ludington, Michigan

13 April 2013

Assistant Attorney General  
United States Department of Justice ENRD  
P.O. Box 7611  
Washington D.C. 20044-7611

This letter is to recommend favorable action on Dept. of Justice Case Ref. No. 90-1-1-771;  
Case Name: United States vs. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut. Inc., Lake Michigan Car Ferry  
Services and S.S. Badger.

My family and I have been using the S.S. Badger, and the S.S. City of Midland before her for over 50 years to carry us and various automobiles and motor homes between Ludington MI and Manitowac WI, and Kewaunee WI before that. We are very cognizant of the fact that EPA regulations have become increasingly stringent over the years, and that the discharge of coal ash into Lake Michigan has come under increasing scrutiny. It is my understanding that by upgrading the "quality" of the coal used as boiler fuel by the S.S. Badger, the ash discharge has always been in compliance with EPA standards, and, in-fact, meets current standards, but the very fact of discharge of ANY boiler ash into Lake Michigan waters by S.S. Badger is now deemed unacceptable.

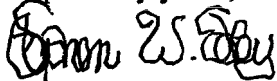
Common sense tells us that conversion of the S.S. Badger to an alternative fuel, be it fuel oil or natural gas must be an extremely complicated and overwhelmingly expensive, if not engineeringly impossible undertaking. Even the collection and real-time on board storage of boiler ash on S.S. Badger presents formidable difficulties, not to mention the on-land trucking and disposal of that ash. Giving the Lake Michigan Car Ferry Services additional time to solve these problems under a consent decree seems only fair.

In addition to vacation and recreational vehicles, The Lake Michigan Car Ferry carries out-sized commercial loads of massive equipment and machinery directly across the lake between Michigan and Wisconsin, avoiding the hazards and scheduling difficulties of transporting such out-size loads around the south shore of the lake through the heavy traffic of the Milwaukee- Chicago-Gary metro areas. The other ferry service on Lake Michigan, the Lake Express from Muskegon MI to Milwaukee WI, is not engineered for nor capable of handling such loads, and their diesel-fuel engines emit comparable amounts of carbon dioxide, along with other exhaust particulates and contaminants.

The S.S. Badger is an obvious "point-source" of coal ash discharge into Lake Michigan. But it should be kept in mind that compared to other point and disperse sources of coal ash entering the lake, the S.S. Badger is a very minor contributor in the overall scheme of things.

In addition to being an iconic tourist-attraction enterprise on the Great Lakes, the S.S. Badger brings many full and part-time jobs to both Ludington and Manitowac, and on-board. It seems only fair to grant the Lake Michigan Car Ferry Service additional time under a consent decree to solve its truly difficult task of avoiding coal-ash discharge into the lake to avoid a shutdown decree.

Respectfully yours,



Stephen W. Tobey, PhD.

[REDACTED], Washington Island WI 54246 [summer]  
[REDACTED] Naples FL 34114 [winter]

[REDACTED]  
Sturgeon Bay WI 54235

I am a regular traveler on the Badger which connects Manitowoc, Wisconsin with Ludington, Michigan. Living in Washington, D.C. you are aware of the heavy traffic on the beltway and environs and the same problem is in Chicago so the Badger offers cars and trucks to circumvent this problem.

There are greater pollutants affecting Lake Michigan than the ash from the Badger.

I do hope that your consideration of an extension to the Badger's permit is not affected by negative lobbying of the Lake Express ferry line. The Badger is hoping to transfer to gas within 2 years. I hope you will allow it to do so.

Yours sincerely  
Suzanne Bromley.



# *Mountain Mist*

*"Autumn Storm"*

Dolly Sods, WV

Photo by Frank Ceravalo  
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MaHer, Robert

Cheryl Chapman

Long Beach, IN 46360

To Whom It May Concern, DOJ:

Re: USS Badger

My opinion on your recent ruling to continue letting the USS Badger continue to dump coal ash into Lake Michigan is that I am sure you bargained with the USS Badger folks in good faith, but they are not doing the same for you. In 2 more years, the deadline you gave them, they will simply come back and make a case for more time.

That's 2 years of dumping mercury and other pollutants into Lake Michigan. My Lake Michigan, and yours. I swim there. I breathe its breezes. I am a realist, and I know what is already at the bottom of the Lake and what is contained in its waters. Not pretty. But, we've been trying to clean it up for years through the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative. This is tantamount to burning up the money - my taxes - we've already spent to get the Lake better. We know better now than to allow any more contaminants into the Lake, so there is no reason to allow the Badger to continue 2 more years of polluting. We'll just have to clean up after them in the end.

Big business is in it for themselves, not for the sake of the environment. In this case, it would be a hassle for the company to switch out the engine to something that won't pollute; boat companies world wide are already doing that. Why can't the Badger? Simple: They'd rather save a few bucks than comply. They've already been given deadlines by other governmental offices, and then they get them extended and whine about the new ones. It's hard to believe that the DOJ has fallen for their dirty tricks once again.

So, as you can see, I am not pleased with your ruling, and when this comes up again, please draw a hard, green, line in that metaphorical sand and say NO to the SS BADger.

Thanks!

  
Cheryl Chapman

13 APR 16 08:58

DEPT. OF JUSTICE - ENRD  
ENVIRONMENT DIVISION

Corr.  
90-5-1-1-10771

Case Number:

D. J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Case Name: U.S. vs. Lake MI Trans - Lake Shortcut, Inc.,

I use the d/b/a Lake MI Carferry Service and

S.S. Badger as the only means S.S. Badger

to visit my grandchildren in Green Bay, WI. I am no longer able to drive the 8 hours from central MI to Green Bay but by using the S.S. Badger my drive is manageable.

Please continue to allow this piece of Americana to remain in operation.

Darlene D. Ginski

[REDACTED]  
Barryton, MI 49305

4-8-13

Assistant Attorney General U>S> DOJ-ENRD

P.O. BOX 8711

Washington, D.C. 20044-7611

RE: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc.

Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-1077

We were happy with the consent decree issued by the EPA to allow the Lake Michigan carferry to continue its cross-lake service that means so much to this area as well as all the visitors who enjoy our lake view. Any night during the summer months you will see the drive along the lakeshore lined with cars enjoying the approach of the beautiful boat as it quietly slides through the water into the harbor. We have a very exclusive private resort encompassing the shoreline where people come from many states to their summer homes and enjoy viewing the ferry coming and going. Not only that, truckers enjoy the respite from driving their semi's around the congested areas of Chicago and Gary Indiana. This is the only ferry that is able to accommodate large freight and has been instrumental in bringing the big wind towers for the wind farms being constructed in this state. And it is the only ship built to withstand the turbulent weather that can suddenly churn up during a crossing. For many years it ran 356 days a year. It would be well worth your time to view this personally.

I was extremely upset with this Senator Durbin of Illinois and his outrageous postings in the papers calling the boat "filthy-dirty", in addition to all the demeaning accusations which were untruthful. I will wager he has never even put foot on it, which can only lead to the assumption that there is a definite connection between the owner of the Lake Express which is a catamaran out of Milwaukee and plies between there and Muskegon, Michigan, a city 60 miles to our south. That boat is a four engine diesel that carries passengers and a few cars and which cannot handle all types of weather. Also it was put into operation a few years ago with the help of a Government backed loan. The Lake Michigan carferry is entirely privately owned and offers passengers complete entertainment during the crossing. It also offers dining and berths for resting. The Lake Express has been bashing the carferry from the day it was able to acquire the Government loan because it would hurt their business.

I would suggest that Senator Durbin spend more time on stopping the polluting of Lake Michigan with all the garbage overflows and debris from Illinois that ends up on our beaches along with the ozone days that we are charged with the ozone days that we are charged with due to the factories from his state. That goes for Wisconsin as well. We do not have factories of that caliber in this area. What about the exhaust from four diesel engines harming our air? The coal ash from the ferry has repeatedly proven no problem. Certainly Senator Durbin has more important things to do in his state than be concerned about one single boat!



Mrs. Nellie Anderson

Ludington, MI 49431

Just a note

Dear Sir:

As residents of Michigan  
we highly recommend the  
implementation of the Badger  
EPA Consent Decree. This is  
in regard to:

U.S.V. Lake Michigan  
Trans Lake Shortcut.  
Inc. D.J. Ref. No 90-S-1-1-  
10771

Thank you,

Virginia + Ray Miller

[REDACTED]  
Ludington, Mi  
49431

APRIL 11, 2013

GREETINGS;

I AM FROM LUDINGTON AND I HAVE NO DOUBT CONCERNING THE BADGER OPERATING 2 MORE YEARS. AS POOR AS THE JOB SITUATION IS IN OUR COUNTRY IT IS RIDICULOUS TO CONSIDER SHUTTING THIS OPERATION DOWN. THE INFINITESIMAL AMOUNT OF MERCURY INVOLVED MAKES THIS AN EFFORT IN FUTILITY. THE AMOUNT OF FILTHY AIR CIRCULATING UP THE LAKE FROM CHICAGO REACHES LUDINGTON. IT MAKES THE BADGER PACE IN COMPARISON.

IF THE ILLINOIS SENATOR'S CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE BADGER SUCCEEDS IT WILL BE A MIS CARRIAGE OF JUSTICE. LET IT OPERATE 2 MORE YEARS AND ASSESS THEIR PROGRESS AT THAT TIME.

Sincerely  
John C. Rubel  
Just a note...

April 10, 2013

Ass't Attorney General, Environmental + Natural Resources Division

Ref. Case #

D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Dear Sir:

Please approve the Consent Decree for the  
S.S. Badger Ferry Service on Lake Michigan.

The Badger is a "local" business, meeting  
an area transportation need; and is a  
useful and pleasant community service.

Thanks for your prompt attention to  
this matter.

Sincerely,  
Janet Hubbard

D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

April 10, 2013

Assistant Attorney General,  
Environment and Natural Resources Division  
U.S. DOJ - ENRD  
P.O. Box 7611  
Washington, DC 20044-7611

We need the Badger! My 93-year-old mother-in-law lives in Northern Wisconsin, and taking the Badger allows us to visit her several times during the sailing season, avoiding the long and dangerous route around Chicago, or the long and tedious trip through the Upper Peninsula. Our daughter, her husband and their 2 children live in Minneapolis, and we also use the Badger to cross through northern Wisconsin to see them. We have trips already scheduled and paid for, to celebrate birthdays and to visit our family.

We have traveled across Lake Michigan every season for many years, and we love it! It is a relaxing way to enjoy the natural beauty of the lake. The lake remains beautiful and clean, despite the fact that coal-fired steam ships have sailed the lakes for more than a century. At one time there were 700 such ships on the lakes, and the environment of the lake has been fine, and the fish are plentiful and healthy. Two more seasons of one ship sailing its short season will make no difference.

The SS Badger saves more than a million gallons of gasoline annually, and keeps 4.3 tons of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, as it transports hundreds of vehicles, including large semi trucks, motor homes, trailers, and can hold almost 200 automobiles each trip! It also hauls hundreds of large wind-tower sections across the lake, empowering wind energy, which definitely saves on burning coal and petroleum products for energy for homes, businesses and factories. The trip across the lake is only 60 miles, but saves hundreds of miles of driving.

The Badger also generates hundreds of jobs: for the crew of the ship, for the restaurants, shops and hotels in the port cities of Ludington and Manitowoc, and in towns and cities along the routes as well.

In all our trips on the Badger, we have seen many interesting things transported, which could not have used the regular roads, such as enormous foundry machines, road-building equipment, construction parts and even horses. In fact, my father used the ferry in the late 1950s to cross from Wisconsin to Ludington to buy and bring back a piece of machinery he needed for his excavating business.

Please save our Badger! It means a lot to me and my family, and it is helping the environment in the very important ways mentioned.

If you want to help the environment, you might limit the hundreds of cruise ships which burn fuel and foul the atmosphere, and do no good at all, just give rich people something to keep them from getting bored!

Linda Hughes

[REDACTED]  
Haslett, MI 48840  
[REDACTED]

4/8/2013

Assistant Attorney General  
U.S. DOJ – ENRD  
P.O. Box 7611  
Washington, DC 20044-7611

RE: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

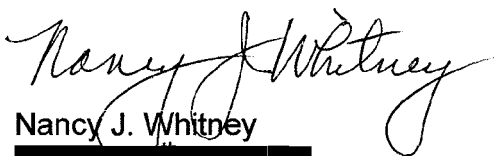
Dear Sir or Madam:

I am writing to you on behalf of the S.S. Badger sailing out of Ludington, MI. For nearly my lifetime I've had the privilege of sailing across Lake Michigan on the Badger. I was born and raised in Michigan but have spent most of my adult life in Minnesota. I still own a home in Michigan and so visit there regularly. I do so by crossing the lake on the Badger.

It's a long way around Lake Michigan and the Badger cuts my time, cost, and gasoline use considerably. It is my request that you consider allowing the owners of the Badger some extra time to figure out a way to fuel the ship other than burning coal. I'm concerned, also, about the lake and the environment but some consideration of extra time would be greatly appreciated.

Michigan has suffered such economic hardship and this would be one more strike against the economy. Please take this into consideration.

Respectfully,



Nancy J. Whitney

Chisago City, MN 55013



[REDACTED]  
Plymouth, Mich  
48170

April 7, 2013

Dear Ms. Moreno

I'm writing to express my support for the continued service of the S.S. Badger, D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771.

I hope the consent decree granting her two more years while it is determined how to best end the discharge of coal ash into Lake Michigan will be approved.

As a graduate forester and avid fisherman I've spent most of my life in the outdoors. I very much appreciate the E.P.A.'s efforts to protect the environment.

However, in the case of the Badger, I believe that the amount of gasoline and diesel not burned by vehicles using her to avoid Chicago more than offsets the amount of ash she discharges. For this reason alone, and there are others, she should be allowed to continue to operate.

Sincerely,

Fred Brenner

Fredrick E Brenner.

April 10, 2013

Assistant Attorney General

U S D O J – ENRD

P. O. Box 7611

Washington D. C. 20044

Dear Sirs,

I am writing this in support of the continued operation of the S. S. Badger. Please reference case number 90-5-1-1-10771 in the case of the United States v Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Short Cut INC. dba Lake Michigan Car Ferry Services & the S.S. Badger.

The Badger is the last remnant of a much larger cross lake system that has been in existence for over 100 years. It is the only remaining steam powered ship on the Great Lakes and has been a vital component to the tourism in the greater Ludington area.

Ludington only survives on its tourism and the Badger is an enormous part of that tourism. Not only does the Badger bring over 100,000 people through our community each summer but thousands come to watch it leave and enter our Harbor. It is the essences of Ludington!!

The two year extension requested will allow time to further study and implement a new more 'GREEN' form of power.

I personally think, however, that the historic value of the last remaining steam ship of the thousands that worked the great lakes in times past, should carry much more weight than it seems to, but that aside this community, especially in these tough times, cannot survive a blow of this magnitude to its fragile economy.

Thanks in advance for your careful consideration in this vital matter.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Neal", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Robert Neal

April 11, 2013

Assistant Attorney General  
U.S. DOJ-ENRD  
PO BOX 7611  
Washington, DC 20044-7611

RE: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Dear Assistant Attorney General Environmental and Natural Resources Division

I am writing in regards to following case: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger. As a participating community member of Ludington and Scottville, I respectfully request that you approve the Consent Decree.

Shutting down the Badger would be devastating to the economic recovery in many communities in the upper Midwest, including the Ludington and Scottville areas. It provides 200 jobs directly and supports another 500 indirectly and has a combined overall economic impact of \$35 million for surrounding communities. The Badger provides critical transport and cargo shipping for Midwest businesses and helps sustain the region's tourism. It prevents the use of 1 million gallons of fuel each year and eliminates the emission of pollutants that would otherwise contribute to smog and climate change.

I urge you to approve the Consent Decree that allows Lake Michigan Carferry Services to bring the Badger into compliance over the next two years and supports the hardworking men and women of our community who rely on the jobs provided by this iconic business.

Sincerely,





Scottville, Wis.  
49454

Ginny and Roger Beadle

[REDACTED]  
Branch, MI 49402

April 10, 2013

Assistant Attorney General, Environment and Natural Resources Division  
U.S. DOJ- ENRD  
P.O. Box 7611  
Washington, DC 20044-7611

**SUBJECT: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771**

Dear Assistant Attorney General:

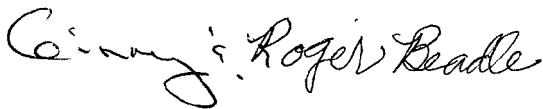
We would like to tell you why we fully support the Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger located in Ludington, Michigan.

My husband Roger had a pancreas and kidney transplant at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota in the year of 2002. Our medical visits and medical procedures at the Mayo Clinic have totaled at least ten (10) trips and we have utilized the services for these trips on the wonderful ship the SS Badger to across Lake Michigan. It does save us at least six (6) hours of driving time to reach the Mayo Clinic that we would have to incur, plus driving through the congested traffic of Chicago.

In June of 2012, Roger's blood that was monitored in Ludington, MI., showed signs of rejection of his pancreas. We at that time had to get to Minnesota as soon as possible. We rushed to Ludington and purchased our SS Badger tickets for the soonest crossing to Manitowoc, WI. and then on to the Mayo Clinic. We were **so very thankful** we could take the SS Badger that next day instead of driving the distance, as we were so worried what the future held.

To make our story short, after a week of hospitalization and infusions, Roger's pancreas was saved and is doing great. We are so fortunate and blessed to have this wonderful ship to travel on, or vacation on and/or to utilize for medical needs. Thank You!

Sincerely,



Ginny and Roger Beadle

Home phone: [REDACTED]

Work phone: (231) 845-3500

April 6, 2013  
Donna Nickelson  
[REDACTED]  
Ludington, Michigan 49431

Assistant Attorney General  
Environment and Natural Resources Division  
U.S. DOJ- ENRD  
P.O. Box 7611  
Washington, DC 20044-7611

Attention:  
Assistant Attorney General, Environment and natural Resources Division

Dear Assistant Attorney General,

Reference Case Number D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Case Name:

United States v Lake Michigan Trans lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a lake Michigan  
Carferry Services and SS Badger.

**S.S. Badger**

One of the last coal powered ships dating back to 1953, a historical ship is the SS Badger. It now burns Americas Fuel, the cleanest coal they can buy! A very tiny of its ash goes into the Great Lakes. Please approve the latest Consent Decree agreement with the Department of Justice and EPA.

. What little ash the SS Badger emits is almost untraceable. The Badger was built for the Great Lakes and should be grandfathered in! It has been called an engineering marvel. It has been nominated as a National Historic Landmark. It would be devastating to Michigan to lose this ship built for the Great Lakes. The Badger attracts more than 100,000 passengers annually. The Badgers ability to transport oversized loads removes these loads from our congested highways. The Badger is the LAST coal -fired steam powered ship on the Great Lakes and in the United States. It was not until 2008 the coal discharge became an issue. I believe Dick Durbin is behind this for some certain **Personal Gain** of his own. He doesn't know what he is talking about (many wrongful statements made by him on the issues of the Badger). Outer Boundaries Magazine is a great magazine with truthful comments on the actual discharge of ash that goes into the Great Lakes. It's almost untraceable. If Senator Dick Durbin was actually concerned about the Great Lakes he'd spend more time concentrating what his State of Illinois dumps into Lake Michigan daily! He permits sewer overflows, mercury and other industrial emissions, and most recently Asian Carp to enter into Lake Michigan through the Canals of Chicago.

I have lived in Mason County all my life and rode the Carferry's since the 1960's. They were truly built to uphold the treacherous weather the Great Lakes can sometimes have. Our area depends on the Badger, especially now with the hard economic times we are enduring. Manitowoc, Wisconsin also depends on the Badger, it provides so many jobs for both areas not to mention the local businesses on both sides, the profit they make during the running of the Badger. Many of our businesses would not survive without the Badger. This Decree is only for two years in which it states it will have to somehow contain the ash. I'm not sure if and how this can be done but I know they are working for this goal. I still believe that coal is not a problem, but I know that the SS Badger will work hard to comply with this Decree. Coal is America's fuel. Do something to promote our SS Badger that provides so many jobs and also promotes the United States! I hold the Badger near and dear in my heart, and pray you will do the right thing and approve the Consent Decree.  
Thank you.

Sincerely,  
Donna Nickelson

*Donna M. Nickelson*

Subject: Reference Case #  
D. J. Ref. No. 98-5-1-1-10771  
Comments on United States v.  
Lake MI Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc.  
d/b/a Lake MI Crossing Service  
and 55 Budget

Parasitologist Attorney General

I hope you will take into  
your considerations the historical  
significance of the Budget. It  
is a floating museum. My  
parents used to ride their bikes  
down to Jones Island in Michigan  
from her father's house, and get off  
the ferry that in, Michigan, and  
the last six miles to his father's house  
in Park before they used in 1974.  
I was born two years later.  
I remember going down to the  
dock as a small child, as my father  
sister arrived at Jones Island on  
the Michigan Express. This included  
getting rides from friends to the ship  
in Michigan. Always visited in this way.  
I don't think the family had ever flew  
and I know she was born a car.  
Since the sixties when the  
Budget was resurrected, my father  
and I have been going over to visit



my 12 cousins. I also have  
cousins on the east coast  
and they travel across the  
lake save us from Chicago traffic.  
and it saves Chicago from having  
another RV transit the city.

The Lake Express, located  
close to our home, which makes  
the trip twice as fast as the ferry  
is not an option for us as they  
don't have facilities for vehicles  
of our size (22 ft. long). Also, if the  
waves are up, they often wisely  
cancel. Their ships are not built  
to take the great lakes weather.  
The budget goes rain or shine. We  
feel safe on it, so we would not  
on that side, but the ramp  
next to the Capt. Mike's Station  
in South Haven.

Please give the politicians  
more points to solve their cash  
disposal problem! Too bad they  
could not be as concerned  
in it. They surely realize the  
serious about the problem.

Barbara Smith



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CQ2

April 11, 2013

Assistant Attorney General  
U.S. DOJ-ENRD  
PO BOX 7611  
Washington, DC 20044-7611

RE: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Dear Assistant Attorney General Environmental and Natural Resources Division

I am writing in regards to following case: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger. As a participating community member of Ludington and Scottville, I respectfully request that you approve the Consent Decree.

Shutting down the Badger would be devastating to the economic recovery in many communities in the upper Midwest, including the Ludington and Scottville areas. It provides 200 jobs directly and supports another 500 indirectly and has a combined overall economic impact of \$35 million for surrounding communities. The Badger provides critical transport and cargo shipping for Midwest businesses and helps sustain the region's tourism. It prevents the use of 1 million gallons of fuel each year and eliminates the emission of pollutants that would otherwise contribute to smog and climate change.

I urge you to approve the Consent Decree that allows Lake Michigan Carferry Services to bring the Badger into compliance over the next two years and supports the hardworking men and women of our community who rely on the jobs provided by this iconic business.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael S. Galt". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "M".

April 6, 2013

Kevin Damkoehler

[REDACTED]  
Ludington, Michigan 49431

Assistant Attorney General  
Environment and Natural Resources Division  
U.S. DOJ- ENRD  
P.O. Box 7611  
Washington, DC 20044-7611

Attention:

Assistant Attorney General, Environment and natural Resources Division

Dear Assistant Attorney General,

Reference Case Number D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Case Name:

United States v Lake Michigan Trans lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a lake Michigan  
Carferry Services and SS Badger

Please approve the latest Consent Decree agreement with the Department of Justice and EPA.

I believe in their continuing efforts to end the ash dumping at the end of two years. Although my thoughts are, the SS Badger is a National Landmark and shouldn't have a question on the continuing running of this Vessel.

Please allow the SS Badger to continue on.

Thank you.

Sincerely,  
Kevin Damkoehler



Emily Scherer

St. Louis, MO 63125

Assistant Attorney General  
Environment and Natural Resources Division  
US DOJ-ENRD  
P.O. Box 7611  
Washington, DC 20044-7611

Case # D.J. Ref. No 90-5-1-1-10771

Case Name: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc. dba Lake Michigan Carferry Services and S.S. Badger

To whom this may concern,

I am writing you to plead for your support of the S.S. Badger. I understand the environmentalist point of view; however, the information pertaining to this issue is not being presented with a realistic point of view. The Great Lakes were home to many coal powered vessels over the last century. Daily, and year round, these vessels traveled the lakes using the same technology as the S.S. Badger with no obvious harm to the Great Lakes. The S.S. Badger is the last coal fired steamship operating in North America and has presented studies on its coal ash discharge. I urge you to read these studies and understand that not only does it operate for a short season, but its discharge is minimal and there is no evidence of a negative impact on Lake Michigan.

The S.S. Badger is a mechanical engineering landmark designated by the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, a Michigan Historic Site designated by the Michigan Historical Commission, a Wisconsin Historical Site designated by the Wisconsin Historical Commission, a Michigan Centennial Business designated by the Historical Society of Michigan, Ship of the Year 2002 by the Steamship Historical Society of Michigan, and is on the Nation Register of Historic Places designated by the U.S. Department of the Interior. So many pieces of this nation's history have been set aside or scrapped. Please don't let the S.S. Badger have the same fate.

The S.S. Badger is not just important to the preservation of our nation's history, but also for other reasons. The S.S. Badger saves many people hours on dangerous highways, encourages travel between Wisconsin and Michigan, and reduces the U.S. dependency on foreign oil. The S.S. Badger, is the reason my family travels to Michigan each summer. It is a special trip because we are able to be a part of history, traveling on the last coal powered steam ship. I know this is important to other travelers as well from conversations I have had in hotels and on board the vessel. My family spends a total of 2 weeks in Wisconsin and Michigan and along with other S.S. Badger travelers; we spend money in restaurants and hotels in these states,

which can only help the economy. Without the draw of this historical ship, less people may choose to visit these states. Also, the S.S. Badger saves 1,000,147 gallons of gasoline each year. This reduces not only the amount of carbon emissions in our atmosphere, but the amount of traffic in the already congested highways around Chicago. I was ecstatic to see that an agreement was reached that will allow the S.S. Badger to continue running while being retrofitted for ash capture within two years. I plead with you and I only hope that those making the final decision will come to the realization that allowing this ship two more years will allow the company adequate time to convert their system, while continuing to pose no real threat to the environment, and making positive contributions to the economy.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Emily L. Scherer". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Emily L. Scherer

Chief, Environmental Enforcement Section  
Environment and Natural Resources Division  
U.S. Department of Justice  
P.O. Box 7611, Ben Franklin Station  
Washington, DC 20044-7611  
DJ# 90-5-1-1-10771

Dear Chief,

This comment is in regard to Case 1:13-cv-00317 Doc #2-1 Filed 03/22/13

I am wholeheartedly devastated by the decision to allow the S S Badger to continue to dump coal ash into Lake Michigan! The far-reaching environmental impact on my neighbors and me is most certainly not justice for us! Many communities in Wisconsin and Michigan get their drinking water from Lake Michigan. (I invite you to come and drink what we have to drink!) This decision allows Lake Michigan and the surrounding air to continue to be compromised and unsustainable. Will it be **this** decision that brings the Lake to the point of no return?

When Lake Michigan and the air become more polluted, this is not a theoretical issue for me. It has a real impact on my life. I have been homebound for three years because of Environmental illness. I feel like the canary in the coalmine – a harbinger of things to come. When is enough, enough!?... when we are all homebound, cancer ridden or dead???

