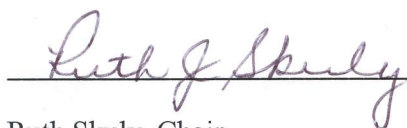


## Resolution in Support of the Public Trust Ownership of the Shore of Lake Erie

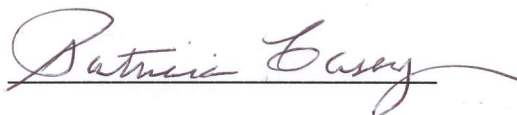
The Cuyahoga Soil and Water Conservation District believes that the concept of the Public Trust must be upheld as it applies to the shores of Lake Erie. The centuries-old Public Trust doctrine holds that some natural wonders are to be held in common by government for all people and should not be subject to private ownership.

The Public Trust is currently being threatened by the prospect that the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, under the direction of the Governor, will recognize private ownership of lands down to the "low water mark," rather than the traditional "high water mark." Such a change would mean the public will lose access to the shore of Lake Erie. Children could not play, adults could not walk along or fish from the beach except in publically owned areas.

We call upon the Governor and the Ohio Department of Natural Resources to recognize the stake that all people of Ohio have in the enjoyment of Lake Erie and its coast. Further, we encourage other governmental entities in Ohio to join in protecting the right of public access to Lake Erie.



Ruth Skuly, Chair



Patricia Carey, Secretary

July 18, 2007