I feel that the decision to let the S S Badger continue dumping coal into Lake Michigan is terribly irresponsible both because of the effect on the health of people living in the present day but also for the impact that it will have on our children and grandchildren. The economic well being of a few should never over-ride the basic necessities of the majority.

The cruel irony of this decision is that it doesn't have to be. This is because there is a safer method that is, in effect, being penalized by this decision. The Department of Justice has failed its citizenry!

In short, I am appalled at this legal chess game!

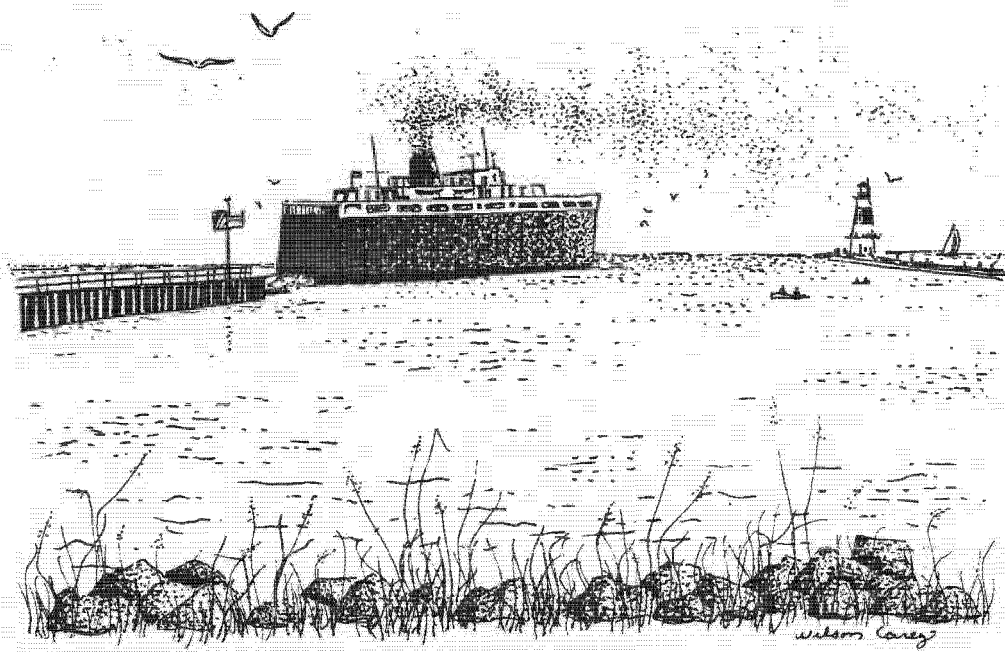
Despondently,



Brenda J. Beaumier

Milwaukee, WI 53216

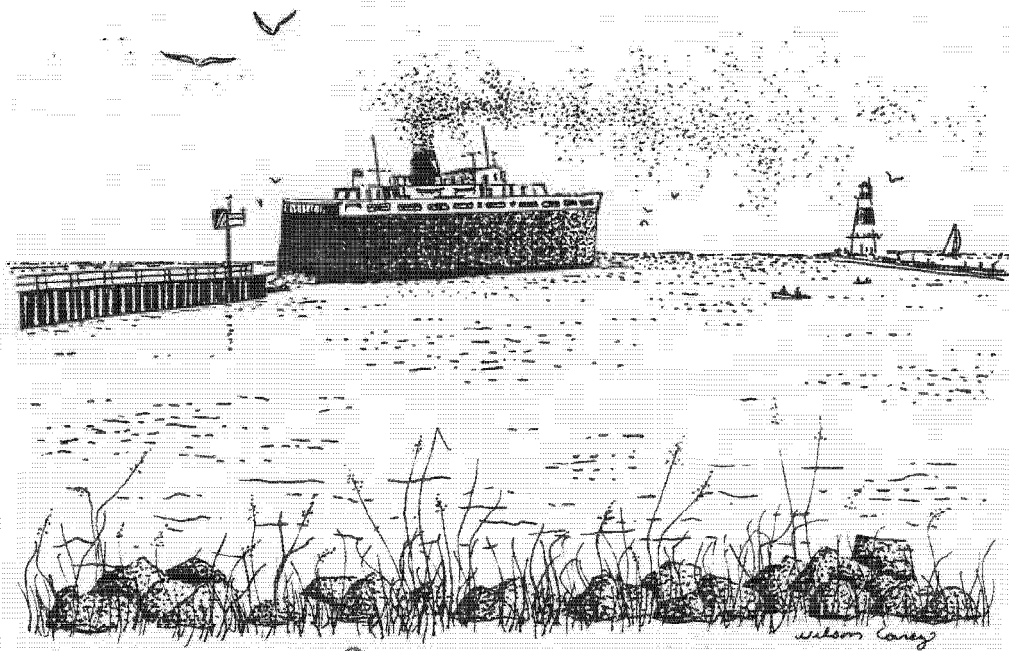
# WEDDINGTON HARBOR.



I'm glad to hear that the Badger is still up and running this year. I have always been for keeping the last historical coal burning ship on lake Michigan. The Badger brings millions of dollars from tourists to our city in the summer. It also brings millions to Manitowish; that's two cities that would suffer from a complete shutdown. The Badger creates tons of jobs for local people in both cities, and it just makes traveling easy and stressfree. Since the Badger is running this year I can use my free round trip pass for two that I received last year. I've never been on it before, and I'm so excited to go. The Badger has been running for years and years and barely does any mercury pollution to the lake. So once again I'm glad to see it's still running and can't wait to travel on it this season!

Sincerely,

Justin  
Cook

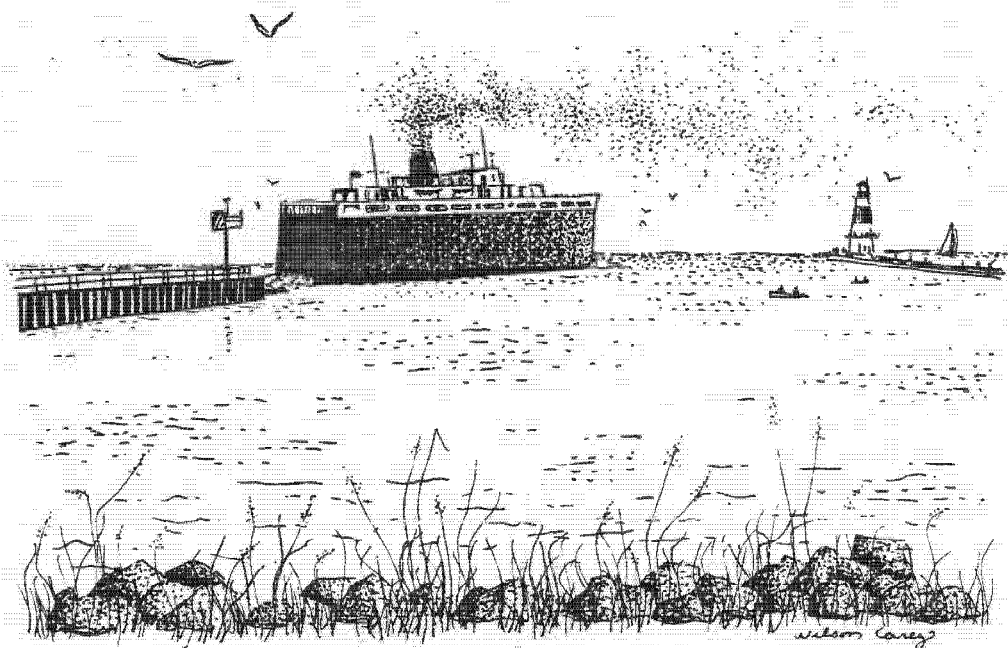


I'm happy for our town that the badger is going to continue to run. Without the tourism that the ship brings, our town wouldn't be such a loved spot in Michigan. I've always looked forward to seeing the ship come in from the horizon. The badger is one of my favorite parts of this town. Thank you for keeping it alive.

Sincerely,

Lynsey  
Chlebana





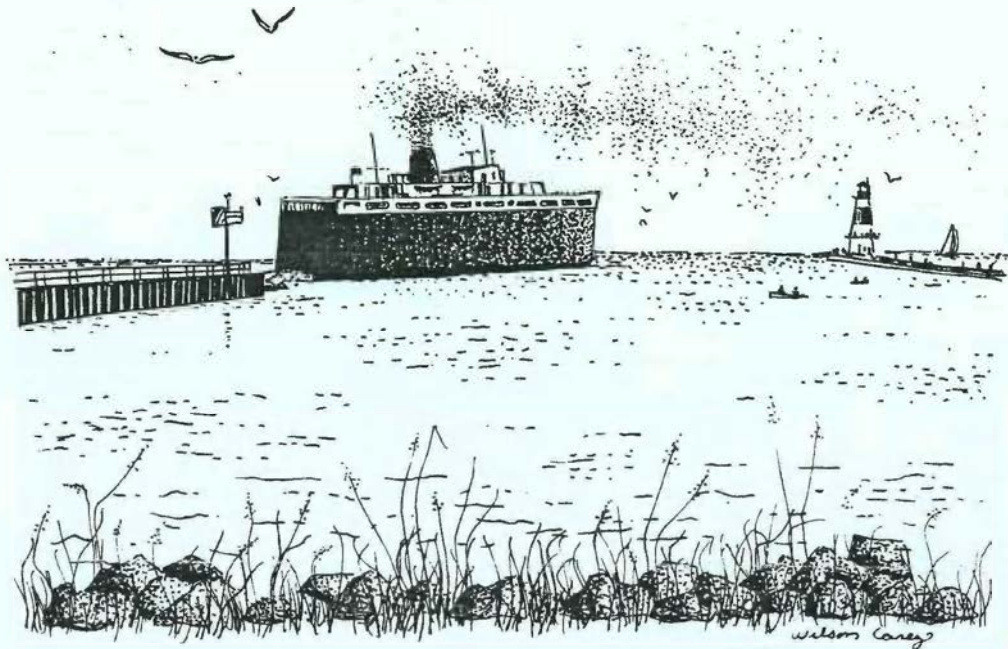
I am for keeping the Badger around. Not only is the Badger benefit the two cities economically, but it also holds a lot of historical benefits.

I was glad to hear the Badger will still be running. The impact on the environment is not as negative as people make it out to be.

The Badger is the last coal burning ship in the country.

I'm glad to keep historical traditions going.

- Lindsay

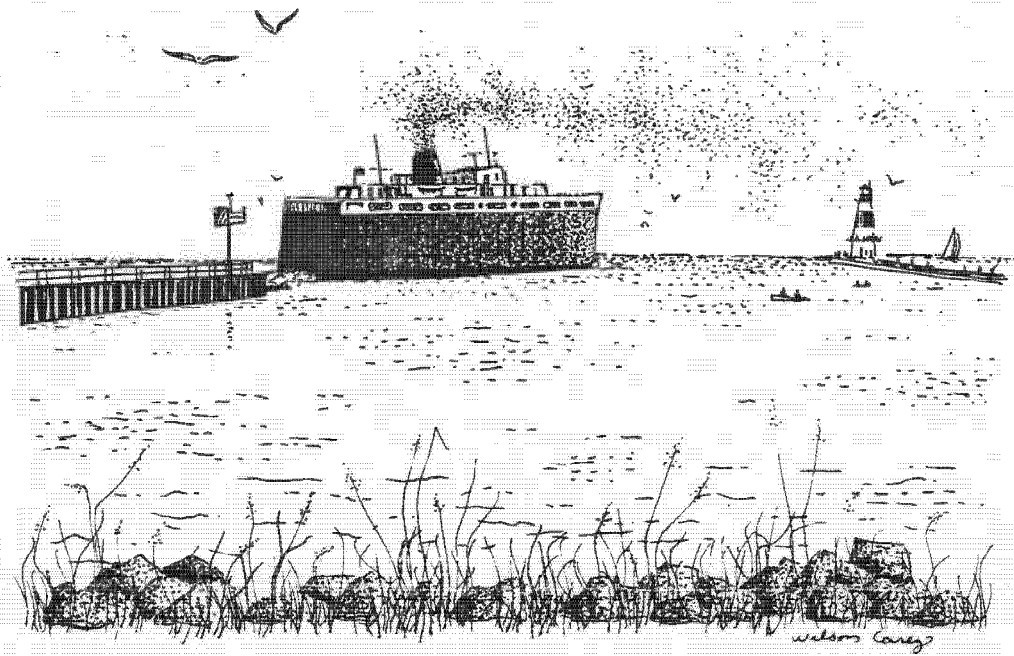


Every year I love to hear the Badger when it comes into harbor. I've been hearing it my whole life, especially when my mother worked on board. Thank god I can cont. to hear that sound. It makes me feel like I'm home. I'm also glad it's going to continue its seasons because this ship is what helps Ludingtons ~~economy~~ economy high during the summer season.

I Love the Badger ☺

- Mackenzie Bentz.

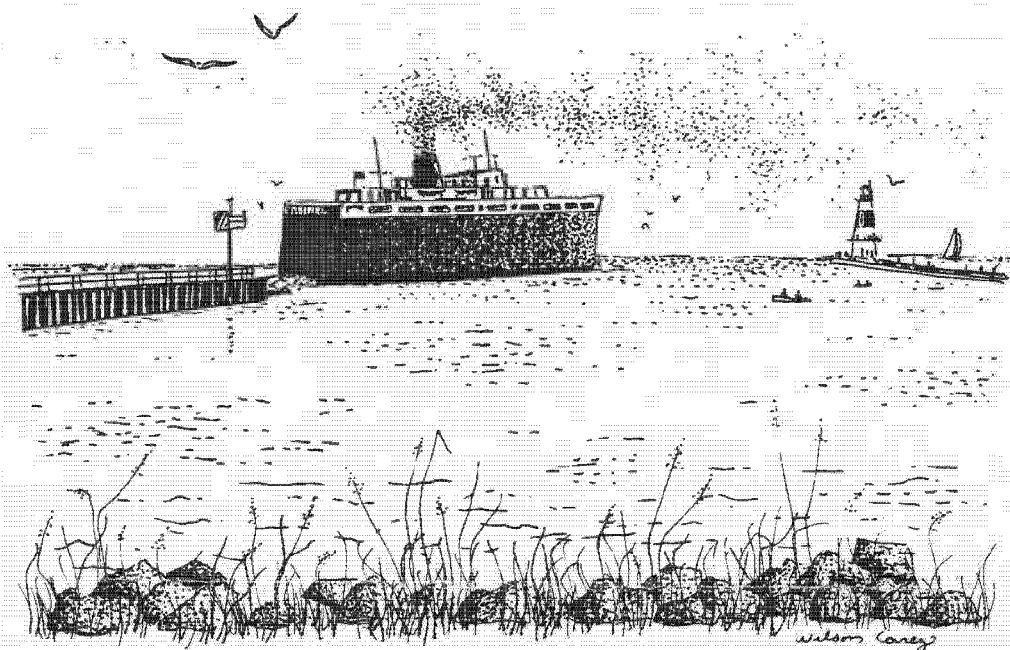
# LUDINGTON HARBOR



I am for keeping the Badger. The Badger brings lots of tourism for our town. It also provides many jobs for people. The Badger provides most of the profit the town makes, from small businesses. The Badger is pretty much the only reason why people come to Ludington. So keep on working to switch from coal ash to LNG. So we can keep the Badger running.

Sincerely,

Ludington High School Student  
Chels Walicki



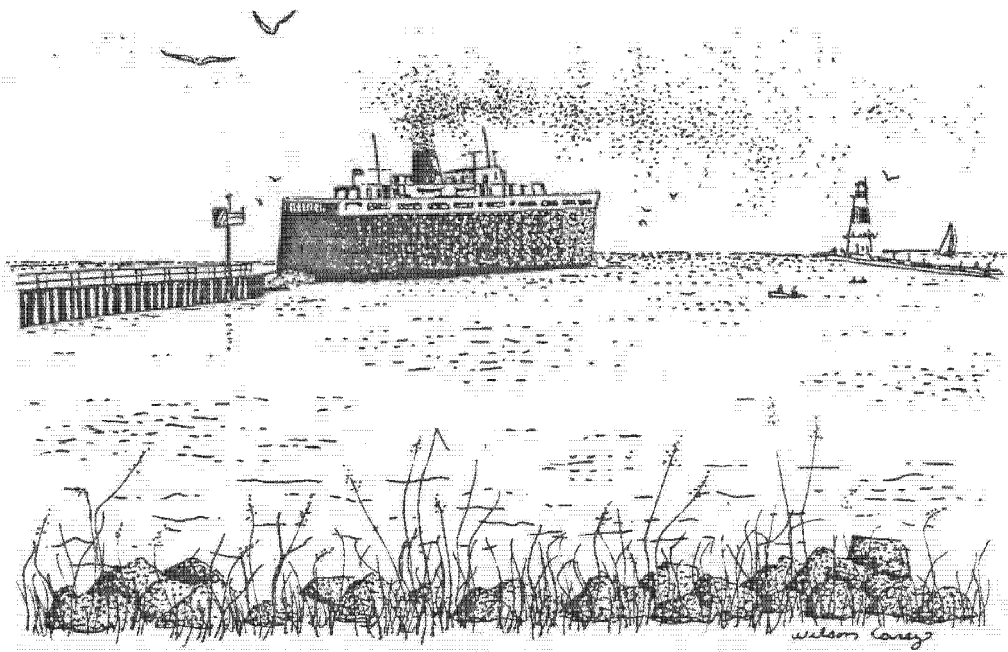
To whom it may concern,

I am very glad that the ferry  
 will be in service. It is part of Ludington  
 history and we cannot let it disappear.  
 Making the Bodgee more ecofriendly by  
 storing coal ash is also a good idea. Not  
 only do we drink the water but we  
 also eat the fish, we must protect our  
 lake. I wanted to thank you for your  
 efforts to keep the SS Bodgee running  
 and aiding in protection of our lake.

Thank you for your time.

Lawrence Todd

LEWINGTON HARBOR.



I believe that the continuation of the operation of the Lake Michigan Car Ferry is a great proposal. With the operation extension I believe that you should be able to find an effective and eco-friendly way to run the Car Ferry. One main reason to keep not only the Car Ferry afloat, but also the town of Lewington itself. It brings in tons of revenue and seasonal tourism for our town which I believe is much needed. Another aspect to continue the operation would be the historical aspect.

Thank you for your time

- Abby Greenleaf

March 30, 2013

United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc.  
D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

I am writing in reference and support to the above consent degree. The Lake Michigan Car-ferry Company was established to rescue the Lake Michigan Car Ferry system and support a historic page in the development of the towns of Ludington and Manitowoc for over 70 years. The system now has become a valuable commercial and tourist link across Lake Michigan and supplies millions of dollars to the economy of both cities. Even though the amount of toxic materials added to the waters of the lake is within the limits of the E.P.A., the owners of the car ferries have consistently researched with time and money a long term solution to these environmental concerns. This is a private company with limited resources making a difference in difficult times economically for the citizens of both communities.

I support the proposed consent decree before the federal court D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-1-771. This continuation of time to allow a long term solution is in the best interests of all.

Sincerely,

  
William Blahm

Pentwater, Mi.  
49449

Retired C.C. Merchant Marine Captain # [REDACTED]

April 1, 2013

United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake  
Shortcut, Inc., DJ Ref. NO 90-5-1-1-10771.

Please Leave Lake Michigan Carferry + the EPA  
to allow the SS Badger continue for two years  
the coal ash discharge.

the carferry is vital for the economy of Michigan  
& Wisconsin.

Thank you,

Janet Schneider Grams

Assistant Attorney General  
US DOJ – ENRD  
PO Box 7611  
Washington, DC 20044-7611

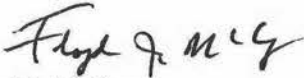
Case Number: D.J.Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Case Name: US vs Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc.

Please approve the Consent Decree signed between Lake Michigan Carferry and Dept of Justice and EPA.

It would seem Lake Michigan Carferry is making a good faith effort to reduce the coal ash discharge.

Sincerely,



Floyd J. McCoy

[REDACTED]  
Grand Rapids, MI 49504  
[REDACTED]



Charles A. Nekvasil



Chicago, Illinois 60614

29 March 2013

Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Div.  
U.S. DOJ – ENRD  
Box 7611  
Washington, D.C. 20044 – 7611

**Reference Case Number: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-19771**

**Case Name: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger**

I am writing to express my complete support for the negotiated consent decree, and I strongly urge its approval.

I completely approve of the approach you have taken to this important issue, and I believe that setting a firm deadline makes much more sense than opening up the issue to the inevitable legal challenges that could follow if another course were taken.

From an environmental perspective, the SS Badger saves tens of thousands of vehicle miles each year, thus reducing air pollution, reducing hydrocarbon energy usage, and reducing highway congestion.

Approve the decree, please.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C. Nekvasil", written over a large, stylized circular flourish.

Charles A. Nekvasil

[REDACTED]  
Mundelein, Ill 60060  
March 29, 2013

Assistant Attorney General  
U.S. DOJ - ENRD  
P.O. Box 7611  
Washington, DC 20044-7611

Re: Case Number: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

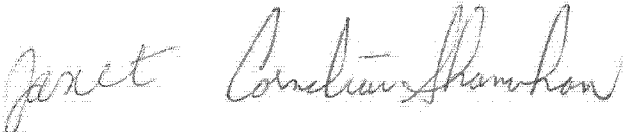
Case Name: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division :

We would like to voice our opinion that the Michigan Badger Ferry be allowed to continue service. If all those folks and commercial trucks and buses who take the ferry would drive around Lake Michigan to get to the other side, there would be a great deal of impact to the environment also.

I (Janet) consider myself an environmentalist, but think one ferry (grandfathered in) coal or otherwise, cannot possibly cause that much harm. Coal is our natural resource (and I lived in Pittsburgh in the 1950's and know the result of over-using it).

Sincerely,



Janet and Cornelius Shanahan

Home Phone: [REDACTED]

**B**

Assistant Attorney General  
Environmental and Natural Resources Division  
U.S. DOJ – ENRD  
P.O. Box 7611  
Washington, D.C. 20044-7611

April 1, 2013

Reference Case Number: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Case Name: United States v. Lake Michigan Tran-Lake Shortcut, Inc.,  
d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

Dear Sir,

My letter is written as a plea for consideration to allow the SS Badger to continue transporting services across Lake Michigan. From a nostalgic perspective, I have been a customer since the PM City of Flint 32 in 1944, when my parents, living in Chicago, use to annually vacation near Ludington, MI. Now I utilize the relaxing SS Badger to return to my wife's family home of Houghton, MI; from Indianapolis, IN, it is much safer, easier and enjoyable than driving through Chicago, IL.

During my voyages I, with many other passengers, always enjoyed viewing the stern vehicle loadings prior to departure. Not only were passenger automobiles driven on board, but a variety of railroad freight cars, semi-trucks and military vehicles. No doubt this ship service proved to be a respective economic as well as environmental benefit. The United States is currently easing into an expansion of public transportation because of increased anticipated need. This is no time to curtail, or eliminate, existing transportation services that have a proven functional history.

Please approve the Consent Decree for the SS Badger. Your decision could be viable for today, and tomorrow.

Sincerely,

  
Wayne M. Brummer

Indianapolis, IN 46260-4226

Assistant Attorney General  
U.S. DOJ-ENRD  
P.O. Box 7611  
Washington, DC 20044-7611

RE: United States v. Lake Michigan Translake Shortcut, Inc., Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

I am writing in support of the proposed consent decree between the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Lake Michigan Carferry (LMC) which operates the SS Badger. This is a win-win agreement for the EPA, LMC, the citizens of Ludington, MI and Manitowoc, WI, and all who visit our area. All parties involved agree on our mutual dedication to the protection and preservation of our national treasure, beautiful Lake Michigan. LMC will operate the SS Badger in such a way as to reduce coal combustion and coal ash discharge by 15% by the end of 2014 and totally end all coal ash discharge by January 1, 2015, regardless of difficulty and expense. The EPA standards will be met. The SS Badger will continue to provide its important services to the port cities of Ludington and Manitowoc, which will retain the much needed 200 direct jobs and estimated 700 support jobs provided by the Badger and the business it brings. The SS Badger will also continue to provide a less expensive and less environmentally polluting option to the new green energy wind turbine industry by transporting the wind turbine parts across Lake Michigan beginning May 6, 2013.

In addition to the above stated factual and environmentally sound points, there are other reasons best understood by those of us who live on Lake Michigan and call the SS Badger our hometown historical treasure. She is a majestic and awe-inspiring sight as she leaves Ludington harbor, sails past the Ludington lighthouse, and heads into the open lake toward Manitowoc harbor! The sound of the Badger's horn, when returning or leaving port throughout the Summer and Fall, brings smiles to the faces of residents and tourists alike as they rush to watch her. Everyone lines up along the channel to clap, wave, and shout either "Welcome to Ludington" or "Bon Voyage". To see the SS Badger glide soundlessly past the Ludington lighthouse, frequently with a bag-piper playing aboard, is a world-class event on par with the singing gondoliers of Venice, Italy or the batous on the Seine River in Paris, France. How fortunate we are to have this magnificent steam-burning treasure from a by-gone era still operating in our own backyard! It truly is a floating living maritime museum available to all who visit Michigan and Wisconsin. Needless to say, a trip on the SS Badger is an historically significant experience that should be available to all Americans, as well as the many foreign visitors, who travel to our area specifically for this purpose.

May this proposed consent agreement serve as a positive step in creating a long-term solution that will allow the historically important SS Badger to continue her majestic voyage across Lake Michigan!

Respectfully,

  
Susan Scarfino

Ludington, Michigan 49431

March 31, 2013

Assistant Attorney General  
U.S. DOJ-ENRD  
P.O. Box 7611  
Washington, DC 20044-7611

Tom and Christine Wenstadt  
[REDACTED]  
Cadillac, MI 49601

Dear Assistant Attorney General:

We are writing you concerning Case Number D.J. Ref No. 90-5-1-1-10771, United States v. Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger.

We rely heavily on the SS Badger as we live in Cadillac, Michigan while all of our family members as well as other interests are in east central Wisconsin. I just met a fellow that has the opposite arrangement as we do. He lives in Manitowoc but his family is in the Grand Haven area. So he uses the Badger also.

The drive around the lake is too much to handle. And the Lake Express is too far out of our way and is too expensive. Please keep the Badger running!

There are also the precious jobs that the Badger brings to Ludington and Manitowoc and the surrounding areas that must be preserved.

The Badger carries a wide variety of cargo, including people without any land transportation, passenger cars and trucks, recreational vehicles, boats, campers and a surprising number of motorcycles. Heavy load, wide load, long load as well as regular size semi tractor trailers find it much more efficient to cross on the Badger as opposed to drive around the bottom of the Lake.

Please approve this Consent Decree on behalf of all of the people that work on and use the S.S. Badger.

Sincerely,

*Tom Wenstadt Christine Wenstadt*

Tom and Christine Wenstadt

April 2, 2013

Dear Sir or Madam,

We would like to support  
keeping the operating, not for just two  
years but for the future. We have  
used it, both in business and pleasure  
and it has been wonderful in both  
ways and we feel strongly that it  
should continue to operate in  
that manner. It is a fine  
addition to its area.

Cordially

Mr & Mrs. John R. Bennett  
Ludington, Woods  
[REDACTED]  
Ludington, Mi 49431



MARCH 30, 2013

RE:

UNITED STATES V. LAKE MICHIGAN  
TRANSLAKE SHORTCUT, INC  
REF. NO. 90-5-1-1-10711

COMMENTS:

YES.

IT MAKES GOOD SENSE TO KEEP  
THE BADGER GOING; AND DESIGN-  
NATE IT AS AN HISTORICAL  
VESSEL, AS WELL.

Isabelle Hasenbank

[REDACTED]  
LUDINGTON, MI 49431

Please allow the Badger which  
crosses from Ludington to Manitowish  
to continue to operate, Ludington  
is a small tourist town who needs  
all the help we can get.

I thank you  
Murray Schreiber



M.S. APARTMENTS & HOME RENTALS  
c/o Mary Schierholt  
209 N. Ferry  
Ludington, Michigan 49431  
(231) 845-5616  
<http://www.t-one.net/~msrental/>



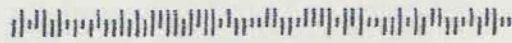
*assistant attorney General*  
*U.S. Post - envd*  
*P.O. Box 7611*  
*Washington, D.C.*

**DO NOT MAIL ROOM**

**APR 02 2013**

**X-R**

*20844-7611*



TO DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE;  
CONCERNING;  
UNITED STATES V LAKE MICHIGAN  
TRANS-LAKE SHORTCUT, INC,  
D.J. REF. NO. 90-5-1-1-10771

THE CONSENT DECREE  
TO ALLOW THE BADGER TO  
CONTINUE SAILING +  
DISCHARGING COAL ASH  
INTO LAKE MICHIGAN FOR  
2 MORE YEARS SHOULD  
BE ACCEPTED.

THE \$25,000. CIVIL  
PENALTY IS BUREAUCRATIC  
BULLYING + SHOULD BE  
THROWN OUT.

SINCERELY,  
Roger Peterson



From the Desk of:

**Mrs. Marie Mortensen**

*Lake Michigan Trans Lake Shortcut, Inc.*  
D.J.

*Yes I support the consent decree. we want to keep the heritage of ferry service here in Ludington.*

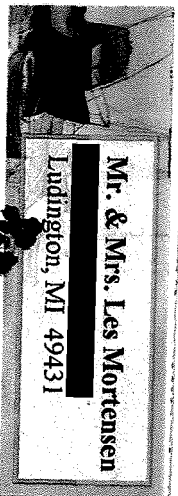
*My daughter & her husband take the boat alot when it is running. They like in Whitefish Bay Wis. It saves alot of driving for them.*

*The ferry is a very much part of Ludington, and with out not running would be very sad.*

*Lets do all we can to keep the ferry running.*



VFW  
NATIONAL HOME  
FOR CHILDREN  
Help, Hope and Honor

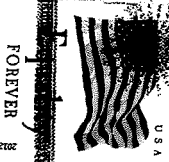


Mr. & Mrs. Les Mortensen  
Ludington, MI 49431

APR 30 2013  
DOOR MAIL ROOM

*Assistant Attorney General, US  
DOJ - ENRD, P.O. Box 7611  
Washington, DC - 20544-7611*

GRAND RAPIDS MI 495  
25 APR 2013 PM 4 L



20044761111



IN REGARDS TO  
UNITED STATES V. LAKE MICHIGAN  
TRANS - LAKE SHORTCUT INC.  
REF No 90 5-1-1-10771

FIRST OF ALL NONE OF US  
CAN DUMP ANY THING INTO  
LAKE MICHIGAN.

THE CATTERRY HAS BEEN DOING  
IT FOR 75 YEARS. IT IS TIME  
TO STOP.

AND IT IS NO BIG DEAL TO  
BUILD A HOLDING TANK.  
COOL DOWN THE ASH WITH  
WATER AND PUMP THE  
SLURRY ASH INTO HOLDING  
TANKS AT EACH PORT.

THIS HAS GONE ON LONG  
ENOUGH. THE GOVERNMENT  
HAS BEEN MORE THEN FAIR TO  
LET THIS GO ON FOR ANOTHER  
9 YEARS.

I SURE DO NOT WANT TO SEE  
THIS GO ON ANY LONGER

THE CATTERRY COULD HAVE CLEANED  
UP 2 YEARS AGO.

*John H. Hancay*

# Carferry comment deadline nearing

BY PATTI KLEVORN  
NEWS EDITOR

Ludington Mayor John Henderson is appealing to the public to make the effort to support Lake Michigan Carferry.

The time to make public comment to the U.S. Department of Justice on a consent decree with the U.S. EPA runs out at the end of this week.

"Over the last two years there have been a lot of questions and concern about the Badger," he said. "A lot of residents have a passion for it. Now is the time for that."

SEE CARFERRY, A5

Apr. 24, 2013



Ms. Judy Beck

Manitowoc, WI 54220

Attn: Assistant Attorney General  
Ref Case No DJ Ref # 90-5-1-1-10771  
United States v. Lake Michigan  
Trans Lake Shortcut, Inc  
d/b/a Lake Michigan Ferry Service  
& S S Badger

The S S Badger is very important to  
the economies of its home ports in  
Mich. & Wis. and to nearby communi-  
ties up & down the coast.

The Consent Decree should be approved.  
Sincerely, Judy Beck



Re: United States V.

4-23-13

Lake Michigan Trans  
Lake Shore out Inc. Of  
Ref No 90-5-1-1-10771

We are writing in support of  
the 55 Badger. The Badger is the  
Heart and Soul of the Community.  
Please don't take that away!

We wonder why the "Good"  
Senator from Illinois is like a dog  
with a bone about this small community  
in Michigan? What is the rest of  
the story?

Has the "Good" Senator ever  
been to Ludington or Mason County?  
He would see what good stewards  
we are of our natural resources and  
how well we take care of our  
community.

Maybe the "Good" Senator should  
spend some time here and see the  
faces of the people he is so  
ready to condemn.

Sincerely  
Dorcas and Billie Cunningham

Ludington, Michigan  
49431

TRANS-LAKE-LM.TLS-COMMENTS005324

*Shirley*

**OUR VIEW**  
EDITORIAL

the coal ash discharge from the Badger before 2015. During the two sailing seasons being given to accomplish this, the Badger must reduce, on per-day averages, coal combusted and ash discharged. These are important concessions that forward and ultimately accomplish the EPA's goal of preventing the ash from being put into Lake Michigan.

**IN REGARDS** to United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771:

The Environmental Protection Agency and Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., have reached an agreement embodied in a consent decree that will accomplish the environmental protection goals of the EPA and preserve the 200 direct jobs provided by Lake Michigan Carferry Service through operation of the SS Badger.

What's most important about the proposed consent decree is that Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut (LMC) is agreeing to end

the Ludington community as lobstering is to Maine or the stock exchange is to Wall Street. The EPA should give the time needed to ensure this heritage can continue.

The Badger is the last coal-fired, steam-powered vessel on the Great Lakes and in the United States, so this is a practice as close to extinction as can be. There are disagreements as to how bad the coal ash discharge is, but what can't be argued, is it will go away under this agreement.

Two sailing seasons — 21 months — is a reasonable amount of time for the owners to design, build and prepare to retain coal ash on board. This has never been done on a vessel of the Badger's size and the retention system, once designed, will likely undergo great scrutiny before being put in to use. This likely will be a one-and-only solution. To require a speedier stop to coal ash discharge could compromise finding the best and safest design and could put the Badger out of business at great economic harm to two communities to accomplish something that will be accomplished within two years. The pro-

posed timeline is reasonable; anything less is unreasonable.

When one considers the minute amount of mercury at hand, approximately a seventh of an ounce discharged by the Badger over an entire season, and compares that to the other sources of mercury entering the atmosphere and ultimately Lake Michigan, it seems, if anything, the Badger is being unfairly singled out when others are being permitted to introduce far more mercury into the ecosystem. Mercury is a serious concern with serious repercussions, to the ecosystem, to wildlife, fish and people who populate the region. This proposed consent decree more than appropriately deals with what little threat the Badger presents.

Some, including Sen. Dick Durbin of Illinois, are pressing for changes to the proposed consent decree claiming to want to preserve Lake Michigan from further harm. Does the Senator exert as much pressure — any pressure? — to have the EPA force faster cleanup of Illinois sources of lake contamination, which are far more extensive than the SS Badger? Combined sewer overflows, mer-

cury and other industrial emissions, the threat of Asian carp entering the Great Lakes from the canals of Chicago are three far more serious threats to the lake found in Sen. Durbin's home district. The EPA should ignore Sen. Durbin's pressure.

Ultimately, what's most important is the consent decree, as written, is a workable agreement to reach the environmental goals of the EPA in a timely manner that does not cause unnecessary and unwanted economic harm to the communities that rely on the Badger as part of their economies. Michigan's U.S. Senators, Carl Levin and Debbie Stabenow, have cited support for the proposed consent decree based on those same reasons

In the overall scope of threats, the Badger poses a small threat to Lake Michigan and there's a plan embodied in the consent decree, agreed to by the EPA and the ferry's owners, to resolve that perceived threat, the coal ash discharge.

The consent decree, as written, should be approved. The EPA can then look at far more serious issues.

*Patricia Cunningham AM BE Cruise*

4-23-10



4-18-2013

United States V Lake Michigan  
Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc.  
D. J. Ref. # 90-5-1-1-10771

I am writing in support of the proposed consent decree between the EPA - Environmental Protection Agency and LMC - Lake Michigan Car ferry which operates the S.S. Badger. The Badger needs to continue to be able to provide its service to the ports of Ludington and Manitowac as it has for many years. It will help to retain the much needed jobs the the Badger provides and the business it brings to Ludington and Manitowac. There are so many people that support this operation that has been able to survive all these years and we need to be able to continue to be able to keep it running for many more years to come. I have lived in Ludington and my exhusband worked at the boats and my kids and I went down to see them come in all the time. We need to be able to continue to its operations for many more summers to come.

Marilyn Gilleberg

Ludington, MI 49431

Mr. Thomas Becker  
Custer, MI 49405-8702

just a note...

Re: Cashed Order  
15. Take Mich. Trans  
take short cut line,  
(DJ)

REF# 90-5-1-1-10 771

I am very much in favor  
of your opinion with the  
Baldern. <sup>Thanks</sup> Tom F Becker Esq.  
P.S. I do think the reason  
Camp & Henry in Mr. Cashed should  
be a high priority.

RE: CASE NUMBER  
D.J. REF. NO. 90-5-1-1-10771  
CASE NAME: U.S. V. LAKE MICHIGAN TRANS-LAKE SHORTCUT

To whom it may concern,

I would like to comment on the Consent Decree Lake Michigan Carferry has signed and submitted to you and the EPA.

I hope the Decree will be approved, and that the S.S. Badger will be allowed to sail for many years to come.

My fiance and I have been making annual round trips on the ferry since 1994.

We feel our vacation starts the moment our feet step onto this historic ship. The unique experience never gets old for us. We feel lucky to have this opportunity come to our shore every summer. The alternative would be to drive around the lake, through Chicago, adding 250 miles to our drive and gasoline consumption.

and I know that automotive vehicles using fossil fuels, including the Lake Express ferry from Milwaukee, which uses 4 large diesel engines that filter its exhaust through

the lake water, and all the coal fired generating plants have added more mercury to the air and all lakes through rainfall, than one ship that only sails 5 months per year.

I also feel that Senator Dick Durbin of Illinois comment of the S-S. Badger being "the filthiest ship on the lake, and that everyone should be outraged," to be personal, extreme, and ill-informed. Being the only ship of its kind on the Great Lakes, I would be more accurate in saying, its the cleanest coal-fired ship on the Lake. and that is what I truly feel.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Matt Goebel

**Matthias Goebel**

Germantown, WI 53022

Just a Note . . .

April 18, 2013

Regarding:

United States v Lake Michigan  
From Lake Shortcut Inc

Ref # 90-5-1-1-10771

DJ

Please fight to save our car  
ferry. It has great history  
supplies jobs & brings money  
into our town of Ludington

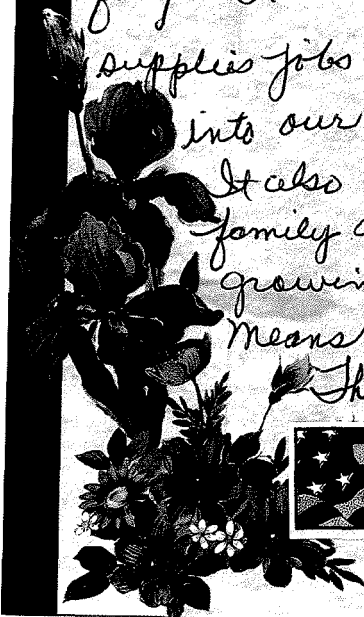
It also supported my  
family as they were  
growing up. It  
means a lot to me.

Thank You



**Karen Craig**

Ludington, MI 49431-9512



*Paul R. Steimle*

[REDACTED]  
Holland, Michigan 49423

April 15, 2013

*Assistant Attorney General  
U.S. DOJ-ENRD  
P.O. Box 7611  
Washington, DC 20044-7611*

*Case Name: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc.,  
d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger*

*Dear Mr. Attorney General:*

*For me it is important for the SS Badger to stay in operation. It is important for me, living in West Michigan, to connect with my daughter who lives in Manitowoc, Wisconsin. It saves me from having to drive through Chicago or a long drive through the Upper Peninsula.*

*Sincerely,*

*Paul R. Steimle*

Assistant Attorney General U.S. DOJ-ENRD  
P.O. Box 7611  
Washington, D.C. 20044-7611

DJ Ref. 90-5-1-1-10771  
United States v Lake Michigan  
Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc  
dba Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

I am writing to support the continued seasonal service of the SS Badger on Lake Michigan from Ludington, MI to Manitowoc, WI.

The Badger is a huge contributor to life in the Great Lakes and is most important to the economy of the western Michigan community of Ludington and the surrounding area because of the jobs it provides and the tourism that it generates to an otherwise limited economy. The Badger has been an important part of the maritime heritage of Lake Michigan for over 100 years.

I understand the Badger is progressing with plans to end discharge and they will. Please allow a more reasonable period of time to complete their plan and **DO NOT CLOSE DOWN THE BADGER.**

The Badger is an iconic part of life on the Lakes and should be preserved.

Thank you,



Eloise Vaughan

██████████  
Ludington, MI 49431

April 16<sup>th</sup> 2013

Dear Sir,

Relative to United States v Lake Michigan  
Trans Lake Shortcut Inc. DJ Ref: No.  
90-5-1-1-10 771.

Please allow the S.S. Badger Consent Decree to go forward. It means so much to us and our community. It is the last of the great fleets of ferries that have crossed Lake Michigan. It is nominated as a National Historical Landmark. What a thrill that is for all of us here in Ludigon. It is still very much a workin' ferry plus a huge tourist attraction, which helps support the economy here and the surrounding area. It employs hundreds of people here, and in Wisconsin, who rely on it jobs and the millions of dollars it brings from tourist + industry.

Ludigon has been home to Cross Lake ferries since 1874. It is the only one left. It is one of a kind. It attracts 100,000 passengers a year. Semi trucks use it to get across the Lake its shorter and saves on lots of gas. Its a win, win situation for them. They have been using the Badger to bring hundreds of wind turbine components across the Lake. If they had to travel the highways it would have created congestion + more pollution.

Before this, the Badger has always been in compliance with the EPA. It has



always been within the limits set forth by the EPA standards. The mercury that they discharge in the coal ash has always been way under the amount allowed.

A few years ago a Car ferry, the Lake Express, got a federal grant to build and operate a ferry out of Muskegon. They have been one of the biggest voices against the Badger. They said that they would not be in competition with the Badger but of course they are. By eliminating the Badger, who has high standards and has been around forever, they would have no competition.

The Great Lakes has been polluted for years by sewage overflows from Wisconsin & Chicago. This is still being allowed until 2029. Our beaches here and other western Michigan beaches have been polluted by this, but they have been allowed to do this.

Senator Dick Durbin D of Illinois has written in newspapers and on television criticizing the permit and making statements that are way off base, and asking people to write in against the permit. He has not mentioned that the industrial waste, pollution & medical waste that comes across Lake Michigan from Milwaukee to Chicago and into Indiana are much worse, and more harmful to us, in Michigan than the very small, allowable amounts from the ferry. We are the ones who suffer. Why doesn't he ask the EPA to fix that issue.

We love the Great Lakes and of course we want it to be free and clear of all pollution.

Please, for the people of Ludington, who really, really love the Badger, please allow it to continue bringing adventures an 2 miles to thousands of people. The pride that we all get, watching it come into port, and blowing its whistle, the sense of excitement that it brings, you just can't put it into words. Please don't take this away. Its something not many towns get to experience. If allowed to continue, I am sure that it will live up to the rules that you have put forth.

Thank you for reading this

Sandra Nellis  
Ludington Mi  
Renee Johnson  
Scottville

Judith B Stouder

[REDACTED]  
Ludington, MI 49431

April 18, 2013

Assistant Attorney General

USDOJ-ENRD

PO Box 7611, Washington, DC 20044-7611

Re: United States v Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc.,

DJ Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Dear Decision Makers:

This is to support the proposed Consent Decree between the EPA and Lake Michigan Carferry (LMC) regarding the SS Badger. The Consent Decree provides an opportunity to prevent a needless tragedy, the cessation of operations of the Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut. Continuing the Badger's service provides immeasurable benefit

First, I call the closure "needless" because there is no real or demonstrated harm to Lake Michigan caused by the ferry. This is an historic vessel. At one time there were dozens of such coal-fired steam ships plying the Great Lakes. No one has ever claimed or demonstrated through many decades of service of those ships, that the lakes were in any way hurt. The Badger, the last remaining of a once great fleet, is no more harmful than all those others. We're discussing a single ship working a short season compared to many ships working year-round. There was no harm then and is dramatically less possible harm now.

Second, I use the word "tragedy" because stopping the Badger would be just that. The loss of jobs on both sides of the Lake Michigan could be crippling to two small towns. Lost jobs in an economy with all too many lost jobs increases unemployment and its accompanying social deterioration. Use of taxpayer paid benefits increases and the entire economy suffers. A usable, efficient, needed shortcut across the lake would be destroyed. A beached, decaying vessel sitting in a harbor like a rotting carcass would be terribly sad.

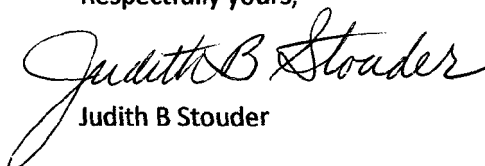
Benefits of continuing the service are numerous. The boat carries freight from Wisconsin to Mid-Michigan, including many wind turbine parts. Without the boat, that freight would be hauled on

trucks through the highways around Chicago, across the top of Indiana and into and through Southern Michigan. The fuel savings and accompanying pollution outweigh any possible harm caused by the boat. The boat provides an opportunity for its passengers to enjoy an historic, educational adventure. It is like having an ocean cruise (the boat travels entirely outside sight of any land) right here in the middle of America. These kinds of benefits cannot be measured.

Finally, it's necessary for me to address the complaints from Senator Durbin of Illinois. It's particularly annoying to have "environmental" complaints from the Senator representing the urban areas of Northern Illinois which cause serious air pollution which is carried across the lake to Ludington. We have troublesome air here, especially in the summers, which is not of our own making at all, but entirely attributable to Illinois and the expansive urban areas surrounding Chicago. Pollution from the vehicle traffic of Illinois, delivered here thanks to prevailing westerly winds, exceeds greatly any potential environmental damage from the Badger.

Thank you for giving consideration to these points.

Respectfully yours,



Judith B Stouder

April 19, 2013

Assistant Attorney General  
U S D O J – ENRD  
P. O. Box 7611  
Washington D. C. 20044

Dear Sirs,

We are writing this in support of the continued operation of the S. S. Badger. Please reference case number 90-5-1-1-10771 in the case of the United States v Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Short Cut INC. dba Lake Michigan Car Ferry Services & the S.S. Badger.

The Badger is the last remnant of a much larger cross lake system that has been in existence for over 100 years. It is the only remaining steam powered ship on the Great Lakes and has been a vital component to the tourism in the greater Ludington area.

Ludington only survives on its tourism and the Badger is an enormous part of that tourism. Not only does the Badger bring over 100,000 people through our community each summer but thousands come to watch it leave and enter our Harbor. It is the essences of Ludington!!

The two year extension requested will allow time to further study and implement a new more 'GREEN' form of power.

We personally think, however, that the historic value of the last remaining steam ship of the thousands that worked the great lakes in times past, should carry much more weight than it seems to, but that aside this community, especially in these tough times, cannot survive a blow of this magnitude to its fragile economy.

Thanks in advance for your careful consideration in this vital matter.

Respectfully,

John Jr. and Catherine Goetgeluck

Apr 24, 2013

Regarding: United States v. Lake  
Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc.  
OJ Ref No. 90-5-1-1-10771

I am writing in support of the  
consent decree the Environmental  
Protection Agency and Lake Michigan  
Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc have  
agreed upon.

The SS Badger is a major part  
of Ludington's economy. Many  
people have been to our city  
to come or go across Lake  
Michigan to Manitowac, Wisc.  
Many return because they  
want to see more of Ludington  
and spend time here.

I have lived in Ludington MI.  
all my life (64 yrs) and I've

never heard of any problem with contaminants in our water caused by the carferries. We had three (3) ferries running for many years. No one got sick when swimming in the lake or have any drinking water problems.

We get a lot of contaminated garbage from Chicago & Milwaukee that cause problems along the lakeshore.

In the overall scope of threats, the Badger poses a very small threat to Lake Michigan. Let the plan that's in the consent decree, agreed upon by the EPA and the Badger's owners, resolve the perceived threat, the coal ash discharge.

Nichola Tominski  
[REDACTED]  
Ludington MI 49431

April 16, 2013

Assistant Attorney General

DOJ - ENRD

P.O. Box 7611

Washington, D. C. 20044-7611

Subj: SS Badger Consent Decree

This letter is in support of the continuation of SS Badger operations under the DOJ Consent Decree.

As a Washington Island resident, ferry captain and one involved with ferry operations on a daily basis, it is my opinion the general public will be best served with continued operation of the Badger. The Badger's operations, in turn, are helpful to the economy of Michigan and Wisconsin. A Consent Decree as proposed will extend the ability of the Badger organization to fully explore the options for conversion to a different fuel source.

There are many elements involved changeover to a new fuel source, and those changes may require modification of Federal Regulations for vessel operations, which in turn relate to the public interest in terms of vessel safety and reliability, and meeting emission standards. It is important the Badger continues as a viable transportation business during this period when research and development for positive change are underway.

During its operation in the meantime, the Badger management and crews have worked closely with EPA to ensure they are doing the best possible, bearing in mind that some day a change-over can and will be made to a different fuel. Operations will continue to be monitored closely by EPA and others, as they have been in the past.



The Badger is fully supported by its customer base as a privately operated ferry transportation company. That alone is admirable, because we see many examples across our nation of ferry transportation routes (and other modes) that rely on federal grants dollars for start-up, and then annually rely on the infusion of federal dollars to continue service.

Private enterprise is alive and well in the Badger, and its people – employees, customers and taxpayers in general – deserve support now from the DOJ, EPA and other, related governmental agencies.

There is no question that in the Badger's wake is important history and economic benefit. The Badger must be supported now because its operation is in the public interest.

Sincerely,



Richard Purinton



Washington Island, Wisconsin 54246

Assistant Attorney General

Environmental & Natural Resources Division

Case #: D. J. Ref. No-90-5-1-1-10771

Case Name: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc.  
d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

We need the continued service of the SS Badger carferry that sails between Manitowish, WI & Ludington, MI.

I respectfully ask that the court approve of the Consent Decree to keep this carferry moving 100,000 passengers, thousands of miles saved for truckers who haul a fo variety of needed products, which in all brings an estimated \$35 million to this area which has lost almost all of its major manufacturing base.

I've witnessed carferry service for over 50 yrs. (when we once had fine boats sailing 24 hr. a day) and firmly believe the coal ash has not done damage to this lake. The fishing industry never suffered until man started introducing other fish & other things to this lake, meaning ash is not the cause of what the EPA says it is. (It's a natural product, returning in a neutral way, back to nature.)

I've heard people say that they get dizzy or sea sick when they take the faster ferry out of Milwaukee, WI and they are grateful for the S.S. Badger. So many of them cross from Michigan to go to Door County, WI, Green Bay, WI. or onto Minnesota and they appreciate the less congestion coming into Manitowish, WI

As for the EPA - we all know it started out as a

very good organization & has now been "invaded" by radical  
beings who stir up untrue things to 'attack'. They make  
up figures, they exaggerate, & they tell outright lies & throw  
all this at whomever they are 'attacking' & the recipient  
needs to proof or disproof what they say. See a news-  
letter, "Judicial Watch", to read about the many law suits  
against the EPA for the falsities they spread.

Please approve the Consent Decree,

Jane Doe  
Ordinary Citizen  
Manitowish, WI 54220

PUBCOMMENT-EES.ENRD@USDOJ.GOV  
D.J.REF. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

April 18, 2013

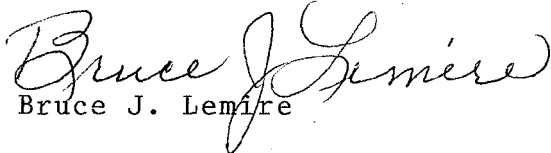
U.S. v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake  
Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan  
Carferry Services and SS Badger

To whom it may concern:

I would like to make a few comments about the damage?? the SS Badger is doing to Lake Michigan.

I have lived in Ludington all my life (81 yrs.) except for four years in the Air Force and college. I was employed at the Ludington Water Plant from 1962 to 1994. When I first started working, we had seven carferries shipping freight to Milwaukee, Keewanee, and Manitowoc. Also, Grand Trunk Lines had boats shipping freight to Keewanee and Manitowoc. My point is, if the Badger is doing so much damage to the lake how is it that those eight or nine boats didn't turn the lake into a cesspool??? The biggest concern is turbidity in the water. Granted the ash does make turbidity but most of it settles out to the bottom. I'll bet if you checked the water plants on Lake Michigan, you would find the turbidity levels would be within EPA requirements. Chicago and Milwaukee dump more raw sewage into the lake than anything else.

I would like to thank you for letting us make our comments on the consent decree

  
Bruce J. Lemire

4-24-13

Assistant Attorney General

U.S. DOJ-ENRD

P.O. Box 7611

Washington, D.C. 20044-7611

Case No. D.J. Ref. NO. 90-5-1-1-10771

Case Name is: United States v. Lake Michigan

Trans-Lake Shuttle, Inc.

d/b/a Lake Michigan Car ferry services & SS Badger

I feel the Consent Decree should be approved.

The S.S. Badger is an asset to our economy.

I have used the Badger & also have our

family. Please let it continue to be in service.

Sincerely,

Arlene M Olson

Manitowoc, WI 54220-3447

[REDACTED]  
Manitowoc, Wi.

54220

April 25, 2013

Assistant Attorney General  
US DOJ-ENRD  
P.O. BOX 7611  
Washington D.C. 20044-7611

Dear Asst Attorney General:

This letter is being written in support of the S.S. Badger. It needs to continue sailing for many reasons.

The amount of pollution in the air it saves by transporting hundreds of cars & trucks across the lake instead of the long drive around Chicago is astronomical. Consider also the thousands of gallons of gasoline saved, plus the many miles saved by the cars & trucks by driving fewer miles.

Then too, the economy of the Manitowoc & Ludington ~~areas~~ needs to be considered. In these tough times we can't afford to lose more jobs and the income involved.

Please consider all this.

Sincerely,  
Robert J. Nelson



4-24-13

Assistant Attorney General, U.S.  
DOJ-ENRD, PO Box 7611  
Washington-DC 20044-7611

Dear Sirs

On reference to United States Lake  
Michigan Translake ~~Inc~~ Short Cut, Inc,  
D.J. Ref No. 90-5-1-1-10771.

This car ferry operation employs  
many people. Many more benefit from  
its operation, and is a big boost for the  
economy of Ludington MI and Manatwoc  
Wis.


also it is a short cut to Wis. It  
especially is a must to me as I am,  
an amputee and need to go to ways  
at times.

Please reconsider this operation for its  
necessity. Thank you.

Torfe Gedraitis

April 4, 20013

TO: Assistant Attorney  
U.S. DOJ-ENRD  
P.O. Box 7611  
Washington, DC 20044-7611

FM: Gary G Russell   
914 Emerald Drive  
Alexandria, VA 22308

RE: Lake Michigan Carferry- EPA Proposed Consent Decree Concerning SS Badger

The attached comments were sent via e-mail on both April 2 and April 3, but were not accepted by your server. I understand that others have encountered this problem as well. Please accept the attached as part of the record and give my comments your serious attention. Thank you.



**From:** Gary Russell [REDACTED]**To:** ees.enrd <ees.enrd@usdoj.gov>**Bcc:** [REDACTED]**Subject:** Proposed Consent Decree D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-1071**Date:** Tue, Apr 2, 2013 8:49 pm

---

I am writing to express my strong support for the proposed consent decree that addresses United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771. In my view, the Consent Decree offers a reasonable solution to this long-ongoing controversy.

As a resident of Virginia for over 40 years, I have no personal financial stake, directly or indirectly, in the Badger's continued operation. However, as a Michigan native and frequent visitor, I am very familiar with the area, the specific issues involved, and have followed the history of the Badger since it was built. This issue involves important aspects of preserving significant historical traditions, maintaining a vital economy, and ensuring a quality environment. The Consent Decree without question satisfactorily addresses all of these.

The Badger is a living history lesson to current and future generations, the Ludington area economy would be devastated by losing the Badger-generated revenue, and the containment of all coal ash by 2015 puts an end to any environmental concerns (voiding any issue of their legitimacy or magnitude).

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to express my strongly held position on this important issue. I fervently hope that all those involved in the decision-making process will look at the "big picture" and take the sensible route that goes in a direction that is best for all involved.

*Donald J. Scherer*

[REDACTED]  
Barnhart, Missouri 63012

Phone [REDACTED]

April 4, 2013

*Assistant Attorney General  
Environment and Natural Resources Division  
US DOJ-ENRD  
P.O. Box 7611  
Washington, DC 20044-7611*

*Case # D.J. Ref. No 90-5-1-1-10771*

*Case Name: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc. dba  
Lake Michigan Carferry Services and S.S. Badger*

*Dear Sir:*

*The purpose of this letter is to explain the importance of the SS Badger both as an economic engine for both port cities and the importance of preserving a working museum of steam technology. Although pleased that a tentative agreement was reached, I strongly believe that after 100 years or more of coal powered vessels traversing the Great Lakes with no obvious deterioration to water quality, the small amount of coal ash discharged during such a short season from only one steamship would have been a non-issue had it not been for the scheming of an unscrupulous competitor.*

*The Badger is the primary reason for my personal vacation travel each year to the states of Michigan and Wisconsin. My family and I spend nights on each side of Lake Michigan and cross on the Badger at least once a year and sometimes more often. When I am staying at motels in the port cities I am always impressed just how many fellow Badger travelers I see. While in the port cities we, like other Badger passengers, visit the restaurants and other points of interest and of course add to their economy.*

*As you know, the Badger is the last coal & steam powered passenger vessel on Lake Michigan and represents the last of that technology. Here in Missouri we have museums containing steam trains from a previous time but unfortunately they simply sit as static exhibits. The fact that the Badger continues to provide cross lake service while using technology that anywhere else is only a static display is nothing short of miraculous.*

*Although I understand that currently the EPA can only consider possible water pollution for the permit in question, the Badger actually saves much pollution and traffic congestion by allowing cars, trucks, and even wind turbines to cut across Lake Michigan rather than the congested routes around Chicago. Since the agreement reached requires the Badger to be retrofitted for ash capture within two years, I can only hope that those making the final decision will come to the realization that allowing this ship two more years for engineering and designing the ash capture system is the only fair decision to all concerned.*

*Sincerely,*

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Donald G. Scherer".

*Donald G. Scherer*

# Opinion

## THOUGHT FOR TODAY

'Be not afraid of greatness: some are born great, some achieve greatness, and some have greatness thrust upon them.'

From Act II, scene five of "Twelfth-Night,"  
by William Shakespeare (1564-1616)

A4 LUDINGTON DAILY NEWS TUESDAY, APRIL 23, 2013

www.ludingtondailynews.com

MANAGING EDITOR: STEVE BEGNOCHE | 843-1122 x 326 | sbegnoche@ludingtondailynews.com

## Some ideas for commenting on EPA-LMC consent decree

The Friday, April 26 deadline is approaching for comments to the Department of Justice concerning the proposed consent decree between the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and Lake Michigan Carferry that would allow LMC two years to quit discharging into Lake Michigan coal ash from the SS Badger. Some supporters have asked for an idea of what to write in such comments. Feel free to use what follows in your comments or as a guide.

**IN REGARDS** to United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771:

The Environmental Protection Agency and Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., have reached an agreement embodied in a consent decree that will accomplish the environmental protection goals of the EPA and preserve the 200 direct jobs provided by Lake Michigan Carferry Service through operation of the SS Badger.

What's most important about the proposed consent decree is that Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut (LMC) is agreeing to end

### OUR VIEW EDITORIAL

the coal ash discharge from the Badger before 2015. During the two sailing seasons being given to accomplish this, the Badger must reduce, on per-day averages, coal combusted and ash discharged. These are important concessions that forward and ultimately accomplish the EPA's goal of preventing the ash from being put into Lake Michigan.

The economic benefit of the SS Badger to Ludington, Michigan, and Manitowoc, Wisconsin should not be ignored. The carferry is a vital part of the local economy, one that is still struggling through years of economic downturn. The 200 direct jobs and hundreds of other indirect ones attributed to the carferry provide needed employment and cash into businesses.

The historical importance of the Badger should be considered. That's not the EPA's primary concern, but the more than a century long heritage of cross-lake carferry

the Ludington community as lobstering is to Maine or the stock exchange is to Wall Street. The EPA should give the time needed to ensure this heritage can continue.

The Badger is the last coal-fired, steam-powered vessel on the Great Lakes and in the United States, so this is a practice as close to extinction as can be. There are disagreements as to how bad the coal ash discharge is, but what can't be argued, is it will go away under this agreement.

Two sailing seasons — 21 months — is a reasonable amount of time for the owners to design, build and prepare to retain coal ash on board. This has never been done on a vessel of the Badger's size and the retention system, once designed, will likely undergo great scrutiny before being put in to use. This likely will be a one-and-only solution. To require a speedier stop to coal ash discharge could compromise finding the best and safest design and could put the Badger out of business at great economic harm to two communities to accomplish something that will be accomplished within two years. The pro-

posed timeline is reasonable; anything less is unreasonable.

When one considers the minute amount of mercury at hand, approximately a seventh of an ounce discharged by the Badger over an entire season, and compares that to the other sources of mercury entering the atmosphere and ultimately Lake Michigan, it seems, if anything, the Badger is being unfairly singled out when others are being permitted to introduce far more mercury into the ecosystem. Mercury is a serious concern with serious repercussions, to the ecosystem, to wildlife, fish and people who populate the region. This proposed consent decree more than appropriately deals with what little threat the Badger presents.

Some, including Sen. Dick Durbin of Illinois, are pressing for changes to the proposed consent decree claiming to want to preserve Lake Michigan from further harm. Does the Senator exert as much pressure — any pressure? — to have the EPA force faster cleanup of Illinois sources of lake contamination, which are far more extensive than the SS Badger? Combined sewer overflows, mer-

cury and other industrial emissions, the threat of Asian carp entering the Great Lakes from the canals of Chicago are three far more serious threats to the lake found in Sen. Durbin's home district. The EPA should ignore Sen. Durbin's pressure.

Ultimately, what's most important is the consent decree, as written, is a workable agreement to reach the environmental goals of the EPA in a timely manner that does not cause unnecessary and unwanted economic harm to the communities that rely on the Badger as part of their economies. Michigan's U.S. Senators, Carl Levin and Debbie Stabenow, have cited support for the proposed consent decree based on those same reasons.

In the overall scope of threats, the Badger poses a small threat to Lake Michigan and there's a plan embodied in the consent decree, agreed to by the EPA and the ferry's owners, to resolve that perceived threat, the coal ash discharge.

The consent decree, as written, should be approved. The EPA can then look at far more serious issues.

Jerry & Jeannie Linstrom  
Ludington, MI 49431

*Jerry Linstrom*

*Jeannie Linstrom*

[REDACTED]  
Ludington Mi 49431  
April 4, 2013

Assistant Attorney General,  
U.S. DOJ-ENR  
P.O. Box 7611  
Washington, D.C. 20044-7611

Re: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc.,  
D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-1076.

Dear Sir,

The LS Badger is a beloved ship giving the people of the Ludington area and beyond employment and viable, affordable transportation to and from Manitowish & Ludington, as well as to further destinations. The city of Manitowish, Wisconsin also benefits economically and socially from the operation of the S.S. Badger.

I firmly believe that the federal court should accept the proposed consent decree between the EPA and the LS Badger. The LMC will abide by the conditions set forth by the EPA to obtain the 15% reduction in coal ash as required as the LMC has proven to take seriously its' commitment to our community and the one across the lake.

When our country is finally coming out of the doldrums of the past few years we need to encourage business not condemn it as Illinois Senator Dick Durbin has so actively distorted and criticized the LS Badger.

Sincerely yours,

Nancy L. Anderson

Assistant Attorney General  
U.S. DOJ - E.M.R.D.  
PO Box 761  
Washington, DC 20044-7611

April 3, 2013

RE: United States v Lake Michigan Trans Lake Shortcut Inc.  
Docket No: 90-5-1-1-10771

The Badger (Canfer) should continue to run.  
Those that oppose only have political reasons at heart.  
Statistically the Badger releases very little pollution.  
In exchange, the Badger lowers pollution from  
seminis who use it as a shortcut. Currently  
wind turbines are being transported to  
avoid being trucked around Chicago.

Please Save Our Ships!!

Robert Gillies

[REDACTED]  
Ludington, Mi 49431

ph. [REDACTED]

April 3, 2013

Re: United States v. Lake Michigan  
Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc.  
D.J. Ref. No 90-5-1-1-10721

Yes to the Consent Decree.

You are being fair as fair can be  
for allowing the SS Badger to operate  
on Lake Michigan waters for the next  
couple of seasons.

The Badger in all its glory crossings  
is such a welcomed sight for us  
in the Ludington port as well as  
employing a lot of people and hauling  
machinery and equipment on its  
decks to supply companies for from  
this shore.

What I like best is just having this  
valuable ship running and having it  
connected to us here in Ludington, Mich.

Sincerely  
Barbara Miller

04/02/2013

Re: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc.  
D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

As a resident that lives on the East shore of Lake Michigan, we want our beautiful lake water and shorelines to be as pure from pollutants as possible. As we understand it, the pollutants that come from dumping the coal ash from the Badger into Lake Michigan is minimal and within the EPA's standards.

It appears that there are many other ways that the lake is being polluted that are far worse. For example, the raw sewage that comes into the lake after rain storms or from dumping, the dumping of ballast water by ships that enter the lake via the St. Lawrence Seaway, the garbage that washes up on our shores from the Illinois side (including, but not limited to medical waste), and the invasive species of plants and animals that enter through the Chicago Canal.

This, by far, is more of a detriment to our lake than the dumping of ash by the Badger. We would like the committee to give the badger the two years to make provisions to revamp the vessel so they can continue to operate. The rich history of the Carferry is a gem in this community and provides pleasure to many people from Michigan and other states as well. It also provides economic security to many people, both in Michigan and Wisconsin.

Sincerely,

Brad and Marilyn Zylman  
[REDACTED]  
Ludington, MI 49431



ATTORNEY GENERAL

MY COMMENT'S TO YOU ABOUT THE  
CAFFETTY, THE S.S. BUDGET.

AFTER 2 MORE YEARS I EXPECT A  
DEFINITE STOP OF DUMPING COAL ASH  
INTO LAKE MICHIGAN.

PUTTING A TANK IN THE CAFFETTY TO  
CATCH COAL ASH AND COOLING IT  
WITH WATER AND PUMPING THE  
COAL ASH SLURRY WITH A SLURRY  
PUMP INTO A HOLDING TANK IN  
EACH PORT. LUDINGTON AND MARITONAC  
SHOULD HAVE BEEN DONE YEARS AGO.

LMC SAYS WE DIDN'T DEAG OUR FEET.

DID THEY HAVE A REAL PLAN ON  
HOW TO HANDLE COAL ASH 6 MONTHS  
AGO?

SLURRY PUMPS ARE BUILT EVERY  
DAY OF THE YEAR AND THEY WORK.

LAKE MICHIGAN HAS HAD COAL ASH  
DUMPED INTO IT FOR OVER 125 YEARS  
IT IS TIME TO STOP.

Sincerely

John H. Mancary  
Free Soil MI



**Big Ship, More Fun, Best Value!**

Assistant Attorney General  
Environmental and Natural Resources Division  
U.S. DOJ - ENRD  
P.O. Box 7611  
Washington, DC 20044-7611

I was born in Muskegon, MI. I started riding the car ferries back in the 50s with my parents and brothers to visit relatives at Garfield, MN. This was the birth place of my father. We rode on three different ships over the years. In 1958, my parents moved to the Iron Range in Minnesota. My family still continued to ride the ships but this time, back to Michigan. My parents are gone now but my wife and I still enjoy riding on the car ferry on Lake Michigan, when we have the opportunity. I still have relatives who live in Muskegon, MI, and the trip is a real delight. Driving around Chicago is no fun and the boat ride makes the trip back home to Michigan a great experience. I plan to take the ship to Michigan this summer (2013) to see my brother, aunts, uncles and many cousins. The ship's crew are so nice and make the trip enjoyable. I hope this experience never goes away. It is one tradition that needs to be supported and kept afloat.

Bob and Melody Melin

[REDACTED]  
Byron, MN 55920  
[REDACTED]

Asst. Attorney General  
U. S. DOJ-ENRD

P.O. Box 7611

Washington, D.C. 20044-7611

APRIL 3, 2013

Asst Attorney General,

I was pleased to read that differences between the EPA and the continuous operation of the S.S. Badger out of Ludington, Michigan are being resolved in the proposed consent decree, the United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771.

The group of people involved in maintaining this vital service have done a sincere and excellent job of retaining operations between Ludington, Mi. and Manitowoc, Wis.

The major subject of this decree concerns the discharge of coal ash in Lake Michigan. Actually the ash itself is basically inert and contains only minute amounts of contaminants. The Illinois Senator Dick Durbin's accusations are completely out-of-order, and if his interests are truly the quality of Lake Michigan water, he should first look at the contents of the draining discharge into Lake Michigan by his state of Illinois and the other neighboring states.

The Badger ferry service not only provides a significant employment opportunity in Michigan and Wisconsin, but it is also a positive force in reducing our overall gasoline and diesel consumption of cars, trucks, and semi-trailers as well as providing the convenience of the travel shortcut.

However I find difficulty in the justification of the \$25,000 fine imposed as a civil penalty on a beneficial service like this.

Sincerely,

Richard R. Brezinski

April 4, 2013

Assistant Attorney General  
U.S. DOJ - ENRD  
P.O. Box 7611  
Washington, D.C. 20044-7611

Dear Sir:

In reference to: *Reference Case Number:* D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771;  
*Case Name:* US v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut Inc.  
d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and S.S.  
Badger,

let me offer these comments to keep the Badger sailing:

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE

Now in its 60<sup>th</sup> year of service, the Badger is a Ludington/Manitowoc insitution, attracting each sailing season, tens of thousands of tourists, vacationers and general travelers from all over the country. To lose this bit of Americana would be a devastating blow to both Michigan and Wisconsin.

LOCAL/ECONOMIC SIGNIFICANCE

Being a Michigan resident for 36 years, I know that the name Ludington, Michigan (as well as Manitowoc, Wisconsin) has been inextricably linked to our beloved ship, S.S. Badger. To lose the Badger would be a blow to our people whose local economy has depended on the operation of this ship. Jobs will be lost; businesses will close if the Badger ceases to operate.

PRACTICAL SIGNIFICANCE

In addition to the obvious economic benefits derived, the sailing of the Badger offers the shortest and most practical way for travelers to the states east and west of Lake Michigan. Without the Badger many travelers will be forced to go the land route, north or south, around Lake Michigan.

COMMERCIAL SIGNIFICANCE

The Badger is used by many truckers to haul their freights east and west, including huge windmill components, in order to avoid highway travel around Lake Michigan.

Finally, IT'S A BEAUTIFUL SHIP AND LOTS OF FUN! For all these reasons PLEASE SAVE OUR BELOVED SHIP!

Sincerely



Walter W. Teske

[REDACTED]  
Ludington, Mi 49431

Assistant Attorney General  
Environmental and Natural Resources Division  
Washington DC 20044-7611

Subject: Case Number D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771  
United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc.  
d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry

I support approval of the agreement reached between the Environmental Protection Agency and Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc regarding continued operation of the S.S. Badger carferry on Lake Michigan. Keep the Badger running - it's the last of its kind and a great reminder of our maritime past on the Great Lakes.

Sincerely,  
Patricia M. Hunter

MRS. JOAN WASIELEWSKI

Dear E.P.A.

Please stop the S.S.  
Badger from polluting  
Lake Michigan!

Subject  
Case No.

D.J. REF. NO. 90-5-1-1-10771

Sincerely,

Joan Wasielewski

Please, Please keep  
us safe from pollution!  
we drink Lake Michigan  
water!



B



USA

FOREVER

X-RAY™

APR 25 2013

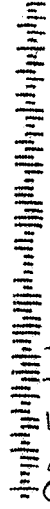
DOJ MAIL ROOM

Assistant Atty General  
Environmental & Nat Res Div

Po Box 71011

Washington DC 20044-71011

© 2011 USPS recycled



Ref Case # 90-5-1-1-10771

Ref Case# 90-5-1-1-10 11

It is very important  
for the Badger Car Ferry  
to continue service between  
Manitowoc, WI and Ludington, Michigan  
Vote to continue its service

Dot Cyranek

Manitowoc, Wisconsin 54840 3128



(4-22-13)

Dear Sirs

In reference to case - United States v Lake Michigan Trans Lake Shortcut, one D.T. Ref No 90-5-1-1-10771 I would like to submit my opinion on this matter, I very much support the consent degree. Please keep the heritage of car ferry service here in Ludington Michigan.

The economic benefit to both Ludington Mi, and Manitowish Wis, and the 200 plus jobs should not be taken lightly.

The owners of LMC have only good intentions of rectifying the problem. Please give them the time to do so!

If the government really wants to clean up the Great Lakes, it should start with the freighters from other countries entering the Great Lakes and dumping their bilge tanks containing invasive species in our fresh water and slowly destroying our sport fishing and underwater environment. This has been going on for 40 years now, why does that get swept under the carpet.

Thank You  
Gordon Greene  
Ludington Mi 49431

Good Day

United States v Lake Michigan  
Trans-Lake In-DS Ref No  
90-5-1-10771, I don't  
support the decree. They have  
had a lot of time to correct  
this problem. If we don't stop  
now what will Lake Michigan  
be in 50 years

Thank You  
Charles Sobarske

[REDACTED]  
Lud. MI 49431

April, 2013

Assistant Attorney General  
U.S. DOT-EWRD  
P.O. Box 7611  
Washington, DC 20044-7611

Montenap<sup>s</sup>

This letter is to advise you that we are in support of the proposed consent decree between the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Lake Michigan Car ferry (LMC) which operates the S.S. Badger.

We are the 2<sup>nd</sup> generation to see the Badger for cross lake, & at this time, 2 more generations of our family have used it too! We hope soon, our 5<sup>th</sup> generation (great-grandchildren) will have the opportunity to take advantage of a ride on this wonderful ship.

We do not know the owner personally, so we do not have a stake in their operation of the Badger.

We believe if you were in this area, & took a ride, you would really enjoy the trip & scenery.

When the Badger makes trips across the Lake people on both sides, (Michigan & Wisconsin) line the shore line daily to watch it leave & return.

Also, there are hundreds of people working on

The Budget from both States, + in today's high  
unemployment, that in itself is a good thing.

Hopefully, this proposed consent agree-  
ment will be a good positive step toward a  
very long term solution for our ship (BANKERS)  
to keep another generation of our family (for  
Selenia, Monica, + I families from the State  
of Washington to have the opportunity to take  
a ride on our historic ship.

Thank you for taking time to ~~read~~<sup>read</sup> this +  
hopefully consider the Agreement positively.

Respectfully + Sincerely

Babs Law RASC #

[REDACTED]  
Luedington, MI 49431

**Robert L. Erickson**  
[REDACTED]  
**Ludington, MI 49431**

Assistant Attorney General, U.S.  
DOJ-ENRD. P.O. BOX 7611  
Washington, D2004=7611

Dear Sir:

I have been a resident of Ludington, Michigan for almost 90 Years, my birth date in Ludington was July 9, 1923.

My only time living away was my time of service in the Armed Forces during World War II. I served in the U.S. Army Air Force and went through Pilot Training and after the training I flew C47's in the European Theatre dropping troops and Gliders in combat zones and ferrying Jerry Cans of Gasoline to Patton's forces as they drove into Germany.

During my early years growing up here in Ludington, I well remember seven Ferry's operating around the clock and supplying much needed jobs for area workers and suppliers.

Ashes have been dropped from these ships into Lake Michigan with no discernable damage to our water in Lake Michigan. After all of these many years, now with only one ship dumping ashes into the lake, there is simply no feasible damage that is discernable. Just compare the volume of water in Lake Michigan and the small volume of ash being discharged and I challenge the EPA to show viable evidence of damage to Lake Michigan.

I believe that one person with money and political clout and most likely money invested in a ship which is in competition is making a lot of noise over nothing.

I reluctantly endorse the LMC consent decree forced on the LMC because of the lack of need for same but I do support the decree under present presentation.

Sincerely,



A Ludington native, has raised a family of 8 children in this area and five of the 8 live with their families in the area. We love Ludington and all of it's environs and resent any false defamation of one of our great assets!

Phone [REDACTED]

E-Mail- [REDACTED]

**THE COMMENTS** should  
refer to United States v.  
Lake Michigan Trans-  
Lake Shortcut, Inc., D.J.  
Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771.

is the email address to the EPA where you can submit your comments on the Consent Decree.

Obviously, we think the Consent Decree should be approved and hope you feel the same. Your comments can be as brief as a few sentences or as detailed as you wish. Please feel free to forward this to your family and friends for their comments as well.

We sincerely appreciate your time in expressing your opinion. We're looking forward to providing great experiences for our passengers in 2013 and many years to come.

*With Appreciation, Lake Michigan Carferry*

**Instructions for commenting on the Consent Decree**

**Comments are to be EMAILED to:** [pubcomment-ees.enrd@usdoj.gov](mailto:pubcomment-ees.enrd@usdoj.gov)

**Reference Case Number - This reference number must be included in subject line**  
D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

**Address to:**  
Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division

**Case Name:**  
United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

*Or Mail to:*  
**Mailing submissions must be received on April 26 - not post marked**

Assistant Attorney general  
U.S. DOJ - ENRD  
P.O. Box 7611  
Washington, DC 20044-7611

**Forward email**



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Lake Michigan Carferry | 701 Maritime Dr. | Ludington | MI | 49431

*We hope the Badger can sail  
and get gas driven in the near  
future. Reference 90-5-1-1-10771  
Sylvia Butts*

**From:** KPParCt <KPParCt@aol.com>

**To:** snowdaddy <snowdaddy@aol.com>; Peter923 <Peter923@msu.edu>; landmgold <landmgold@carrinter.net>; leejudi10 <leejudi10@aol.com>; dmckenzie919 <dmckenzie919@gmail.com>; glmallery <glmallery@gmail.com>; GOFURFUN <GOFURFUN@aol.com>; Sackrison <Sackrison@msn.com>; lemontrucker <lemontrucker@yahoo.com>; gkline <gkline@nycap.rr.com>; jkline919 <jkline919@gmail.com>; shannon.kline <shannon.kline@gmail.com>; pogiedog <pogiedog@charter.net>; Lisa.Loowski <Lisa.Loowski@hubinternational.com>; macarthur.karen <macarthur.karen@gmail.com>; KaufmanMK <KaufmanMK@interlochen.org>; leonbush <leonbush@chartermi.net>; navion <navion@rocketmail.com>; jackarnoldmi <jackarnoldmi@gmail.com>; feyerfly1 <feyerfly1@gmail.com>; hfrasier <hfrasier@myway.com>; tzja <tzja@cox.net>; donpeg14 <donpeg14@ymail.com>; momzink96 <momzink96@aol.com>; Lozuaway <Lozuaway@hotmail.com>; joelucas <joelucas@cox.net>; margomacjames <margomacjames@gmail.com>; mijustus <mijustus@msn.com>; mpcelona <mpcelona@aol.com>; buttscg <buttscg@aol.com>; Buttssj <Buttssj@aol.com>; Buistcece <Buistcece@aol.com>; mdeeq <mdeeq@comcast.net>; lorikeller <lorikeller@gmail.com>; jd hag31 <jdhag31@gmail.com>; nancyengler <nancyengler@msn.com>; wgcski710 <wgcski710@aol.com>; difers <difers@aol.com>

**Subject:** Please support the S.S. Badger (from Petersons)

**Date:** Tue, Apr 23, 2013 1:47 pm

For those of you who have already enjoyed or hope to enjoy a pleasant short cut from Michigan to Wisconsin and to support the economy of both states while avoiding Chicago traffic or the long ride across the Upper Peninsula.....please add your support to this issue. Just a brief statement will help keep the SS Badger in business till they can convert to gas-powered engines. Did you know that the Badger has been busy transporting wind turbine blades across Lake Michigan already this year? Can you imagine those things going through Chicago or across the Mackinac Bridge and UP? Environmental issues can be complicated, but this is a no-brainer. Thanks for your help! Pat & Ken

**From:** [info@ssbadger.com](mailto:info@ssbadger.com)

**To:** [kpparct@aol.com](mailto:kpparct@aol.com)

**Sent:** 4/23/2013 11:26:47 A.M. Eastern Daylight Time

**Subj:** S.S. Badger's Public Comment Period is Open until April 26th



### Commenting Period Open Until April 26.

Lake Michigan Carferry has signed a Consent Decree agreement with the Department of Justice and EPA that requires the SS Badger to end the ash discharge within two years. This agreement is the product of many months of working closely with the EPA. We think that this Consent Decree is the best result under the circumstances. We will continue our path in ending the discharge of coal ash while still serving the public and local communities.

Many of you have already submitted your supportive comments and we thank you for your time and effort. For those of you who still wish to submit comments, provided below



DR. & MRS. LAURENCE E. GALLAGHER  
[REDACTED]  
HARRISON TWP., MICHIGAN 48045

April 17, 2013

Assistant Attorney General,  
U.S. DOJ - ENRD  
P.O. Box 7611  
Washington, DC 20044-7611

Dear Sir,

We are writing this letter to let you know we would like you to support the SS Badger Ferry Service here in Michigan. She is a wonderful ship which does a great service for the people of Michigan, Wisconsin, Illinois and Minnesota and all the mid west + U.S. tourists and travelers. Please support the Ferry Service in this grave Economic time of our country. It is these kind of people who have made this country great and with your help will continue on to provide a great service to the U.S.A.

Thank you.

Dr. & Mrs. Laurence E. Gallagher

Reference case # D.J. Ref. No 90-5-1-1-10771

[REDACTED]  
Bloomfield Hills, Michigan 48304

April 20, 2013

Reference Case Number: D.J. Ref. No.90-5-1-1-10771

Assistant Attorney General  
U.S. DOJ-ENRD  
P.O. Box 7611  
Washington, DC 20044-7611

Dear Sir:

I am writing in support of the consent agreement of United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger, case number D.J.Ref.No.90-5-1-1-10771.

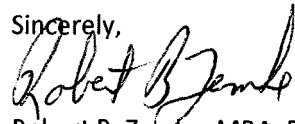
I have a daughter and grandchildren in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Every year in August, I visit the family using the car.

To travel either thru Chicago or the Upper Peninsula of Michigan from the Detroit area, is a long and time consuming event (14 hours).

Using the Badger, shortens the time, but also allows me to enjoy the last of a historical mode of transportation.

The Badger also supports the much need employment in the communities of Ludington, Michigan and Manitowoc.

Sincerely,



Robert B. Zemke, MBA, RD  
Professor Emeritus  
Oakland Community College  
Farmington Hills, Michigan

Cc: Lake Michigan Carferry  
701 Maritime Drive  
Ludington, Michigan 49431

D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

**Case Name:**

**United states v Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc.  
d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger**

**Assistant Attorney General, Environmental & Natural Resources Division**

I was born & raised in Ludington, Mi and about forty years ago moved to Wisconsin. I have traveled many years between the states on the Badger. Now being a senior citizen, I can still visit with my family in Michigan without the fear of driving through Chicago.

I feel the Lake Michigan Express, out of Milwaukee, is really pushing to stop the Badger from running. I have never ridden the Express but have spoken to some people that have. If you are in a hurry it is fine but for a nice relaxing ride the Badger is the way to go. Lake Michigan is big enough to have both boat services.

As for the coal ash, please see the article from April, 17 Milwaukee Journal. No one seems to have a problem dumping wastewater (sewage) in Lake Michigan. We have been down by the water front and the smell is disgusting & the view is not much better.

Please vote in favor of the Badger. A lot of jobs, families & passengers are relying on you to do the right thing.

Thank you

*Barbara Heebler*

# 594 million gallons of wastewater spilled

## Forecast signals more overflow

By **DON BEHM**  
dbehm@journal sentinel.com

As last week's torrential rains overwhelmed regional sewers and the deep tunnel, combined sanitary and storm sewers spilled an estimated 594 million gallons of untreated wastewater to local waterways, Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District officials said Tuesday.

Overflows to rivers and Lake Michigan began April 10 to reduce the risk of sewage backups into basements. Overflows ended Saturday morning as rains eased.

With more rain and thunderstorms in the forecast Wednesday and Thursday, the threat of tunnel-filling storms and overflows will return, said Peter Topczewski, the district's director of water quality protection.

Last week's combined sewer overflows in central Milwaukee and eastern Shorewood were the first in nearly two years.

Total capacity of the main tunnel and northwest side tunnel is 521 million gallons. The April 10-13 overflows would have filled a second set of equally large tunnels.

On April 9, the district started pumping wastewater from the main tunnel directly to disinfection chambers at the Jones Island sewage treatment plant, where it was mixed with

chlorine before being discharged to the lake.

The emergency measure was started on the second day of heavy rain in an unsuccessful attempt to provide more space in the main tunnel and prevent combined sewer overflows. Diversion of wastewater around the full treatment process at Jones Island also ended Saturday morning.

An estimated 201 million gallons of partially treated wastewater was discharged to Lake Michigan in five days, April 9-13, district officials said Tuesday.

A state discharge permit allows the district to divert up to 100 million gallons of wastewater a day during heavy storms. The diversion is known officially as combined sewer overflow treatment since solids settle out of wastewater stored in the tunnel, the equivalent of the first treatment step at Jones Island.

Diversions reduce the volume of untreated wastewater spilled from combined sewers to waterways, officials said.

The district's state permit allows six combined sewer overflows a year.

One inch of rain falling on the district's metropolitan service area equals 7.1 billion gallons of water, officials said.

District gauges measured three to more than four inches of rain across the

metropolitan area from April 8-13.

The highest rain total last week was at Elm Grove Village Hall, where a gauge measured 4.26 inches. A gauge on the border of Mequon and Cedarburg measured 4.21 inches. Franklin picked up 3.98 inches of rain, and Mitchell International Airport received 3.91 inches last week.

Three days after last week's heavy rains ended, the ground remained saturated Tuesday. Water from foundation drains connected to private sanitary sewer laterals as well as water leaking into the laterals was sending excessive flows to the Jones Island and South Shore sewage treatment plants, Topczewski said.

"We're still draining the system slowly," he said.

Tuesday afternoon, the South Shore plant in Oak Creek was treating 236 million gallons of wastewater, or more than three times normal flows of 65 million gallons a day, he said. South Shore treats wastewater from communities with separate sanitary sewers.

Jones Island on Tuesday was treating 120 million gallons of wastewater, or nearly double normal flows of 65 million gallons a day. Jones Island receives flows from combined sanitary and storm sewers in central Milwaukee and eastern Shorewood as well as neighborhoods with separate sanitary sewers.

Assistant Attorney General  
U.S. DOJ-ENRD  
PO Box 7611  
Washington D.C. 20044-7611

April 24, 2013

Dear Sir,

I am writing regarding the S.S. Badger Carferry,  
U.S.V. Lake Michigan, Trans Lake Shortcut, Inc., D.J.  
Ref. No. 905-1-1-10771.

I have lived near Lake Michigan most of my life -  
I have enjoyed being in the water, cooling off - we don't  
have air-conditioning so during the very hottest summer  
weather I plan on Lake Michigan to cool me. I am  
78 years old and plan to immerse myself in Lake  
Michigan for several more years.

I seem to be healthy in spite of the small amount  
of mercury that I'm told is in the ash coming from the  
Badger. All my life I've been surviving it. In my  
childhood there were more carferries on Lake Michigan -  
three or four from the Frankfort-Elberta area and from  
Ludington, more than one carferry. All these years no  
one seemed to notice that the ash was bothering  
the clear water and lovely sandy bottom where we swam,  
we enjoyed the lovely bays connected to Lake Michigan -  
the Grand Traverse Bay and Little Traverse Bay at  
Petoskey.

The SS Badger needs to be allowed to continue -  
many truck drivers appreciate the break they get when  
their heavy loads can be carried across Lake Michigan  
on the carferry, rather than having to drive around in  
traffic.

What needs to be addressed by the people in Illinois,  
particularly by the Senator who has his eye on the Badger,

2/

is the raw sewage that is spewed directly into Lake Michigan when the Chicago sewage system can't handle it as a result of heavy rain. That we are disgusted by when it ends up crossing the lake to our beaches. It has been traced to Chicago in years past.

Sincerely,

Sally Burmeister

[REDACTED]  
Ludington, Michigan 49431

4/19/13

Dear Sirs,

We are writing to voice our support for the continued operation of the SS. Badger.

We believe that sources of water pollution of our Great Lakes come from MANY places — the City of Milwaukee's sewage discharge being one of the more disgusting ~~ones~~ examples — and the SS. Badger's economic importance to Michigan and surrounding states are immeasurable.

Please allow your good judgement to guide your decision in support of the SS. Badger's operation.

Sincerely,

Glenn A. Walquist DMV

[REDACTED]

Ludington, MI 49431

[REDACTED]

Glenn A. Walquist

Laura J. Waldo, DMV

[REDACTED]

Ludington, MI 49431

[REDACTED]

Laura J. Waldo

April 23, 2013

Dear Sir;

I AM WRITING ON BEHAVE OF THE EPA'S RULING ON WHETHER TO ALLOW OUR LAKE MICHIGAN'S FERRY - THE BADGER - TO CONTINUE TO SAIL, PROVIDING ECONOMIC GROWTH AND EMPLOYMENT TO SO MANY IN OUR STATE OF MICHIGAN, ESPECIALLY - WEST MICHIGAN.

EMPLOYMENT OF MANY WILL BE AFFECTED AS WELL AS MERCHANTS ETC.

THE SENATOR FROM ILLINOIS SHOULD SWEEP HIS DOOR STEPS BEFORE ATTACKING A NEIGHBOR:

PLEASE SEE THAT THE LAST SURVIVING COAL BURNING FERRY WILL SOIL IT'S LIFE TIME

THANK YOU

Dolores M Smith

[REDACTED]  
Ludington, MI 49431



April 22, 2013

To Whom It May Concern:

I'm writing in reference to United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., Dq Ref No 90-5-1-1-10771. I believe the Badger - EPA consent decree should be accepted.

This majestic car-ferry is the last of a large fleet that used to sail across Lake Michigan. As a child I lived two blocks from the docks and watched the ferries come and go. I was heartbroken when the service was temporarily stopped, and delighted when it resumed.

The Badger is very to our local economy, and the economy of Manitowish, Wisconsin. Nearly 100,000 people used the Badger to travel Lake Michigan. It can also transport oversize loads, keeping them off already congested freeways.

The most important thing about the decree is Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut (LMC) is agreeing to end the Coal Ash discharge from the Badger before 2015. It is important to note the Badger for decades was allowed to discharge the coal ash as a process incidental to operating the vessel. No one knows for sure how bad the discharge is, but what can't be argued is it will go away under this agreement.

Sen. Dick Durbin of Illinois seems to be completely against the continued operation of the Badger. He says it releases too much mercury in to Lake Michigan. Approximately one seventh of an ounce over an entire season does not seem a huge amount to me. I don't believe Sen. Durbin

is serious when he hasn't addressed threats to the Great Lakes coming from Illinois. Shows the potential for Asian Carp to enter Lake Michigan and the other Great Lakes through the Chicago Shipping Canal. Airborne pollutants from Chicago, including mercury, continue to pollute our air in Mason County. Apparently that's okay with Sen Durbin. There is also the potential for more sewage entering the lakes because Chicago hasn't yet separated their combined storm and sewage sewers. Something the EPA forced Seattle to do, a very small town 8 miles east of Huntington yet Chicago hasn't been forced to clean up. The only thing Sen Durbin wants to protect is his job. Who cares if hundreds of people in Michigan and Wisconsin lose their jobs and communities suffer? Certainly not Sen Durbin. The Budget is important to Huntington and to Missouri. It brings much needed funding to both communities. The proposed sunset clause, as written, should be approved since the DMC has time to conduct the coal ash spill continuing to spill. The EPA can then look at more serious issues. Chicago is home to a lot of them.

Sincerely,

Don Bradman

Robert L. and Barbara A. Dixon

[REDACTED]  
Ludington, MI 49431

April 21, 2013

TO: Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division

RE: Reference Case No.: D.J. Reference No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Case Name: U.S. vs Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc. d/b/a/Lake Michigan Carferry Services and S.S. Badger

This message is to inform you that we request you continue to grant sailing privileges to the Lake Michigan Carferry Services. This service is vital to the economy of Michigan and Wisconsin. In this time of high unemployment the residents of these two states are counting on the LMCS for employment and business opportunities. Not only the port cities of these two states, but all other communities and businesses within them benefit from the LMCS. Last year when the fruit trees in Michigan were frozen in bud, a small farming business traveled the S.S. Badger to secure apples for his customers. This farmer stated to me that he would not be able to accomplish this if he had to drive the traffic in Chicago. This is a success and financial benefit to one family, and we are quite sure there are many more stories of this nature. Also, there are a number of elderly passengers that travel the S.S. Badger in quest of health care at Mayo Clinic in Minnesota (not capable/able to drive the Chicago area), another state to eventually benefit financially.

In this past year we read an article regarding Senator Durbin's (Illinois) disgust with the S.S. Badger. His unnerving comment of "....I will personally see to it that the S.S. Badger will no longer deposit coal ash in Lake Michigan ever again.....". Additionally, our belief is that he has a personal/financial interest in the Muskegon, Michigan carferry business, which also is extremely adverse to the S.S. Badger. These two ferries are total opposites; one for speedy travel and one for leisure and historic travel. There is room for both these ferries on Lake Michigan. It is public knowledge that many independent businesses and factories, municipalities, and ships have put raw sewage, trash--exposed needles and medicine vials with medicine still in it (our personal experience while walking the beach), garbage, and who-knows-what else into Lake Michigan. All of this is extremely more harmful than coal ash; why are these instances not attended to with the diligence of Senator Durbin's vengeance against the S.S. Badger. An intelligent approach would be to attend to the most harmful first, which is why we question Senator Durbin's reasoning.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.

*Barbara A. Dixon Robert L. Dixon*

April 22, 2013

The Assistant Attorney General  
U.S. DOJ-ENRD  
P.O. Box 7611  
Washington, DC 20044-7611

Regarding *United States versus Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Incorporated*,  
Department of Justice Reference Number 90-5-1-1-10771

Dear Sir or Madam,

As a former Ludington resident still having some ties to the city, I have ridden the SS Badger at least once a year since 1959 (when I rode *in utero*), except for that bleak year of 1991 when she didn't sail at all. In these latter years I have come to Ludington about once a month to care for my aging parents, and five or six of those twelve annual journeys have been eased and made pleasanter by taking the dear old Badger across the big lake. When my father died, several of our friends came from Minneapolis for his funeral; if not for the Badger, the additional time and strain of driving or the expense of flying would likely have made their presence impossible. I suspect that we are only a few of many in the upper midwest with similar stories, and reason to be glad the Badger still sails. From where I stand these are no small things, and I am glad and grateful when the sailing season begins again each spring.

Anyone over a certain age who grew up in Ludington remembers "the boats" and knows their ways. We've all seen the way they glide gracefully through the channel toward the harbor and the open lake, so eerily silent that a person standing at the marina can speak to a passenger on an outer deck while hardly raising his or her voice. You can hear the horn bellowing all the way across town, and the echo of the fog horn when it's too misty to see out to the lighthouse. I love the way the whole ship shivers just a little when she backs into her berth and settles into the locks, and in the old days I could feel through the soles of my shoes the jostling and thumping of the railroad cars as they were loaded down below. It was hair-raising and really quite beautiful.

In the context of his denying the Badger the protection of National Historic Landmark status, Senator Richard Durbin of Illinois has said, "We cannot let Historic Landmark status be used to evade the federal regulations...no matter how historic or quaint the source may be." This is patronizing, ignorant, and deeply offensive, and clearly demonstrates the senator's feeble grasp of this vital issue.

The SS Badger is not "quaint". The big lakes are, after all, great inland seas with all the potential for violence of the world's biggest oceans, and the mighty steel-hulled, ice-breaking ships like the Badger have seen it all. The Badger is the last of her kind, our only tangible link to the vanished, noble maritime history of western Michigan, on which the state's early economy was partly founded. She is a physical reminder of the brave souls who came before us and who depended on the lake and its vessels for their livelihoods: those sailors, loggers, miners, fishers, and farmers, now mostly nameless, who made Michigan stand out among the states. The fact that the Badger still sails after so many active years on the lake is rightly a source of pride for both Ludington and Manitowoc.

The carferries, more broadly speaking, helped to build and define Ludington, maintain ties of friendship and family between Michigan and its neighboring states, and alleviate lower Michigan's isolation as a peninsula. They improved the efficiency of rail shipping as a crucial link between the eastern mines and mills and the vast western expanses of the continent. As freight haulers, the

carferries helped us win the war.

The Badger is a National Treasure, and *should* be acknowledged as a National Historic Landmark, and preserved and protected as an active, vigorous, working ship. If we reject the concept of National Treasures, if we value only profit and speed at the expense of memory and our shared history, we do violence to our legacy to future Americans. They may justifiably curse us for our indifference and meager passion and foresight, and our lack of commitment to big ideas and allegiance to our predecessors. They may well wonder what it was, exactly, that we were so damned busy doing that we couldn't spare a thought for them.

Senator Richard Durbin stands out among the anti-Badger gadflies, and his motives seem both disingenuous and rather furtive. The senator would have us believe that he is simply a righteous champion of a clean environment, and that he opposes the Badger's continued existence only because of the pollution generated by her coal-burning engines. "The filthiest ship on the Great Lakes" is a memorable phrase from one of his more adolescent recent tirades, and he has made much of the .15 of an ounce (or 4.2524 grams) of mercury dumped into the lake by the Badger *per annum*. Yet Senator Durbin seems not to object to coal *per se*. His home state of Illinois is the 9th-largest coal-producing state in the country and 5th in coal-power generation; 49% of the state's power is produced by coal-fired power plants; and as recently as 2007 Illinois had proposals--and government support--for 16 *new* coal-burning power plants, according to *Source Watch* and *The Illinois Times*, respectively. One of the 12 most highly-polluting coal-powered plants in populous areas is in Senator Durbin's own city of Springfield, according to a 2011 NAACP report. Additionally, Illinois has the second-highest number of contaminated coal ash dump sites in the U.S., according to a 2011 report by Prairie Rivers and the Environmental Integrity Project. And lest anyone accuse me of comparing apples and oranges by confusing air pollution and ash dumping: the Natural Resources Defense Council in 2012 stated unequivocally that "Mercury emitted into the air from coal-fired power plants is *by far the leading man-made source of mercury in the Great Lakes* [emphasis mine] and the rivers and streams of the region," and, further, that the mercury emissions from Illinois' coal-fired plants totalled 1,484 *pounds* in 2010. One might offer Senator Durbin a paraphrase of Saint Matthew, and say, "*You hypocrite! First take Illinois' 1,484 pounds of mercury out of your own eye, and then you may see clearly enough to take the 4.2524 grams out of the Badger's eye.*" To paraphrase Durbin himself, it would appear that Illinois is the filthiest state on Lake Michigan.

What might Senator Durbin's real motivation be? Why the card-stacking? Is there a hidden agenda? Does he have some personal axe to grind? Does he just need more adult supervision? Why on earth are his shrill tantrums so very out of proportion to the actual problem? Has he nothing better to do?

Representative Bill Huizenga of Michigan has commented that some of their colleagues in Washington see Durbin's anti-Badger stance "as a response to concerns over Asian Carp entering Lake Michigan from Chicago, and Michigan leaders calling for the waterway linking the Illinois River to the Great Lakes [to] be closed." (From *MLive*, Muskegon, 1/26/2012.) Coincidence?

Lake Express, the smaller, newer carferry service sailing out of Muskegon, is known to have bankrolled an enormous campaign to demonize the Badger, and hired lobbyists who hosted a fundraiser for Senator Durbin, who *then* took to the Senate floor to call for the Badger to be dry-docked. (From *Outer Boundary Magazine*, March 2012.) Coincidence? Cynicism? Or just a very clear sense of which side his bread is buttered?

And as we have seen, Senator Durbin apparently objects not at all to the massive amounts of coal-generated pollution in his home state--presumably because of the revenue produced--while

scapegoating a small-time polluter like the Badger. Coincidence, or just an ugly double standard?

Certainly no one *likes* pollution, and coal-generated pollution is especially objectionable and frightening. And while I devoutly hope that the Badger will keep sailing, I also fervently hope that Lake Michigan Carferry will continue to try to find a way to convert her to a cleaner fuel. However, most power sources do have notorious drawbacks (including the diesel that fuels Muskegon's Lake Express!), and the problem of pollution is multi-faceted and very complicated, and will never be amenable to any one solution. Suggesting that the first and only solution to the Badger's pollution is to scuttle the ship is akin to suggesting that the first and only solution to the Asian Carp threat is to close major waterways between states: both are extreme, short-sighted overreactions. For Senator Durbin--or others of his ilk--to seem to suggest that this problem is easily or quickly solved, especially by the cruel, rather stupid, irreversible actions of destroying a business or sacrificing a monument, is a naive, misleading distraction. It is unworthy of a public official, and profoundly unjust to the SS Badger.

Sincerely,



Andrea Markov

[REDACTED]  
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55406  
[REDACTED]

**DR & MRS. RICHARD J. PUFFER**

Assistant Attorney General  
U. S. DOJ-ENRD  
P. O. Box 7611  
Washington, D. C. 2044-7611

April, 24, 2013

Dear Assistant Attorney - General

I am much concerned about the possibility that our well-loved Lake Michigan ferry, the Badger, may be put out of service within two years due to its need to use coal or oil as fuel, and the present impossibility for its owner-operators to afford a cleaner type of propulsion. Four generations of our family have used and loved this area and this grand old line and its boats! Our entire family came here because the lake ferry service made the first trips possible in the early 20<sup>th</sup> Century!

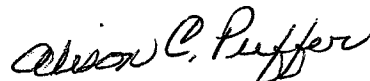
We and the other residents of Ludington will be most grateful if our U. S. government will extend the time needed to change the propulsion system on our "Badger" until the old boat runs clean across the lake. We hope present efforts will succeed, but if they do not, please give the Badger operators both time and assistance to solve this problem.

We know the government has our physical health as an important concern, and now we ask our government to also help us maintain our economic health in Ludington and west Michigan, both of which can greatly benefit from the continued operation of a cleaner Badger.

Sincerely,



Dr. Richard J. Puffer

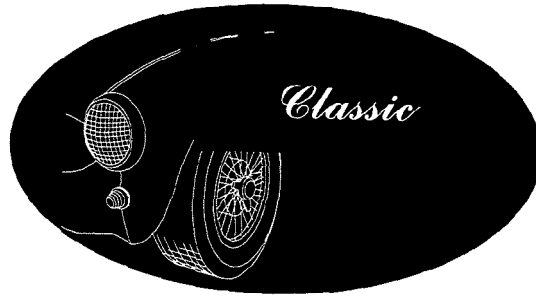


Alison C. Puffer



██████████  
Ludington, MI 49431  
U. S. A.

PHONE ██████████  
E-MAIL ██████████



4/20/2013

This is a serious matter  
not to be taken lightly by ALL  
regarding a piece of history!

More than anything I/WE  
wish to see the SS. Badger  
remain for our children and  
grandchildren in order to  
experience a wonderful boat  
adventure across a beautiful  
GREAT LAKE! Please see  
that it survives !!!

TRaverse CITY, MI 49696

Regards  
M. J. Fisher



**Reference Case Number: (Must be included in subject line)**  
**D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771**

**Address to:**  
**Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division**

**Case Name: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger**

**Or mail to:**  
**Assistant Attorney General**  
**U.S. DOJ - ENRD**  
**P.O. Box 7611**  
**Washington, DC 20044-7611**

APRIL 22 2013

TO: ASS'T. ATTORNEY GENERAL, US-DOJ-ENRD

RE: U.S. Vs. LAKE MICHIGAN TRANS-LAKE

SHORTCUT, INC. P. J.

REF. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

I AM A RESIDENT OF PENTWATER, MI,  
LOCATED 15 MILES SOUTH OF LUDINGTON, MI.  
THE LAKE MICHIGAN CAR-FERRY: BADGER  
HAS BEEN IN CROSS-LAKE OPERATION  
FOR OVER 60 YEARS. THE BADGER  
PROVIDES MANY JOBS AND CONTRIBUTES TO  
THE GOOD ECONOMY OF LUDINGTON, MI.  
IT IS A HUGE LANDMARK FOR ALL  
OF WESTERN MICHIGAN. THE JOURNEY  
OF THE BADGER MUST CONTINUE.

I SUPPORT THE PROPOSED CONSENT  
DECREE BETWEEN LAKE MICHIGAN CARFERRY  
AND THE EPA TO ALLOW THE S.S. BADGER  
TO CONTINUE FOR TWO YEARS.

THE COAL-ASH DISCHARGE MUST NOT  
BE PRESENT AS THE BADGER BEGINS IT'S  
NEW SEASON IN THE SPRING OF 2015.

I HOPE THE CONSENT DECREE WILL BE GRANTED  
TO LMC. AND GIVE THE S.S. BADGER  
CONTINUED LIFE --- FOR 2 YEARS

SINCERELY,

Ronald Lee Christians

Ron Christians

PENTWATER MI 49449

April 22, 2013

Assistant Attorney General  
U.S. DOJ - ENRD  
P.O. Box 7611  
Washington, DC 20044-7611

**Reference Case Number:** D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

**Case Name:**

United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry  
Services and S.S. Badger

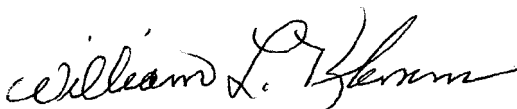
To Whom it may concern:

I wish to convey my support for the S.S. Badger and Lake Michigan Carferry, Inc. As retired (1979) Superintendent of Steamships for the carferry operation in Ludington, I have personally been involved with the carferries for over 39 years of my life. I have seen the ups and downs of the operation, from its heyday in the 50's and 60's, to its slow downsizing and abandonment of ports during the 70's.

The Badger is the last ferry of over 100 years of ferries operating across Lake Michigan. It is a historic icon on the Michigan and Wisconsin shorelines. It has transported thousands of passengers during its lifetime, and provided an tremendous economic impact upon the cities of Ludington and Manitowoc, as well as the states of Michigan and Wisconsin.

I urge you to approve the Consent Decree, and allow the Badger to continue operating.

Sincerely,



William L. Klemm  
Retired Superintendent of Steamships

[REDACTED]  
Ludington, MI 49431

APRIL 22, 2013

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing in reference to P.J. Ref. No.  
90-5-1-1-10771

I believe the consent decree should be approved.

The S.S. Badger is a cultural heritage and  
a crucial part of the Ludington, Michigan economy.  
I believe it should be allowed to keep the  
present coal-fired propulsion system and should  
incur no penalties from the E.P.A.

Sincerely Yours,

David J. Van Fleet

[REDACTED]  
LUDINGTON, MI  
49431

Annette Quillan, [REDACTED] Ludington MI 49431  
[REDACTED]

April 22, 2013

Assistant Attorney General  
U. S. DOJ-ENRD  
P.O. Box 7611  
Washington DC 20044-7611

Reference Case Number: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

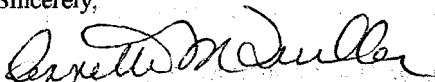
Case Name: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

To Whom It May Concern:

I am concerned why Senator Durbin, (IL), is making such a big thing about the SS Badger. It is like Senator Durbin (the pot) is calling the Kettle (the Badger) black. I am told that the turbidity is the same as years ago.

1. Much air and water pollution comes from IL and IN. They have many factories on the shores. We have known to have gotten medical waste and sewage from his great state. He did nothing about it.
2. Lake MI carferry provides seasonal jobs for the area, on ship and in the tourist industry for West Michigan. This would be lost if the car ferry ceases to be.
3. Our carferry can run on the big Lake when our competition cannot.
4. Our carferry has been able to carry industrial parts for industry which our competition cannot.
5. Our carferry was taken out of bankruptcy by one private individual, wanting to Save our Ship, without any government support. Our competition was given insured funds by the government to start their business. (Sounds like a conspiracy and a conflict of interest.)
6. What special interest, does Senator Durbin have in this, because there is no grey area or compromise with him?
7. This is the most important reason and a selfish reason. My kids come from WI on the Badger, every summer. Since there is 2 adults and 4 children. We take two cars to pick them up, one for them and one for the luggage. It would be much of an expense and time to pick them up in Muskegon. That is total about a 10 hour day and almost 500 miles. The only person, I would be supporting is big oil. On the Badger, they are able to walk around and they have entertainment. I cannot image what 4 little kids would be like, sitting continuously for 5-6 hours (2 hours to drive to Milwaukee, 2 + hours for the ride across Lake MI, and 1 hour to Ludington.
8. Think about it, please.

Sincerely,



Annette M. Quillan

April 15, 2013

To: Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division

Case Name: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a

Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

Reference Case Number D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Dear Assistant Attorney General:

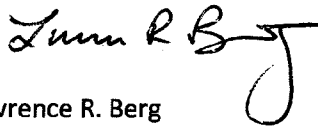
My name is Lawrence R. Berg. I am a natural born US citizen residing at [REDACTED] Greendale, WI 53129

I wish to voice my strong support for approval of the Consent Decree in this matter. I believe the factors favoring the continued operation of the SS Badger far outweigh the argument against.

- SS Badger provides valuable human and cargo transportation no other vessel is capable of.
- The operation of the SS Badger provides competition in cross-lake travel, preventing a monopoly.
- SS Badger relieves many drivers from contributing to highway congestion.
- SS Badger transports huge wind tower components across the lake, thus reducing the impact road transportation would otherwise necessitate.
- SS Badger is capable of carrying a very high number of passengers and could easily assist in an emergency evacuation.
- SS Badger is the last of her kind, and is an outstanding, operational link to our past.
- SS Badger provides employment aboard ship, and on both coasts.
- SS Badger contributes to the tourism economy of both Wisconsin and Michigan.
- The actual environmental harm of SS Badger is unproven because of the minute nature.

This list could go on further, but the point is clear: The SS Badger should not be forced to end or suspend operations.

Sincerely yours,



Lawrence R. Berg

Cc: The Honorable Senator Dick Durbin

**Ellison L. Wefel Jr.**  
**Pamela M. Wefel**

Blue Ridge, VA  
24064 - 1668

Assistant Attorney General  
Environmental and Natural Resource Division  
U.S. DOJ-ENRD  
P.O. Box 7611  
Washington, DC  
20044-7611

Tuesday, April 16, 2013

D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Case Name: United State v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc.,  
d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

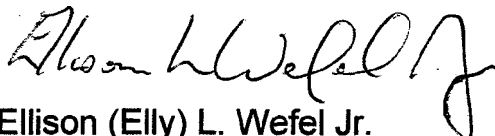
Dear Sir or Madam:

This is in response to the request for public comment on the Consent Decree agreement between the Lake Michigan Carferry Service and the Department of Justice and EPA covering the S.S. Badger and the disposal of coal ash into Lake Michigan.

As a former citizen of Michigan, a transportation professional and a retired railroader, I would like to add my support to the finalizing of this agreement.

Having grown up on the Great Lakes in the 50's and 60's I am greatly concerned about water quality. I think this agreement provides for protecting the water quality of Lake Michigan, while at the same time allowing for the preservation of the historically significant S.S. Badger for the present and future generations.

Respectfully yours,



Ellison (Elly) L. Wefel Jr.

(mail confirmation)

D.J. REF. NO, 90-5-1-1-10771

ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL, ENVIRONMENTAL & NATURAL RESOURCES DIVISION  
CASE NAME - UNITED STATES V. LAKE MICHIGAN  
& NATURAL RESOURCES DIVISION

Dear Sirs

4-16-2013

We are planning to sail on the Badger in June, this will be our 3rd crossing. I took my 7yr. old granddaughter on the Badger 3 yrs ago just so she would be able to say she had <sup>SAILED</sup> ~~been~~ on the only coal fired steam ship left in the nation.

I was 8 yrs. old & living in Chicago when the Badger was 1st launched in 1953. Every home on our block was heated by coal and today 70% of Ill. electricity is produced by fossil fuel.

at the turn of the century there were a thousand or more coal fire steam ships on the great lakes, today there is only one.

The Badger is history in the making. If a picture is worth a thousand words, what is a lake crossing on the Badger worth.

Yours truly,  
Roger Webster



4-19-13

Assistant Attorney General,  
U.S. DOJ-ENRD, P.O. Box 7611  
Washington, DC 20044-7611

Re.: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc.  
D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Dear Sir:

I respectfully request that the proposed consent decree between Lake Michigan Carferry and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency be enacted.

It appears that the consent decree provides a fair solution to the curtailment of the SS Badger's coal ash discharge into Lake Michigan, at no small cost to LMC.

The SS Badger, one small entity on Lake Michigan, appears to have become an easy target for those who seek to protect the lake while ignoring the large scale pollutants generated by cities and other industries in the Great Lakes basin; those polluters should be held to equally stringent requirements.

Economic and political impacts aside, in a spirit of fairness, I urge you to act in favor of the consent decree between Lake Michigan Carfery and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Sincerely,



Norma Andersen

  
Scottville, MI 49454

APRIL 20, 2013

RE: LAKE MICHIGAN TRANS-LAKE SHORTCUT, INC.  
D-B-A LAKE MICHIGAN CARFERRY SERVICES  
AND S.S. BADGER

#D.J. REF. 90-5-1-1-10771

WE STRONGLY SUPPORT THE PROPOSED AGREEMENT  
BETWEEN THE E.P.A. AND LAKE MICHIGAN  
CARFERRY SERVICES (S.S. BADGER).

THANK YOU —

ROSEMARY S. CLONEY

DAVID A. KELLER

Juanita Pierman  
[REDACTED]  
Pentwater, MI 49449

April 15, 2023

Assistant Attorney General, Environment and Natural Resources Division  
U. DOJ - ENRD  
P. O. Box 7611  
Washington, DC 20044-7611

Reference Case number: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Case Name: United States v. Lake Michigan Tran-lake Shortcut, Inc. d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

To Whom It May Concern:

The Village of Pentwater is 12 miles south of Ludington and there are numerous summer residents, vacationers and visitors who travel across Lake Michigan on the SS Badger to our area. The Pentwater's economy would feel a significant impact if the SS Badger is forced to stop operating.

Ludington has been the home of SS Badger and many other coal-fired lake ferries and freighter since 1874. My husband and I started fishing for salmon and trout in 1975, one hundred years later. The fishing was terrific and still is. I have not seen any evidence that coal ash discharge has harmed the lake or the environment.

We purchased a home in Pentwater in 1984 and commuted between our home in Wheaton, Illinois and Pentwater before retiring in Pentwater. My husband and I worked in downtown Chicago for many years. The pollution problems in Chicago deserve your attention much more the one carferry in Lake Michigan!

Please allow the SS Badger to continue operating. It is a huge part of the history and economy of this area. Many of us who have families and friends in Wisconsin and Northern Illinois count on the SS Badger for a pleasant ride across the Lake Michigan instead of fighting the heavy traffic and congestion on I-96 and I-80 through Indiana.

Thank you for giving this request your serious consideration and allow the SS Badger to continue to operate.

Sincerely,



Juanita Pierman

Assistant Attorney General  
U.S. DOJ - ENRD  
P.O. Box 7611  
Washington, DC 20044-7611

Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division

Case Name:  
United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

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## D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771 Action on Concert Decree

1 message

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John Sturdy <[REDACTED]>

Fri, Apr 12, 2013 at 11:44  
PM

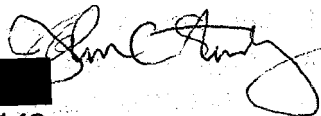
To: pubcomment-ees.enrd@usdoj.gov

Cc: [REDACTED]

As a frequent passenger of the SSBadger, I plead with you to do the right thing in the public's interest, and grant approval for continued operation of this historic and honorable vessel. Continued service by the dependable SSBadger is essential, and approval of the Concert Decree is vital to the economic stability of the region being serviced. Hundreds of foreign vessels which transit our Great Lakes each sailing season carry and discharge far worse materials proven to be harmful, yet the benign coal ash has been chosen as the mark of the SSBadger to become a poster child for baseless environmental arguments. The high speed ferry operating out of Milwaukee, in their attempt to eliminate competition, has pointed fingers, where they should in fact be investigated themselves for their diesel pollutants as well as other discharge which appear to have been ignored. Competition is good for the economy. Having reliable options is even better. More than fifty years of safe transit history across Lake Michigan should be celebrated and supported by the approval of the Concert Decree. Thank you for your support!

Sincerely,

John C. Sturdy



[REDACTED]  
Marinette, WI 54143  
[REDACTED]

April 16, 2013



Dear Assistant Attorney  
General, (Environment  
and Natural Resources  
Division),

E. P. A. is a ~~sympathizer~~,  
What are you protecting,  
the Carpenter 55. Barge  
that dumps 509 Tons of  
Coal ash into our  
drinking water. Coal ash  
contains arsenic, lead,  
& mercury. Millions of  
people drink this water.  
Stop giving (now) extensions  
to this ship.


Do your job - one ship  
is not worth the well  
being of millions of people.  
Do you have a conscience  
that tells you right from  
wrong? The ship owners  
couldn't care less about the  
people they are poisoning  
Do you? Mrs. Germaine Drafts

[REDACTED]  
Arl Heights, IL 60004

---

From:  **George Shambaugh** 

Subject: D.J. Ref.No. 90-5-1-1-10771

To:  pubcomment-ees.enrd@usdoj.gov

Cc:

---

Assistant Attorney General, Environment and Natural Sources Division

Dear Sir,

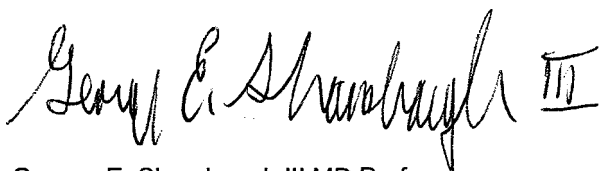
April 22, 2013

I am writing you to support continued service of the SS Badger, reference case number D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771. The hue and cry over ash discharge is overblown and unjust. Waste is a concern for us all, and while steel mills at the bottom of the lake along with BP refinery dumping of wastes result in a far greater source of environmental pollution, nothing like the outcry over the SS Badger's ash has been raised. I suspect that the source of this outcry may have been politically motivated.

The Badger performs an important service for cross lake tourists in both saving time and in taking pressure off the bottom of the lake expressways and tollways, that are crowded and in continual need of repair. The cities of Ludington, MI and Manitowoc, WI, derive important economic benefit from passengers using the Badger. There is only one additional means for crossing the lake, which is insufficient for large numbers of passengers and vehicles.

I believe there is an important need for services of the SS Badger. Please support continued service of the SS Badger.

Sincerely,



George E. Shambaugh III MD Professor  
Emory University Medical School  
Div Endocrinology  
Dept Medicine  
49 Jesse Hill Jr. Drive SE  
Atlanta, GA 30303-4049  
fax:(404)778-1661  
ph (404)778-1667  
gshamba@emory.edu



## **Let your voice be heard!**

Lake Michigan Carferry has signed a Consent Decree agreement with the Department of Justice and EPA that will require the SS Badger to end the ash discharge within two years. This agreement is the product of many months of working closely with the EPA. We think that this Consent Decree is the best result under the circumstances. We will continue on our path to ending the discharge of coal ash while still serving the public and local communities.

The Consent Decree will be filed in federal court in Grand Rapids by the Department of Justice. Upon this filing, there will be a 30 day period for the public to submit comments to the Department of Justice. After that, the court will approve the decree if it is in the public interest.

**Here is our request** - Many of you have asked how you could express your support by sharing your opinion on the continued service of the S.S. Badger. Provided below is the email address and/or the mailing address to the EPA where you can submit your comments on the Consent Decree. Obviously we think the Consent Decree should be approved and hope you feel the same. Either way, your letter can be as brief as a few sentences or as detailed as you wish.

We sincerely appreciate your time in expressing your opinion. We're looking forward to providing great experiences for our passengers in 2013 and many years to come.

### ***Instructions for commenting on the Consent Decree***

**Addressed to:**

Assistant Attorney General, Environment and Natural Resources Division

**Reference Case Number:** D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771 (must be included in subject line)

**Case Name:**

United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

**Comments to be EMAILED:** [pubcomment-ees.enrd@usdoj.gov](mailto:pubcomment-ees.enrd@usdoj.gov)

**Or mail to:**

Assistant Attorney General  
U.S. DOJ - ENRD  
P.O. Box 7611  
Washington, DC 20044-7611

April 18/2013

Assistant District Attorney General

U.S. DOJ-ENRD

P.O. Box 7611

Washington, DC 20044-7611

Dear Sir:

I'm writing about the U.S. v Lake Michigan Translake Shortcut, Inc. Ref. #90-5-41-<sup>10771</sup>  
I'm a fairly recent resident in Scottville, having moved from mid-Mi. Just  
learned, from yesterday's Editorial, that not long before our move here, the EPA  
forced Scottville to separate this combined storm/sanitary sewer. No wonder my  
water/sewer bill is so high, compared to past bills! But the EPA seems to have  
missed or overlooked the seemingly high frequency our Lake Michigan, & our  
shore <sup>we</sup> get treated to sewage from the home state of Durbin & ilk who have  
an agenda/ vendetta? to destroy the national treasure called the Badger, &  
where too, was the EPA the day this old lady nearly passed out in the  
garden, picking beans? It's wanted some for lunch, I would not have  
made it home if not for my power chair & A/C & rest. I thought I was  
over heated till I saw that day's head lines, big & black, warning of air  
pollution from Chicago & areas.

The current decree abt the Badger is reasonable & doable & should  
be passed. Please keep the Badger doing its' job, for the jobs it pro-  
vides & business & pleasure it provides to so many residents & visitors here  
& Manitowish. To shut it down would be criminal in these tough times.

It's rode on the Badger when our kids were little - we went to see  
the Wisconsin Dells - a trip we all enjoyed & fondly often recall when  
we see or hear the Badger, or about her.

In comparison, the pollution the Badger causes, is miniscule. The  
pollution from Ill. to both air & lakes is shocking & needs to be cut  
back as much as is humanly possible & reasonable. For the safety &  
health of all residents of Michigan, Wisconsin, Ill. & others. If Asian  
Carp make it into our lakes, Sen. Durbin & ilk will be responsible  
for that irreparable damage to our lakes as well. All too probable as  
so little is being done, thanks to them.

Sincerely -  
Gene Marlow  
Scottville, Wis.



Larry D. Snyder  
[REDACTED]  
Ludington, MI 49431  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

April 20, 2013

Assistant Attorney General US  
Dept. of Justice  
ENRD P.O. Box 7611  
Washington, DC 20044-7611

Re: Lake Michigan Carferry Consent Decree agreement

Gentlemen,

As a resident of Ludington, Michigan I write to support the Lake Michigan Carferry Consent Decree requiring the SS Badger to end ash discharge within two years.

The Michigan Carferry not only is of great importance economically to our Ludington community but it also serves as a focal point for the community. After over 100 years of carferry service it is hard to imagine Ludington without the carferry. If you do not live in Ludington you have no idea how important this boat is to our small but dedicated community of hard working people. Ludington and the Carferry represent the very best of small town America where hard work and community spirit still persist. To take away the SS Badger would be a devastating blow to this spirit.

I am sure you are well aware that the Carferry brings over 300 jobs each summer to our community that has been especially struck hard by the ongoing recession. The millions of dollars it brings to the motels, restaurants, stores, gas stations would be sorely missed.

I urge you approve this agreement between the Lake Michigan Carferry and the Department of Justice.

*Larry D. Snyder*

Assistant Attorney General U.S.  
DOJ - ENRD P.O. Box 7611  
Washington, DC 20044-7611

Re: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771  
United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake  
Michigan Carferry Services and S.S. Badger

Dear Sirs, or Madame;


I write you today to express my support for the S. S. Badger, and her continued service to both the states of Michigan and Wisconsin. As you are aware the vessel has managed to coexist with Lake Michigan now for 60 years. This has encompassed an historical window that included virtually hundreds of similar vessels that plied those waters each year when she was first commissioned in 1952, to a point in the year 2013 wherein she remains the sole "steam" powered vessel on the great lakes. Far beyond her inclusion as a member of the National Historical Landmark Status, the Badger is a provider of immense economic benefit, as well as exceptional safety and service.

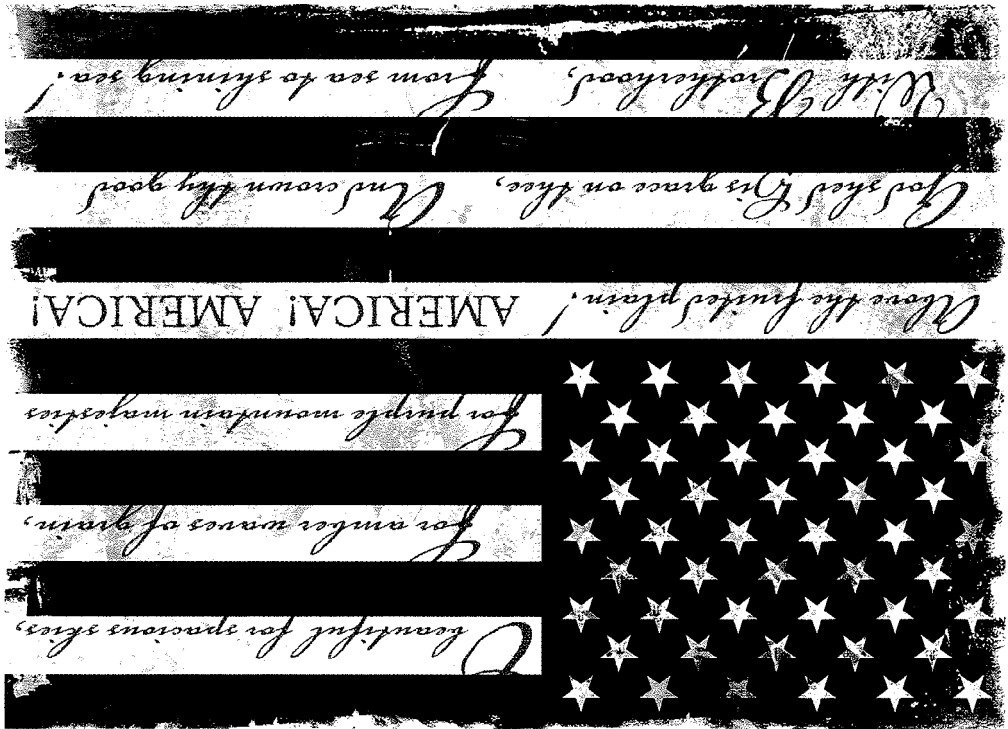
As a seasoned passenger that has been riding her practically each of the 56 years I have been blessed to live, I can assure you that I will be aboard again this summer. Clearly, the years she was not in service, were a bitter reminder for all of us, the citizens of southeast Wisconsin, of just how frail the "Tourist Market" is. They revealed just how critical she is to the health of the communities she serves both directly, and indirectly. We can safely say in hindsight that the footprint of economic benefit far outstrips the footprint of environmental impact this sole vessel possesses, in the form of all emissions including both air, and water. The reality being the fact that per passenger, per passenger miles traversed, the Badger has FAR fewer environmental disadvantages, than the autos, buses, and trucks she transports possess on their own, traveling "around not across" Lake Michigan. As an extension of Highway US-10 during the months she operates, she is as critical a link as any other member of this throughways infrastructure and should be accorded the same values.

That said, I encourage your decision to reflect a positive stance for the many travelers and citizens whom benefit year after year from the presence of the S. S. Badger on Lake Michigan. Both those whom benefit from her passage, as well as those thousands whom economically benefit from her presence in the regions she serves. Count me as the former, and I look forward to seeing you on board a sailing this summer, you won't regret it.

Kindest regards,

  
Philip J. Dohmen

  
Colleyville, Texas 76034



Keep Budget  
running.



just a note



Keep The Badger

I'm almost 89 years old.  
 When we moved here after  
 W.D. they had 8 coe -  
 Jerry's running gear round  
 We had perca + herring  
 a plente - not any damage  
 from dumping ash  
 Keep The Badger going  
 That is what I live for  
 Margaret Root in beautiful  
 Sudington, N. Va. 49431

**AMERICAN LUNG ASSOCIATION.**  
Fighting for Air

LgnpMRFY13

© 2012 James Mitchell/Advocate Art

Greetings,

2/22/2013

This communication is in full support of the SS Badger operating out of Ludington, MI. I have been a part of Ludington since 1954 and understand the important impact the Badger has on the community and economy. Please provide the two years for it to comply with the new requirements that are being considered as that gives everyone

relief in this matter. The Budget  
the opportunity to fix the problem  
and the opposition a date certain  
to <sup>be</sup> more on the path of a greener  
world.

Thanks  
James N. McLean



ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL

US DOJ-ENRD

PO BOX 7611 WASHINGTON DC

20044-7611

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN RE DJ REF NO 90-5-1-1-10771:

WE ARE FROM WINNIPEG MANITOBA CANADA AND HAVE GRANDCHILDREN IN TORONTO ONTARIO WHO WE VISIT FREQUENTLY AND USUALLY DRIVE. THE INTERSTATE HIGHWAYS IN YOUR COUNTRY ARE SO MUCH BETTER THAN OURS WE PREFER TO TRAVEL AROUND CHICAGO AND INTO MICHIGAN TO GET INTO ONTARIO. WE ARE DELIGHTED TO SAY WE HAVE TRAVELLED ON THE SS BADGER AND IT IS A WONDERFUL EXPERIENCE AS WELL AS CUTTING OFF A LOT OF DRIVING FOR US. WE ARE HOPING TO MAKE THE TRIP AGAIN THIS SUMMER AND ARE WRITING THIS TO PLEAD WITH YOU NOT TO STOP THE SERVICE THISBOAT PROVIDES ON THE LAKE.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION OF ALL THE LETTERS YOU WILL NO DOUBT RECEIVE ON THIS MATTER.

DEANNA AND TED CATCHPOLE

  
ST ANDREWS MB CANADA R1A2Y6

**Main Identity**

---


**From:** "Patricia Vorac" [REDACTED]  
**To:** <pubcomment-ees.enrd@usdoj.gov.>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 01, 2013 10:22 AM  
**Subject:** United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut.Inc. D.J.Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc.  
D.J. Ref No. 90-5-1-1-10771

April 30th 2013

I agree with the proposed consent agreement and that it is a positive step in keeping Ludington's historically important SS Badger to continue crossing Lake Michigan. Thank You

Patricia L. Vorac  
[REDACTED]  
Norton Shores, Michigan  
49441-3601



*For some reason I couldn't e-mail Tho*

5/1/2013

Case Number: D.J. Ref.  
No. 90 - 5-1-1-10771.  
The United States v. Lake Michigan  
Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc.  
d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry  
Services and SS Badger.

May 2, 2013.

Assistant Attorney General  
U.S. DOJ - ENRD  
P.O. Box 7611,  
Washington, DC 20044-7611.

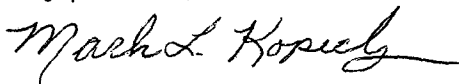
Dear Sir:

I'm not writting this because I'm on the county board and feel I must respond to this issue as some civic duty. I'm writting it because I believe I know more about the car-ferry and its history better than almost anyone in the city of Manitowoc, And that is definately more than our mayor. I've lived here for a very long time , but before living here I lived in Kewaunee where the Badger originated. But it wasn't the Badger to begin with it was the City of Midland. It's sister ship. Same configuration as the Badger, Just older and in service for many more years. But the complaints were the same even way back in the 70's. And nothing was done then and your not doing anything now. These extensions of three to five years is nothing new. They've been on going since the days when the complaints started and I believe will drag on forever with appeals and fines and promises that are never fulfilled. The government as usual will continue to drag its feet until the great lakes aren't worth nothing." There is No Alturnative To Water," and Whatever Happens to the Water, Happens to the people. In Kewaunee the dumping of the poisonish ash was one of the complaints, But only One. Theres also the fact that they dump their toilets out in the middle of the lake. ( This was discovered when their were no holding tanks at either shore for unloading of human waste.) Still don't to this day. Another thing that was noticed by a person who stayed in his car in the crossing which is not permitted. They would take fire looking hoses and with high power flushing pushing the gravel, dirt, oil and gas and other debut out the back of the boat. The owners are laughing in everyones face. They're bigger than you like the NRA. They'll pay the little fines you throw at them because thats pennies when it comes to their dailey profits. Tourism: Only when the last tree has died from heavy metals. And the last river has been poisoned from the lake run off. And the last fish has floated from mercury and arsnic, will they realize we can't drink money. It's a ship of fools. I can't see how they can continue to poison the last fresh water body in the world (look it up) And have hundreds of people like myself complain and the government turns a blind eye. I shouldn't care personally, I'm deathly allergic to fish and would die from a tiny piece of anykind. But the carferry isn't the most important thing about our lake when it comes to tourism. It's sport fishing. The Manitowoc area takes in more each year with fishing Derby's contests, parties. And then let us not forget the commercial fisherman companies like Susie Q's. They've already stated that more and more of their livelihood is dyung out due to polution. They aslo try and claim that one trip saves the air quality 60% because of all the cars that don't drive from WI. to Upper Michigan. But at the same time the sulfur and noxious gases like cyanide and oil ash are up some 500%. By just one stack times one crossing. Personally I'll take the Carbon footprint for a few more years of breathing. Can't you see there is no win, win for anyone to continue to allow that boat to continue to poison our beautiful lake. A little bit of mercury per trip times thirty some years is how much? It don't mix with water like oil doesn't. Out there somewhere there must be gathering one big puddle of poisonish soup. And if it gets

into a water shed or river how do you explain to the survivors you never saw it coming when you did. ( Right now I'll remember, And if I'm gone soon I'll make sure my kids know) We were trying to figure in actual space all the ash you've permitted the two ferry's to dump over all the years since they were built at 30,000 lbs. per day. We closely figured it would be about the size of Texas 20 to 25 feet deep. And we think thats on the low end seeing how there were once four ferry's running the great lakes. Some eight years ago citizens complained that not only the car ferry but MPU (Manitowoc Public Utilities) Our coal burning plant was covering cars and homes with black dust and some filed law suites against the utilities. They built a muti-million dollar complex some five stories tall to collect and trap the afterburn from entering the air quality. If they were forced to comply, Why not the dirty carferry ? Why are they allowed to contaminate and get nothing more than a slap on the hand. Your agency continues to give them extentions over and over with tiny little fines that they could care less what you say. You would believe that with all these years of threats of shutting them down they would have been putting money aside for the day when you would finally put your foot down and say " NO MORE "" Neither Tourism group has saved money for that day. That's how sure they are you can't or won't do a thing about it. If you shut them down tomorrow they would expect the taxpayers to foot the bill. Well I am telling you right now I will not give them one red cent of a contribution for something they should of been saving for. Look at the beautiful ferry Milwaukee bought. It may be smaller but it can take four trips aday where the Badger can only take two. It was also built by GE and is clean running. The carferry isn't for the residents of Manitowoc. Most people here couldn't afford the prices they charge for a family plus they're car. In Milwaukee county tax payers get a reduced rate to travel because like here their hard earned money payes for the up keep of the dock and harbor. Our is for visitors, not for us. They just spent almost a million dollars refitting the cylinders with new sleeves and all new oil lines. That doesn't sound like anyone who is afraid that your going to shut them down. The tourist will be just fine without the ferry here. If they are really in such a hurry they will go to Milwaukee to cross anyway. We need to save our town first. We need to save our air first. We need to save our waterfront first. We need to save our hobby and commercial fishing first. So make The dirty Carferry come up to code fist. Get it off our beautiful lake until the day it can meet of exceed the state and Federal requirements before it make another season. You must vote to stop them now not later.

Thank You for your time and patience in this troubling matter. I hope that you and the others will be taking a very long look before you make any decission. Don't just rush to get it out of the way. This is a matter that needs more than a glance. I trust as others that you will do the right thing.

Sincerely presented,



mark l kopecky

Manitowoc, Wi. 54220

---

**From:** Steve Searles  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 3/28/2013 10:04:08 PM  
**Subject:** Ludington Badger Car Ferry

Thanks so much for the extension decision for the Ludington/Manitawoc car ferry. I am from Ludington are used it to see Grandma ever year when we lived in Wisconsin. I am planning a trip in June out west and will be booking the Badger to get the trip started. Thank goodness for the realistic compromise.

---

**From:** Sandy Thomson  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 5/1/2013 9:54:22 AM  
**Subject:** Badger Ferry  
**Attachments:** 68A91616-AF9B-434B-A5A6-C7258AAD9914[5].png; B6F69127-AB61-4B55-80A6-3DD921993DA4[5].png; CDE64D5B-3A42-445D-8098-E740032C5B1C[5].png

The Badger is an American icon and a well functioning museum ship. The owners are responsible and environmentally concerned. Our company supplied non-polluting shaft bearings for the vessel several years ago for the purpose of eliminating stem shaft pollution. They were not forced to make the changes.

I believe the operation should be allowed to continue as is and continue to provide the pleasure to its passengers that is only possible with such a wonderful vessel.

I personally go out of my way to ride the ferry whenever possible as do a great many others with a love for our marine transportation heritage.

Sincerely,

Sandy Thomson

*George (Sandy) Thomson*  
Chairman

**Thomson-Gordon Group**

3225 Mainway  
Burlington, Ontario L7M 1A6  
CANADA  
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Water

Environmental Protection Agency  
Ms. Susan Hedman  
Chicago, IL

RECEIVED  
APR 09 2013  
U.S. EPA REGION 5  
OFFICE OF REGIONAL ADMINISTRATOR

Milwaukee, WI 53219  
March 28, 2013

Dear Ms. Hedman:

It appears the Lake Michigan Carferry Company's SS Badger will continue to pollute with toxic coal ash. Four tons daily.

Some even want to designate SS Badger as an historic landmark. One would think that operating any business presumes making communities, and the environment, better.

A national historic landmark should be a showcase of progress, and an emblem of stewardship, for future generations.

People involved in commerce, and in shipping, will be much more satisfied working, if they know that their work is having a positive effect, rather than a continually harmful one.

I think this is a great opportunity to get out the drawing boards and begin design on a modern, best technology, safest ship possible. An SS Badger for our time.

It would be an investment in an economic sense. We could create and build a world class ship right here in the midwest. Less CO<sub>2</sub>, less toxicity, much more efficient.

It would be a gift benefitting generations to come. People will want to patronize, ship goods, and travel on a new SS Badger.

Our expanding knowledge about our not so impervious and forgiving planet, should be absorbed, and be used to guide us to do what we can.

Yours truly,

John Menger

## Martinez, Isidra

---

**From:** Jay Beadle [JBeadle@mbres.com]  
**Sent:** Saturday, April 06, 2013 3:48 PM  
**To:** Hedman, Susan  
**Subject:** [POSSIBLE SPAM] Badger 509 tons of coal waste

Susan,

You are hired to protect us and not put off tough decisions. Time should be up for the Badger owners. Why would we let one ship dump all this waste?

I am trying to figure out what 500 tons of coal ash looks like and how this affects our water and wild life. Do you have any answers?

Regards,

**Jay Beadle**  
Senior Vice President

### **MB** Real Estate

181 W. Madison, Suite 4700 | Chicago, IL 60602  
P: 312.558.3862 | F: 312.558.3833 C: 312.316-8201  
[jbeadle@mbres.com](mailto:jbeadle@mbres.com)

[www.mbres.com](http://www.mbres.com)

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T. PONTY

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54701

ORC

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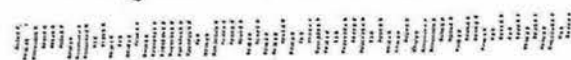
13 APR 2013



Ms ~~SUSAN~~ HEDMAN, ADMINISTRATOR  
US E.P.A., REGION 5  
RALPH METCALF FEDERAL BLDG.  
77 W. JACKSON BLVD.  
CHICAGO, IL 60604-3590

RE: CONSENT DECREE "LAKE MICHIGAN TRANS-LAKE SHORTCUT"

606043590



April 13, 2013

Federal District Court for the Western District of Michigan & E.P.A. Region 5  
Administrator, Ms. Susan Hedman

SUBJECT: Consent Decree, Plaintiff: United States of America

Defendant: "Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut,  
Inc." (Lake Michigan Carferry)

Please consider the following comments concerning the pending Consent Decree before the Court:

A. Proposed Consent Decree fails to provide timely relief.

- 1 The Vessel General Permit for the S.S. Badger had an explicit termination date, December 19, 2012, and that was known years in advance.
- 2 Operators/owners of the S. S. Badger (LMC) secured and benefited from a \$75,000 grant in 2011 with the expressed purpose of exploring an alternative to coal fuel. This acceptance demonstrates a tacit acknowledgement of the ash generation issue.
- 3 The technology to collect, convey and contain coal furnace ash has been well known for decades and is in common utilization by every such installation without significant exception.
- 4 The seasonal operation of the S.S. Badger provided numerous off-season opportunities to take corrective action, yet no such action was taken.

RECEIVED

In view of these indisputable facts, the owners/operators willfully chose to take no timely corrective action. Allowing an additional two years of continued ash dumping of nearly 1000 tons of coal ash is unreasonable in the extreme.

B. Owners/Operators of the S.S. Badger engaged in reckless behavior, heedless of the public welfare, contributing to the contamination of Lake Michigan, over which they have no exclusive ownership or property right.

- 1 It is a well established fact that coal ash commonly contains 'heavy metals', among them, mercury.
- 2 The owners/operators, after it was made known to them by the EPA that mercury was being discharged in excessive concentrations in the coal ash, continued the practice for the remainder of the 2012 shipping season. This is a willful, criminal act and must be subject to criminal action, not merely civil penalties.
- 3 Lake Michigan is the drinking water source for countless communities and individuals. 'Heavy metals', among them mercury, are also known to bio-accumulate in the food chain and will continue to jeopardize future generations.

Accordingly, continued dumping of coal ash in Lake Michigan for an addition two years, as in the proposed consent decree, represents an irresponsible and reprehensible act that can not be condoned by the court, nor any trustee of the public welfare.

C. The proposed forfeitures are inconsequential, and in fact, create an economic incentive to violate.

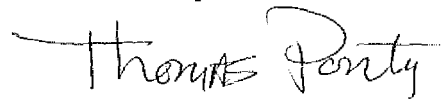
- 1 The assessment of \$25,000 for the willful dumping of mercury containing coal ash for months during the 2012 season is less than the potential forfeiture for a single day.
- ... assesses absolutely no cost for hundreds

Proposed "forfeitures" of this kind encourage continued violation and delay with the assurance of no adverse consequences. Such economic incentives to violate must be cancelled by appropriate fines.

CONCLUSION:

Failure to take corrective action in the face of a well-known hazard (ash dumping) constitutes wonton, reckless behavior, heedless of public safety or welfare. The actions of the owners/operators (Lake Michigan Carferry) are like an irresponsible bus driver, speeding toward a busy intersection with a 'STOP' sign in full view. Employees and others directly affected by these actions are being needlessly put in jeopardy of losing their jobs. They are, in fact, blameless passengers on the 'bus', held as economic hostages. The owners/operators of LMC have deliberately put the court and the Administrator in the unenviable position of either allowing Lake Michigan to continue to be an ash dumping ground or wreaking economic havoc on the employees of LMC and others. The court, however, has a larger responsibility: to reject the false alternatives in the proposed consent decree, protect the public welfare, and reject being essentially blackmailed by an irresponsible owner/operator.

Sincerely,



Thomas Ponty, P.E. Wisconsin License # [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]  
Eau Claire, WI 54701

10/20/2010 10:10:10 AM  
10/20/2010 10:10:10 AM  
10/20/2010 10:10:10 AM

## Martinez, Isidra

---

From: Laura Davis [REDACTED]  
Sent: Tuesday, March 26, 2013 6:13 PM  
To: Hedman, Susan  
Subject: EPA Badger ferry decision and Lake Michigan

Dear Dr. Hedman:

I am very disappointed to read that the EPA is allowing the Badger Ferry to continue to discharge coal ash into Lake Michigan.

This decision seems wrong to me in so many ways:

\*\* A former 2008 EPA decision had allowed the Badger's owners to continue to pollute Lake Michigan while they were supposed to be making changes to convert the boat to a cleaner fuel source. As I remember, the prior decision gave the owners of the Badger 5 years to clean up the boat. Why will another 2 years make any difference if nothing has changed to this date. It appears to me that there is no intention to clean up the boat's fuel.

\*\* Every other boat on the lakes have already changed to cleaner fuel or been retired. Why are the Badger's owners not expected to comply with the pollution laws when all others have already done so. Additionally, the amount of pollution that the Badger discharges into Lake Michigan exceeds all the polluting discharge from all of the Great Lakes freighters combined!

\*\* Lake Michigan is the fresh water source for millions of people. Can we, as a society, continue to allow this type of pollution when fresh water is a life-sustaining need for millions in the metro area, and the lakes are already stressed by continued drought and overuse. Also, the discharge of coal ash, which includes mercury, lead and arsenic, must impact fish, and ultimately, people who consume the fish.

This appears to me to be a very bad decision that protects a politically connected business. I am very saddened and disturbed by this recent decision and believe that the EPA is a vital agency with a role to fight for the greater goal of public health and safety.

I hope this decision can be reviewed and the Badger's owners be required to comply with the agreement they had already agreed to.

Thank you for your attention to this issue and your continued service.  
Laura Davis  
Inverness, Illinois

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**From:** Pierard, Kevin  
**To:** Nelson, Leverett  
**Sent:** 4/16/2013 4:39:50 PM  
**Subject:** FW: No More Extensions for the S.S. Badger's Pollution of Lake Michigan!

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**From:** Howard A. Learner [mailto:howardalearner@elpc.org]  
**Sent:** Friday, April 12, 2013 1:10 PM  
**To:** Pierard, Kevin  
**Subject:** No More Extensions for the S.S. Badger's Pollution of Lake Michigan!

 Action Alerts capitalized



Dear Kevin,

Lake Michigan provides us with water to drink, a place to boat and swim, and is a vital asset to our economy. That is why, for many years, ELPC has worked with you to protect our lake. We need your help now to keep protecting Lake Michigan.

In late March, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Lake Michigan Carferry (LMC) announced a consent decree that would allow LMC's S.S. *Badger* ship to continue dumping coal ash into Lake Michigan through the summer of 2014. Read the consent decree. The Environmental Law & Policy Center is working with our partners to submit written comments to the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) and the U.S. EPA. We will request that the proposed consent decree be strengthened as follows:

- There should be an explicit agreement stated by both parties that they will not request any further extensions to the cessation of coal ash pollution by the S.S. *Badger* following the 2014 summer season.
- The U.S. DOJ and the U.S. EPA should consider increasing the civil penalties for the S.S. *Badger's* continued pollution.
- The U.S. DOJ and the U.S. EPA should consider providing for steeper percentage reductions in the S.S. *Badger's* coal ash dumping over the next two years in order to have a stronger path towards compliance.
- The S.S. *Badger* should provide monthly reporting of how much coal ash is being dumped into Lake Michigan, and that information should be made publicly available on an easily accessible website.

Each summer, while ferrying passengers and cars between Ludington, MI and Manitowoc, WI, the S.S. *Badger* dumps more than 500 tons of coal ash directly into Lake Michigan. Coal ash can contain dangerous pollutants like mercury, lead and arsenic.

Please participate with us by sending an email to the U.S. Department of Justice.

The sad reality is that a consent decree may be the fastest way to end the S.S. *Badger's* dumping of coal ash into our Lake. The S.S. *Badger's* pollution of Lake Michigan must come to an end soon. Send an email to the Department of Justice request that the consent decree be strengthened.

All comments should be emailed on or before April 26, 2013.  
Thank you for helping to protect our Lake Michigan,

 Howard Signature  
First Name New 2012

Howard Learner  
Executive Director  
Environmental Law & Policy Center

P.S. -- Please share the [ProtectOurLake.org](http://ProtectOurLake.org) website with your friends and family who are interested in getting more information about this issue.



Visit [www.elpc20.org](http://www.elpc20.org) to find out more about ELPC's 20th Anniversary celebrations in 2013!

[Unsubscribe](#)



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**From:** Pierard, Kevin  
**To:** Nelson, Leverett  
**Sent:** 4/16/2013 4:33:12 PM  
**Subject:** FW: S.S. Badger Coal Ash Discharge to Lake Michigan to Cease by End of 2014 Sailing Season

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**From:** Otto J. Schlatter [mailto: ]  
**Sent:** Saturday, March 23, 2013 1:17 PM  
**To:** Pierard, Kevin  
**Subject:** Re: S.S. Badger Coal Ash Discharge to Lake Michigan to Cease by End of 2014 Sailing Season

So you are going to fine them for something they had a permit for? Seems like you would offer them \$25,000 to convert their engines to something clean burning instead just being bound and determine to destroy them.

Just a thought.

Otto

On Mar 22, 2013, at 5:07 PM, "Pierard, Kevin" <[pierard.kevin@epa.gov](mailto:pierard.kevin@epa.gov)> wrote:

<image003.png>

MEDIA CONTACT: Anne Rowan, 312-353-9391, [rowan.anne@epa.gov](mailto:rowan.anne@epa.gov)  
Phillippa Cannon, 312-353-6218, [cannon.phillippa@epa.gov](mailto:cannon.phillippa@epa.gov)

**F O R I M M E D I A T E R E L E A S E**

No. 13-OPA010

## **S.S. Badger Coal Ash Discharge to Lake Michigan to Cease by End of 2014 Sailing Season**

CHICAGO (March 22, 2013) - The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency today announced the lodging of a proposed consent decree that requires Lake Michigan Carferry Service, Inc. (LMC) of Ludington, Michigan, to eliminate the discharge of coal ash into Lake Michigan by the end of the 2014 sailing season.

In 2013 and 2014, the ferry will reduce its discharge of coal ash and LMC will pay a \$25,000 civil penalty for violating mercury water quality standards in 2012, according to the proposed consent decree.

"This consent decree offers the fastest and most certain path available to EPA to stop the discharge of coal ash from the Badger into Lake Michigan," said EPA Region 5 Administrator Susan Hedman. "The enforcement agreement reduces the discharge of coal ash more quickly and with greater oversight than would occur during the appeal of a decision to issue or deny a permit – a process that often takes several years."

The S.S. Badger was authorized to discharge coal ash under the 2008 National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Vessel General Permit. A permit provision authorized that discharge until December 2012. The S.S. Badger is the last coal-fired ship operating on the Great Lakes.

Last year, LMC applied for an individual NPDES permit to allow the S.S. Badger to continue discharging coal ash into Lake Michigan. In light of the settlement announced today, EPA does not plan to make a decision on that permit application.



DOJ and EPA will accept and consider comments on the proposed consent decree during a 30-day public comment period, to be announced shortly in the Federal Register. The proposed consent decree is available on the DOJ website at [http://www.justice.gov/enrd/Consent\\_Decrees.html](http://www.justice.gov/enrd/Consent_Decrees.html). Additional information about the S.S. Badger is available at <http://www.epa.gov/region5/water/npdestek/badger/>.

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**From:** Pierard, Kevin  
**To:** Nelson, Leverett  
**Sent:** 4/16/2013 4:32:29 PM  
**Subject:** FW: S.S. Badger Coal Ash Discharge to Lake Michigan to Cease by End of 2014 Sailing Season

Rett - this is the first of several I will forward. There were no responses from EPA to these e mails

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED] [mailto:[REDACTED]]  
Sent: Monday, March 25, 2013 9:56 AM  
To: Pierard, Kevin  
Subject: Re: S.S. Badger Coal Ash Discharge to Lake Michigan to Cease by End of 2014 Sailing Season

What does this mean for the future of Ferry service?

Chuck Chenevert

-----Original Message-----

From: Pierard, Kevin <pierard.kevin@epa.gov>  
To: Pierard, Kevin <pierard.kevin@epa.gov>  
Sent: Fri, Mar 22, 2013 5:14 pm  
Subject: S.S. Badger Coal Ash Discharge to Lake Michigan to Cease by End of 2014 Sailing Season

MEDIA CONTACT: Anne Rowan, 312-353-9391, rowan.anne@epa.gov Phillippa Cannon, 312-353-6218, cannon.phillippa@epa.gov For Immediate Release No. 13-OPA010 S.S. Badger Coal Ash Discharge to Lake Michigan to Cease by End of 2014 Sailing Season CHICAGO (March 22, 2013) - The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency today announced the lodging of a proposed consent decree that requires Lake Michigan Carferry Service, Inc. (LMC) of Ludington, Michigan, to eliminate the discharge of coal ash into Lake Michigan by the end of the 2014 sailing season. In 2013 and 2014, the ferry will reduce its discharge of coal ash and LMC will pay a \$25,000 civil penalty for violating mercury water quality standards in 2012, according to the proposed consent decree. "This consent decree offers the fastest and most certain path available to EPA to stop the discharge of coal ash from the Badger into Lake Michigan," said EPA Region 5 Administrator Susan Hedman. "The enforcement agreement reduces the discharge of coal ash more quickly and with greater oversight than would occur during the appeal of a decision to issue or deny a permit - a process that often takes several years." The S.S. Badger was authorized to discharge coal ash under the 2008 National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Vessel General Permit. A permit provision authorized that discharge until December 2012. The S.S.

Badger is the last coal-fired ship operating on the Great Lakes. Last year, LMC applied for an individual NPDES permit to allow the S.S.

Badger to continue discharging coal ash into Lake Michigan. In light of the settlement announced today, EPA does not plan to make a decision on that permit application. DOJ and EPA will accept and consider comments on the proposed consent decree during a 30-day public comment period, to be announced shortly in the Federal Register. The proposed consent decree is available on the DOJ website at [http://www.justice.gov/enrd/Consent\\_Decrees.html](http://www.justice.gov/enrd/Consent_Decrees.html). Additional information about the S.S. Badger is available at <http://www.epa.gov/region5/water/npdestek/badger/>.

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**From:** Pierard, Kevin  
**To:** Nelson, Leverett  
**Sent:** 4/16/2013 4:33:36 PM  
**Subject:** FW: S.S. Badger Coal Ash Discharge to Lake Michigan to Cease by End of 2014 Sailing Season

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED] [mailto:[REDACTED]]  
Sent: Saturday, March 23, 2013 10:22 AM  
To: Davis, Lillie  
Cc: Pierard, Kevin  
Subject: Re: S.S. Badger Coal Ash Discharge to Lake Michigan to Cease by End of 2014 Sailing Season

so why are you only targeting the s.s. badger, what about coal fired locomotive's ?  
i know of many

---- "Pierard wrote:

> [PR HEAD2]

> MEDIA CONTACT: Anne Rowan, 312-353-9391, rowan.anne@epa.gov<mailto:rowan.anne@epa.gov>

> Phillippa Cannon, 312-353-6218,

> cannon.phillippa@epa.gov<mailto:cannon.phillippa@epa.gov>

>

> For Immediate Release No. 13-OPA010

>

> S.S. Badger Coal Ash Discharge to Lake Michigan to Cease by End of

> 2014 Sailing Season

>

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>

>

**Martinez, Isidra**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, March 24, 2013 2:05 PM  
**To:** Hedman, Susan  
**Subject:** SS Badger

Ms Hedman, I am outraged by the decision to continue to allow the Badger to pollute our lake for another 2 years. When you say "we have a deadline for them to stop" you are ignoring the fact that they already had a deadline that they ignored. You are supposed to protect us and our environment. I am at a loss to see how you are doing your job properly.

Please exert the EPA's authority to stop this now. I will be writing to everyone else that is involved.

Sincerely,  
Gary Tarr

[REDACTED]  
Darien, IL 60561  
[REDACTED]

## Martinez, Isidra

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**From:** Adrienne Kostreva [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 22, 2013 5:33 PM  
**To:** jackson.lisa@epa.gov; Walts, Alan; Hedman, Susan  
**Cc:** mayronickels@manitowoc.org  
**Subject:** The Badger Ferry

Good day:

I quickly scanned the EPA Leadership Directory to source your names. As a Chicago resident, I must express my complete outrage, and disgust, that the Badger Ferry will be allowed to continue its practice of toxic polluting on Lake Michigan for another two years. Do you *really* believe that coal ash will be retained in on-board storage? More than 500 tons of toxicity each of those years, with extremely hazardous compounds and pollutants. To be specific - 509 tons of coal ash a year waste concentrated with arsenic, lead, mercury and other heavy metals.

How is that justified? It's not, in any way and it's impossible to provide any sort of sane, scientifically sound or remotely rational basis.

From the press:

The basis of the agreement is expressed in the following language found in the Consent Decree, we read, "WHEREAS The United States and LMC (jointly, the "Parties") have agreed that settlement of this action is in the best interests of the Parties and in the **public** interest (**how so?**), and that entry of this Consent Decree without further litigation is the most appropriate means of resolving this matter;"

The Badger contributes \$35 million each year to the economies of the port cities of Ludington, MI and Manitowoc, WI. Local officials and residents have played a key role in helping everyone involved in the process understand the importance of the Badger to the Port Cities. (*Yes, and it is a MAJOR polluter.*)

"The Badger has a huge economic impact on the Ludington Area (*and a detrimental environmental impact...for decades...on the Lakes*), but the historic ship is also a big part of the heart and soul of our community," stated Ludington's Mayor John Henderson. "We are very pleased that the EPA and Lake Michigan Carferry were able to work out an agreement that will allow the Badger to continue to be an icon for our community long into the future." And, of course, I know that the pressure was on local legislators to lobby for the ferry company, was it not?

According to Manitowoc Mayor Justin Nickels, "Manitowoc's long maritime history has been an important part of our identity for many years, and the Badger is a very visible (*and archaic*) reminder that the tradition continues. The car ferry is a big part of our tourism industry and is a valuable transportation alternative for our local manufactures. We congratulate Lake Michigan Carferry and the EPA for working together to ensure the continuation of this important transportation asset for Wisconsin and Michigan."

Wisdom, both scientific and environmental, is solely lacking in this sad decision.

Ms. Jackson, Ms. Hedman and Mr. Walts, this is an extremely detrimental outcome, one that makes absolutely no sense at all. The EPA has truly sacrificed Illinois and other concerned lake-adjointing states that are affected by this retrograde and foul business operation. Does it matter that this is an historic vessel from the 1950's? Not at this point. Put it in mothballs and stop the pollution. Do the ferry company and the Manitowoc Mayor care about the ferry's polluting effects on adjacent states? Most certainly not. Environmental sense, concern, and I add - wisdom -- are not granted by revenue dollars to a business, nor election to office.

Regards,  
A. Kostreva

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**From:** Bayberry  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/23/2013 5:23:42 PM  
**Subject:** RE: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771.

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**Subject:** United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771.

I believe the Ludington Car Ferry should STOP polluting Lake Michigan. It is filthy and should not be allowed another day of polluting our great Lake Michigan. The EPA and Courts should enforce the law, do not be cowards and let this pollution continue. Converting to another power source is easily possible and putting off the decision only helps the owner, not the public, the Lake or the City of Ludington.

John Erickson

  
Rockford, Mi 49341

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**From:** Jon & Lori Austin  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/23/2013 5:29:46 PM  
**Subject:** Reference Case Number: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

April 23, 2013

Assistant Attorney General  
U S D O J – ENRD  
P. O. Box 7611  
Washington D. C. 20044

Dear Sir:


I am writing this in support of the continued operation of the S. S. Badger. Please reference case number 90-5-1-1-10771 in the case of the United States v Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Short Cut, INC. d/b/a Lake Michigan Car Ferry Services & the S.S. Badger.

My husband and I live in the Metro Detroit area, but we recently purchased a vacation condo in Ludington. It is a town we have always loved, taking our children there to enjoy the lake and surrounding area every summer as they were growing up. We look forward to sharing more good times there in the future. The S.S. Badger is a huge part of the charm in Ludington as well a major boost to the local economy.

We ask you to please carefully consider approving the Consent Decree.

Thank you for your time.  
Respectfully Yours,  
Lori and Jon Austin

  
Madison Heights, MI  
48071

  
Ludington, MI  
49431



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**From:** Mark wine  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/23/2013 5:57:28 PM  
**Subject:** D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

To: Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division

Case: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

I support the Consent Decree to allow the SS Badger Car ferry service to continue for 2 more years while finding a solution to the coal dust discharge. My family has enjoyed using the service and appreciates the historic nature of the SS Badger.

Regards, Mark Wine

  
Canton MI, 48187

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**From:** DONALD HOFF  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/23/2013 5:55:50 PM  
**Subject:** D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

I have watched the Badger for the past twenty to thirty years continuing to pollute both the air and the waters and can not believe that in this day and age that it is not shut down and retro fitted with proper engine power!

Captain Donald

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/23/2013 5:44:51 PM  
**Subject:** SS Badger Consent decree

I am in favor of granting the consent decree to the Lake Michigan car ferry. The Badger is a unique, historical, and productive operation. The owners and the citizens of Michigan very much want this service to continue. LMC will make a commitment to sequester the bottom ash from the coal furnaces by agreeing to this decree. In doing so the discharge of ash into the lake will cease. This cessation satisfy those that are concerned about the discharge even though it is doubtful whether the coal ash that is discharged is harmful in any way to the environment of Lake Michigan. The fisheries around the Ludington area are top notch and the city of Ludington receives its drinking water from Lake Michigan in proximity to the badger's route. The water is always tested as safe. The consent decree represents a fair compromise. Do the right thing and affirm the decree.

Respectfully,  
Jonathan Freyer  
Ludington, Michigan

---

**From:** Ernie  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/23/2013 5:39:51 PM  
**Subject:** S. S.. Badger

My wife and I are retired and have used the Badger ferry service for our vacation for the past six years.

We look forward to this unique and comfortable, safe way of travel.

It saves us over thirty hours of travel on the dangerous highways to bi-pass Chicago each year.


We believe the small amount of ash discharged into Lake Michigan is infinitesimal in comparison to the vast size of the lake.

The potash may actually add to the growth of the food supply for the wildlife in the lake.

Has this been considered?

The Badger is an Historical treasure and should be supported and allowed to continue to serve the people.

Ernest & Donna Carlbom

  
Avon Lake, OH  
44012

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**From:** Mlou Brubaker  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/23/2013 5:39:08 PM  
**Subject:** D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

I want to see the Lake Michigan Carferry keep sailing without interruption. I use the service every year.

Thank you,  
M'lou Brubaker

Goodland, MN 55742

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**From:** John Oppenhuizen  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/23/2013 5:33:32 PM  
**Subject:** D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

April 22, 2013

From: John Oppenhuizen, 17 year Crosswinds of Ludington condo resident.

I cannot believe the Badger car ferry is still allowed to run. I have watched the Badger belched out smoke and exhaust every time it leaves the harbor. Smoke and exhaust that is so thick you cannot see through it. This cannot be an asset to our health, regardless of any scientific study. Common sense tells us that.

I have seen the effects of the Badger's exhaust pollute my 32 foot boat for years. Microscopic particles of metal in the exhaust get embedded into the fiberglass decking and cause rust spots that are impossible to remove. Imagine what that is doing inside our lungs?

Ludington and Mason County are already among the worst air quality places in Michigan, due to the prevailing winds from our "friends" across the pond in Milwaukee, WI. Why anyone would vote to grant additional life to the Badger is beyond me. I am not a tree huger and I vote Republican consistently. But this pollution has to stop. The Badger owners are allowed to make a profit at the expense of a lot of folk's health. Otherwise they would not stay in business.

If the Badger owners cannot make a profit by running a clean operation, then they should give up just like any caring citizen should.

I vote to end this proliferation of pollution.

---

**From:** Ann Salisbury  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**CC:** Brown Sue  
**Sent:** 4/23/2013 5:33:25 PM  
**Subject:** DJ Ref. 90-5-1-1-10771

I am writing in reference to United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., dba Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger.

I support the resolution giving the SS Badger two years to find a way to a way to operate without dumping coal ash into Lake Michigan. The Badger has a huge impact on the jobs and economy of both Ludington and Manitowoc, and it has been an important part of the maritime heritage of Lake Michigan since 1895.

No one wants to see the Great Lakes polluted, but it would be wrong to end this wonderful tradition without giving the Badger's owners a chance to solve this problem. Perhaps they will find technologies that can be used to fight pollution in other areas

There would be definite environmental costs to ending the Badger's service. If it were not for the Badger, many thousands of cars, trucks, busses and rvs would have to drive around Lake Michigan each year rather than riding across, adding a tremendous amount of pollution to the air. There would also be costs involved in road upkeep, bridge maintenance and repair.

Please give the SS Badger another chance.

Thank you,  
Ann Salisbury

Sent from my iPad

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**From:** Gerard Miller  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/23/2013 5:34:15 PM  
**Subject:** D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

As users of the SS Badger my wife and I encourage you to approve the consent Decree allowing the Badger to operate for the next season, while they are working to end the discharge of ash into lake Michigan. The service is also a great resource to our family living in Manitowac. Sincerely Gerard and Susan Miller, Fenton, MI



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**From:** Mlou Brubaker  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/23/2013 5:39:08 PM  
**Subject:** D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

I want to see the Lake Michigan Carferry keep sailing without interruption. I use the service every year.

Thank you,  
M'lou Brubaker

████████████████████  
Goodland, MN 55742

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/23/2013 5:44:51 PM  
**Subject:** SS Badger Consent decree

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Respectfully,  
Jonathan Freyer  
Ludington, Michigan

---

**From:** Mark wine  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/23/2013 5:57:28 PM  
**Subject:** D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

To: Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division

Case: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

I support the Consent Decree to allow the SS Badger Car ferry service to continue for 2 more years while finding a solution to the coal dust discharge. My family has enjoyed using the service and appreciates the historic nature of the SS Badger.

Regards, Mark Wine


  
Canton MI, 48187

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**From:** Betsy Vokac  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/23/2013 5:35:40 PM  
**Subject:** D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

I am writing in support of the Consent Decree that allows the SS Badger to continue to run with the requirement that it ends its coal ash discharge within 2 years. For many years I have crossed Lake Michigan on the SS Badger. It would be a shame to lose means of transportation between Wisconsin and Michigan.

Elizabeth Vokac

  
Brown Deer WI 53209

---

**From:** Bob  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/23/2013 6:08:30 PM  
**Subject:** Badger Car Ferry Service

To whom it may concern,

My family and I ride the Badger to Wisconsin several times a year to visit family and friends.. The Badger was transformed many years ago from a commercial service with very few amenities and poor accommodations for passengers to the wonderful travel experience that it is today. It would truly be a travesty to see the ferry service shut down, because the DEQ mandates this dis-service with little knowledge of the effects of coal ash in a body of water the size of Lake Michigan.

I believe that the benefits of the services provided by the Wisconsin Michigan Car Ferry Service far outweigh any detrimental issues the DEQ claims it may be causing and feel that we should eliminate the DEQ long before we force the car ferry service out of business..

At least the car ferry services knows how to best treat its customers.

Respectfully,

Bob Salmon

Concerned Citizen and Badger Fan

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**From:** Brian Pagenkopf  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/23/2013 6:13:41 PM  
**Subject:** D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

Assistant Attorney General  
Environmental and Natural Resources Division

Case Name: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

Dear Sir or Madam:

I write in support of the SS Badger, and believe it should be granted any reasonable extensions to address the coal ash discharge concerns. The Badger remains the only such coal powered ship on the Great Lakes and is important historically and economically. In addition to fostering tourism, it is a vital link in transporting large machinery, such as components for wind turbines. The amount of environmental damage or risk presented to the Great Lakes by a single operating coal fired / ash discharge ship is minimal, and any decision to shut down its operation because of ash discharge I believe is unwarranted.

Sincerely,

Brian Pagenkopf, Ph.D.

---

Brian L. Pagenkopf, Ph.D.  
Professor of Chemistry  
Western University  
1151 Richmond Street  
London, ON N6A 5B7  
Canada

[bpagenko@uwo.ca](mailto:bpagenko@uwo.ca)  
+1 519 661-2111 x 81430  
+1 519 661-3022 fax  
<http://publish.uwo.ca/~bpagenko/>

---

**From:** Joel Johansson  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/23/2013 6:30:26 PM  
**Subject:** D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

I am writing this note in support of Lake Michigan Carferry. I hope you will approve the consent agreement that allows the SS Badger to continue to run for two years while working on a zero ash discharge system. This agreement in my judgement is fair to all parties. Thank you, Joel Johansson Freeland MI.

---

**From:** chriscowles@northwesternmutual.com  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/23/2013 6:47:13 PM  
**Subject:** D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771 -- United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

I am writing to voice my support for the Consent Decree proposed in the above matter. Clearly, if one compares the seriousness of the overall pollution that would be produced by all the vehicles utilizing the *Badger* to travel from Manitowoc to Ludington – if they drove that distance – far exceeds the seriousness of the coal ash the *Badger* dumps. While I'm certainly in favor of the *Badger* taking the steps necessary to discontinue the dumping of coal ash into Lake Michigan, I don't think that the time for allowing it to do so that is contemplated by the Consent Decree should cause anyone too much heartburn. Clearly the benefits "the Boat" affords the environment far exceed its detriments.

Thanks –

Chris

M. Christine Cowles

[REDACTED]  
Hartford, WI 53027

[REDACTED]  
E-mail: [chriscowles@northwesternmutual.com](mailto:chriscowles@northwesternmutual.com)

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---

**From:** Doug Yanna  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/23/2013 6:52:45 PM  
**Subject:** SS BADGER

Keep the heritage of the car ferry

Thank You!

Toll Free: 1-(800)-553-0057

Office: (515)-225-2098

Cell: [REDACTED]

Doug Yanna

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**From:** Ronald Oproek  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/23/2013 6:53:52 PM  
**Subject:** D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-1077

Thanks for the support for the next two years to keep the Ludington ferry going while they figure out the ash discharge issue. My son lives in Minneapolis, and I live in Michigan. The ferry is convenient for us for our visits in both directions

Ron and Nadine Oproek  
Sanford, Mich.

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**CC:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 4/23/2013 6:22:22 PM  
**Subject:** S.S.Badger KEEP IT Running!!! D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

**D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771 REFERENCE CASE NUMBER**

Assistant Attorney General, Michigan

Comment pertinent to the continuation of the S.S. Badger until the ships can convert to gas-powered engines.

I am one of those who uses the S.S. Badger for Lake Michigan crossings. It is a handy and comfortable - not to mention ~ affordable - method for avoiding either the Chicago or the Upper Peninsula routes when heading west across the country.

I summer in Petoskey, Michigan - for 5 months while Ohio is my regular home.

Keep our Badger running - give it a chance to make the changes necessary.....please.....

Jean T Long

[REDACTED]  
Bay View, MI 49770

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Debbie Netz  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/23/2013 6:57:19 PM  
**Subject:** 90-5-1-1-10771

Attn: The Assistant Attorney General, E. and Natural Resources Division  
Regarding the S.S. Badger Car Ferry----we have used the Badger numerous times over the years and would very much like to see it remain operational. We live on the Wisconsin side but travel to the Michigan side often for vacation purposes. In our busy, stressful world it's nice to be able to travel peacefully and conveniently, to save on fuel and time, and to just enjoy the ferry and the experience it offers.  
We hope you see fit to keep it operational.

Timothy and Deborah Netz  
Fond du Lac, WI 54937

Sent from my iPad

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**From:** Kaye Dahlquist  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/23/2013 6:58:27 PM  
**Subject:** keeping the great lakes clean

Dear Sirs,  
please have concern for reducing coal ash from the Badger transport operation in the gret lakes.. We need epa  
90-5-1-1-10771 to effectivly limit this horrendous source of pollution! Thanks for your attention.. Kaye Dahlquist, [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] Palatine il 60074

---

**From:** Janice Collins  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 5/20/2013 5:51:34 PM  
**Subject:** United States v.Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut,Inc.,D.J.Ref. NO.90-5-1-1-10771

DEAR EPA,

PLEASE do not allow the SS Badger to continue to dump coal ash for another 2 years into Lake Michigan. They have already been given a 5 year delay in cleaning up their vessel's pollution. I STRONGLY oppose the dissent decree allowing for an additional 2 years of pollution. End the SS Badger's coal dumping now.

Sincerely,  
Janice Collins  
Harbor Springs , MI 49737

---

**From:** Ed Grigsby  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**CC:** media@ssbadger.com  
**Sent:** 6/2/2013 10:57:45 PM  
**Subject:** D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

I would like to express my opinion about the S.S. Badger crossing Lake Michigan. From my understanding the E.P.A. is concerned about ash waste from the Badger being deposited into Lake Michigan. I can understand the nature of the request or order, but I feel that the concern is a little mis-placed. I am FAR MORE concerned ,and outraged, about the leaky nuclear power plant, then I ever would be about coal ash. Perhaps this is an opportunity for the United States Government to assist LMC to find a viable solution with-out causing the demise of this history. There are a lot of engineering schools in the U.S. that could be utilized in solving this issue.

The Badger represents a unique history that is "Pure Michigan". The Maritime history is rich in Michigan and unfortunately, is becoming more and more oblique. We need to hang on to this piece of history and pass it down to our children. The very nature of this ship warrants its preservation. Not to mention the huge economic impact this ship brings to the local economies of both ports.

The Muskegon based "Lake Express" is by no means even comparable. It does not share the history that the Badger represents, and it has no where near the tourist draw. Given the choice between crossing on the "Lake Express" or the Badger, I would chose the Badger every time. To me, and many I talk too, the Badger is the reason to go to Ludington. I ask you, any of you who read this or any of the judges on this case, have you ever been to see the Badger come in or go out? Have you ever stood at the end of the pier and watched the Badger leave and sail into the sunset? THAT is "Pure Michigan" and you will not see this ANYWHERE else in the United States.

I plead to the courts to allow the Badger to continue operations.

Respectfully,

Edward Grigsby  
Grant, Mi.

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Sent:** 4/23/2013 10:36:17 PM  
**Subject:** I do NOT support the consent decree for the Badger in Ludington, MI

RE: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771.

This letter is to express my outrage and disgust at the EPA for allowing the Badger ferry to continue to blatantly pollute our beautiful Lake Michigan and surrounding areas. I live on the lake right at the harbor that the Badger goes by on its way to Wisconsin. The smell, fumes and filthy smoke that billow out and cover everything with black thick slim is disgusting. I am furious that the EPA has continually allowed the Badger and her owners to ignore the law. The company that owns the Badger has known that they must modify their engines for years and years. This has not been sprung on them. Like many greedy and short-sighted people, they want to make sure their profits are high each year and do not want to put any money back into the boat unless they are forced to. The EPA should be ashamed of themselves for buckling under and allowing them to continue to spew pollution into the air and into the water. I can't think of any reason that the company would be allowed to continue this unhealthy and illegal process unless they're paying someone off at the EPA. I guess bribery still works.

Don't get me wrong, I love the Badger and think she is a wonderful ship and a wonderful attraction in Ludington. But the owners MUST alter her engines so that they are burning cleaner fuel than coal. If they had started charging every customer just a few dollars extra years ago when they knew they were going to have to spend money to change the engines, they could have easily afforded to make the necessary changes. It seems to me they've been arrogant and acted like they're above the law. I hope they will be forced by the EPA to spend the money to make the necessary changes to burn cleaner fuel and that they can continue to operate this lovely boat for many years to come. Yes, their profits may not be as high for a few years but this will be an investment in the future and in people's health. We all want a cleaner environment. We must stand firm against those that want to continue to pollute our beautiful Lake Michigan.

Thank you for listening.

Marlene Serwinek



**Maher, Robert (ENRD)**

**From:** Capt Dean Hobbs  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 25, 2013 11:06 AM  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Subject:** D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771  
**Attachments:** Badger EPA Decree 2013.pdf

April 25, 2013

Dean Hobbs  
4862 Silver Pine Road  
Traverse City, MI 49685

**Assistant Attorney General  
Environmental and Natural Resources Division**

**Case Name: United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger**

**RE: D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771**

**Respectfully to the EPA and members of this court,**

I am afraid for the loss of my job as Captain of the SS Badger. Then I am afraid for the loss of jobs for the other 200 employees of the Lake Michigan Carferry Services. And then I am afraid that with the loss of the SS Badger there is no carferry capable of transporting large industrial machinery between Michigan and Wisconsin in a regular and timely manner. And finally I am afraid that government regulators do not understand their impact in the interest of environmentalism; everyone seems to have a different definition. As evidenced by the selective and inconsistent application of laws

In 1953 the steamer 43 (Badger) was built with state of the art coal fired steam engines. The next generation C&O management may have wanted diesels. More to the point, the Badger was built a long time ago by a different company and operating parameters.

This past Monday 22 April 2013 marked the forty-third anniversary of the recognition of Earth Day, intended to increase awareness of the complexity and interdependence of life. A lot has changed during these past 43 years. Some environmental activists celebrated Earth Day, claiming only increased government control can protect the environment. Their celebrations expose some ironies.

First, many activists arrived in a Toyota Prius, a symbol of environmental consciousness. Ironically the Prius is not a triumph of political planning but of the free market. Unfortunately the Prius is not an alternative power source for the Badger

Second, the most vocal environmental activists appear to live in cities, where nature has been thoroughly controlled, constrained and paved. The Badger provides an alternative to driving through the city, Chicago between Michigan and Wisconsin

Finally, the free market is the greatest system for allocating scarce resources and doing

more with less, the heart of a true environmental ethic. Natural gas appears to be an emerging fuel of choice both environmentally and economically. The Badger is in position to take advantage of this technology

I have no doubt that Lake Michigan Carferry will comply with the provisions of the EPA Consent Decree to reduce and stop ash discharges. I hope this court will rule to allow the continued operation of the SS Badger a 60 year Michigan icon.

**Maher, Robert (ENRD)**

---

**From:** Jim Gardner [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 25, 2013 3:20 PM  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Subject:** D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

To: Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division

Regarding:  
United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry  
Services and SS Badger

I am disappointed that the *S.S. Badger* (the car ferry between Ludington, MI and Manitowoc, WI) is being forced to stop using coal to fire its steam engines. I have ridden on the ferry several times and have been happy to enjoy and support this part of living history. A very important thing that functioning items from the past show us that relics in a museum do not, are the non-glamorous parts of history. The *Titanic* and other famous steam ships are remembered for their opulent dining rooms and grand stair cases because those are the kinds of things that people took pictures of and remembered. Without an operating example of a steam ship, people will forget that the "good old days" were filled with nasty grey smoke, and coal ash discharges. I am very glad that the EPA does not allow modern ships to violate our environment with these discharges, but I think they should allow the *SS Badger* to keep doing what has always been doing since it was built in 1953. After all, we don't require that automobiles from the same era be retrofitted with catalytic converters. I am willing to allow a little coal ash in my environment so that people have the opportunity to learn some of the dirty little secrets from the "good old days".

Jim Gardner

**Maher, Robert (ENRD)**

---

**From:** William Blake [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 25, 2013 6:45 PM  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Subject:** D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

**Address to:**  
Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division

**Case Name:**  
United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger

HI,

I believe the car ferry should be left alone!!! I do not understand why the government is wasting money paying you people to try and close a fully functioning landmark.

I am a Mechanical Engineering Student and Have nearly completed my Renewable Energy Minor.

That being said, I enjoy the ferry for its history of steam power and human ingenuity, but I also appreciate cleaner energy.

However with all the other major sources of GHG emissions (or ash dumping wtv) in the world, I believe the Badgers' emissions are negligible and worth tolerating.

I know this was poorly written, but your smart people, I think you can see my point, and finals is in twos week...busy busy gotta go ltr.

**BADGER CAR FERRY FOR THE WIN!!!!**

**NOW GO FIND SOMEONE ELSE TO PICK ON, AND QUIT WASTING TAX DOLLARS ON THIS BUREAUCRATIC BULL\$@T!!!!**

[REDACTED]

**Maher, Robert (ENRD)**

---

**From:** Paul Young [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 25, 2013 10:50 PM  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD); Paul Young  
**Subject:** D. J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771 ,S. S. Badger

I would like to put in my support for the continuation of the S S Badger as is. It is a registered historic site in both Wisconsin and Michigan. It is on National Register of Historic Places and its propulsion system is a engineering landmark of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers. Let it be noted that Sen. Durbin's people put out a number that exaggerated the effect of the ash on the bed of Lake Michigan by a factor of 50,000.

Thank You, Paul S.Young, Baraboo, Wi

**Maher, Robert (ENRD)**

---

**From:** Steve Begnoche [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 25, 2013 10:29 PM  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Subject:** D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771 United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and S.S. Badger

April 25, 2013

Assistant Attorney General, Environment and Natural Resources Division

Regarding,

D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771 United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and S.S. Badger

The proposed consent decree between Lake Michigan Carferry and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency should be accepted. It offers the quickest possible solution to ending the coal ash discharge from the SS Badger the EPA wants stopped while keeping the Badger sailing and Lake Michigan Carferry in service preserving 200 direct jobs and hundreds of other indirect ones in Ludington, Michigan and Manitowoc, Wisconsin.

It's as simple as that.

Don't be swayed by groups outside of the affected communities that have launched campaigns asking their supporters -- many of whom couldn't tell a carferry from a toothfairy or who have any first-hand knowledge of the issue or the communities involved -- to comment and tell them what to say. Those comments likely are parroting complaints that are often based on misinformation.

The EPA and the carferry operators, Michigan Senators Carl Levin and Debbie Stabenow (Democrats), Congressmen Bill Huizenga, Dan Benishek and Tom Petri (all Republicans), the communities of Ludington, Michigan and Manitowoc, Wisconsin, support the consent decree because it ultimately protects the lake we love and the jobs we rely on.

Those two elements -- stopping the discharge by Jan. 1, 2015 while retaining needed jobs -- we hope, ultimately are the only criteria that should matter. They are the pertinent arguments that should be considered.

The consent decree, as proposed, should be accepted. It gives the company needed time to transition to something that's never been done and puts an end date on the practice of discharging coal ash -- two sailing seasons from now, 19 months, many of which the SS Badger is docked for winter. The company has also agreed to reduce, on a per-day-average, the amount of coal combusted and ash discharged during the 2013 and 2014 seasons.

We are very concerned questionable political pressure could be exerted by Sen. Dick Durbin, D-Ill. Sen. Durbin's opposition is tainted. The senator became vocal in his criticism of the SS Badger this past year days after a fundraising benefit hosted for him by the lobbying firm Lake Express and its owners, Lubar & Co. hired to fight Lake Michigan Carferry in Washington, D.C. Why do that? Because the Lake Express ferry couldn't win the competitive fight on Lake Michigan. That's the real motive behind the effort that launched Sen. Durbin's opposition. He might not think so, but that would just mean he was duped.

Neither of the potentially affected communities are in Sen. Durbin's state. His state, however, is the source of much air and water pollution that far more seriously harms Lake Michigan and the air quality of Ludington, Michigan, than anything the SS Badger does.

We hope any attempts by Sen. Durbin to influence this decision are ignored or rebuffed. The fate of the SS Badger to the communities of Ludington and Manitowoc and the states of Michigan and Wisconsin is far too important of an issue for such questionable meddling by Sen. Durbin or the Lake Express owners and lobbyists.

If the decision rests on the merits of the consent decree's ability to satisfy the EPA concerns to protect Lake Michigan from whatever problem the coal ash might present, AND save jobs, then the proposed consent decree does just that.

We support it being adopted as presented.

Sincerely,

Steve and Brenda Begnoche

[Redacted]

Ludington, MI 49431

**Maher, Robert (ENRD)**

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, April 26, 2013 12:13 AM  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Subject:** D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771.

Dear EPA,

I feel that the EPA should do everything that it can to KEEP the Lake Michigan Carferry IN SERVICE for MANY YEARS to come. The carferry SS Badger has been in operation since 1952 and is a historic icon and mode of transportation in the midwest. The SS Badger supports the local economies in Ludington, MI and Manitowoc, WI providing jobs not only for its company employees, but also for transportation and tourist related jobs in both communities. The SS Badger provides transportation using United States mined coal for cars and trucks helping reduce exhaust pollution on our highway system and also help to reduce America's need to import foreign oil.

The steel mills and chemical companies on the Lake Michigan shores produce significantly more pollution into Lake Michigan than the SS Badger. The EPA should spend its efforts stopping those companies from polluting Lake Michigan and stop trying to prevent the SS Badger from performing its small but important economic supporting role in our transportation and tourism industries. The EPA should only stop the SS Badger from burning coal AFTER it stops the steel mills from burning coal on the shores of Lake Michigan. The EPA's priorities are in the wrong place. I fully support keeping the SS Badger in regular seasonal service on Lake Michigan. The EPA could use some of the fine money it gets from other Lake Michigan polluters to fund improvements to the SS Badger to reduce its pollution issues or convert it to diesel power.

Sincerely,  
Andy Roth

[REDACTED]  
Belvidere, IL 61008



**Maher, Robert (ENRD)**

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**From:** Bonnie Bogard [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, April 26, 2013 1:16 AM  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Subject:** re:stop the Lake Michigan carferry please!

**This request is in reference to:**

**United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771.**

**PLEASE make the carferry on Lake Michigan stop polluting the lake immediately so meychildren will be able to visit it in the future and have a clean lake, not one full of coal ash.**

**Also is the foriegn company who bottles Nestle still pumping water out of the ground connected to the land the great lakes reside on? In other words it was proven by Jesse Ventura that they were pumping it out of the Great Lakes and in addition another country was filling large bladders of water and shipping it to China to pay off our countries debt to them.**

**Does the Epa have any control over that?**

**Maher, Robert (ENRD)**

**From:** Matt Zahn [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, April 26, 2013 10:44 AM  
**To:** ENRD, PUBCOMMENT-EES (ENRD)  
**Subject:** D.J. Ref. No. 90-5-1-1-10771

To the Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division:

I am writing to express my support for approving the consent decree regarding United States v. Lake Michigan Trans-Lake Shortcut, Inc., d/b/a Lake Michigan Carferry Services and SS Badger. I am sure that this path allows for both the protection of our cherished lake as well as the protection of a cherished symbol of that lake.

I currently live in Virginia, and as a member of the Sierra Club and the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, I understand and applaud the EPA's efforts to provide us with cleaner water for our families, our fishermen, and our future. There is no doubt that the discharge of coal ash into Lake Michigan flies directly in the face of the environmental values we hold dear.

I also applaud the cooperative effort between the EPA and the Lake Michigan Carferry SS Badger. Working together towards a solution to end this practice is certainly better than unilateral judgment, especially in this case. The SS Badger not only offers a convenience to the consumer (my family and I still use it every summer for trips back to Wisconsin), but it serves as a symbol of the very lake we are trying to protect while bringing the sense of enjoyment of our natural wonders to new generations. I am looking forward to the trip this summer with my new son, Nicholas, and to seeing the wonder in his eyes as he looks out over our lake.

For the health of Lake Michigan and for inspiring future generations to care for it as wisely as we are trying to do, please approve the consent decree regarding the SS Badger.

Sincerely,

Matthew Zahn  
Alexandria, VA



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*Illinois Environmental Protection Agency  
1021 North Grand Avenue East, P.O. Box 19276  
Springfield, IL 62794-9276*



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*Susan Hodgman's office  
US EPA Region 5  
77 W. Jackson Blvd  
Chicago IL 60604*

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RECEIVED IN THE  
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

APR 19 2013

To Director of E.P.A.

I thought the E P A stood for  
Environmental Protection. Evidently not.  
This car ferry called the Badger has been  
polluting our Lake Michigan up forever.  
They were given a time limit to clean up  
there act. which they never did. Now the  
E P A gave them more time. All appointed  
jobs need to be done away with. they need  
to be elected by the public. we need a way  
to get these people off of these jobs.  
The environment needs representation

RECEIVED

APR 25 2013

U.S. EPA REGION 5  
OFFICE OF REGIONAL ADMINISTRATOR

Kenneth E. Cosner

Rockdale Ill. 60436

CAROL STREAM IL 601

29 APR 2013 PM 10 L

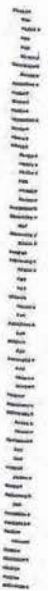
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Mail code: LR-8J

Ms. Susan Hedeman  
Regional Administrator  
U.S. E. PA.  
77 W. Jackson Blvd.  
Chicago IL 60604

6060433511



# Ryan Johnson

Chicago, IL 60626

April 26, 2013

Ms. Susan Hedman  
Regional Administrator  
U.S. EPA, Region 5  
77 West Jackson Boulevard  
Mail Code: LR-8J  
Chicago, IL 60604-3590

Dear Ms. Hedman:

I recently found myself feeling both heartened and dismayed upon learning of the recent legal agreement between the EPA and Lake Michigan Carferry Service that will allow the *SS Badger* to continue operating through the end of summer in 2014. In its defense, the historic steamship allows its passengers a unique glimpse into transportation of the 1950s, which can be a fascinating experience for both young and old. And no doubt the 250 jobs it supports is noteworthy in these difficult economic times.

But one must contemplate the long-term effects that allowing the Badger to dump over 1,000 tons of toxic coal ash into Lake Michigan will have over the next two years. The amount of arsenic, lead, mercury and other toxic materials contained in the ash cannot be healthy for the ecosystem of the Great Lakes, nor for the millions of people who drink from Lake Michigan.

That the ship's owners already missed their 2012 deadline to address this issue is most unfortunate. It's disappointing to know they will be allowed to continue this practice for two more years. Therefore, I strongly support Illinois Senator Dick Durbin's insistence that the pending agreement be strengthened to prevent the ferry's owners from further delaying the equipment upgrades that would store the ash onboard. And fines for violating federal limits on mercury pollution should be increased in order to discourage the operators from missing the 2014 agreement deadline.

Thank you for your time in considering this important ecological issue.

Sincerely,



Ryan Johnson

/RNJ

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APR 30 2013  
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OFFICE OF REGIONAL ADMINISTRATOR