

Jonathan Patel
801 Salceda Dr
Mundelein, IL, 60060

5/10/19

Mrs. Katie Papadimitriou
Chairman of the Illinois Pollution Control Board
100 W Randolph St #11,
Chicago, IL 60601

Dear Mrs. Papadimitriou,

Hello, I'm Jonny Patel, a freshman at Mundelein High school in Illinois. Lake Michigan is a beautiful attraction, but most importantly, it's a big working part of our environment. If Lake Michigan is polluted, it will devastate our environment because so many things count on it. I hope you can come to a realization of why we need to protect Lake Michigan from pollution at all costs.

Lake Michigan is polluted and it needs to be fixed as soon as possible because if we don't do anything about it, it will indefinitely turn into the second version of Chesapeake Bay. Although laws and activist groups have already been made to help get rid of the pollution of Lake Michigan, not enough is being done and Lake Michigan is still polluted. Most of Illinois gets its drinking water from Lake Michigan and the thought that factories and people are dumping things into our lake is disgusting. In the subscription database, Issues & Controversies, there is an article called, "Water Pollution", it says, "Notable effects of water pollution include those involved in human health. Nitrates in drinking water can cause disease in the red blood cells of infants, methemoglobinemia, that sometimes results in death." If we continue to let the waters that we drink from being contaminated by pollution from industries and such, we will soon see outbreaks of diseases all around Illinois, as well as other states that drink water from Lake Michigan. Since Illinois is so far inland, we will need to spend more money to import water from other places to use and sell water if Lake Michigan is unusable because of pollution. Also in the same article, it says, "Cadmium in sludge-derived fertilizer can be absorbed by crops; if ingested in sufficient amounts, the metal can cause an acute diarrheal disorder and liver and kidney damage." Not only can pollution in water give humans diseases and sicknesses, but it can also give them a diarrheal disorder and liver and kidney disorders that will cost a lot to be treated. These things like cadmium in fertilizer and nitrates in the water are from factories and companies dumping things into Lake Michigan. I know I personally don't want to drink water that can give me sickness and cause damage to me, I want to swim in a beautiful Illinois attraction and see the

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sunlight glimmer off of the lake. Thankfully, there is something we can do to help, and I have an idea.

As I stated in my last paragraph, industries are dumping way too many things into the water which pollutes it and causes things that can affect humans negatively. I think a way we can help keep Lake Michigan clean is by creating laws at least restricting what industries can dump into the lake and also by creating an activist group who helps clean the lake every Saturday and Sunday morning. In the article, from an educational website by a Great Lake's environmental activist group in Michigan, called, "Great Lakes Pollution", it states, "...[Army Corps] scooped up and dumped oil, bacteria, and chemical-sodden harbor mud from a localized area and spread it around the waters. Instead, Munro explained, the Corps should dump its dredges on land or in landfill areas along the lakeshore. Similarly, oil and garbage are dumped overboard from commercial ships on the lake, eventually ending up on beaches." So many corporations are dumping things into the lake whether they care or not because it is better for them. We can limit these dumpings or hopefully eliminate them entirely by passing laws as I proposed early. The beaches will still need to be cleaned, including things in the water like plastic and such. Beach clean up is something that the activist group I am proposing can help clean up. One example of the things that contaminated our waters and almost devastated our water source in 2013 is an article in a periodical source, a newspaper from Chicago Tribune, made by Michael Hawthorne, an experienced writer in environmental issues. In the text, it says, "Tiny strands of plastic are turning up in alarming numbers throughout Lake Michigan, raising concerns about a previously unknown form of pollution that scientists fear poses risks to people and wildlife by spreading toxic chemicals and disease-causing bacteria." Luckily, Illinois banned these tiny strands of plastic lately after they were discovered. Another thing that was discovered after the findings of these tiny plastic strands was where they came from. These strands of plastic came from companies that make clothing with petroleum-based fabrics. There are so many different pollutants that corporations can pollute Lake Michigan with, and the corporations understand that it isn't good for the lake. However, that won't stop corporations from dumping things into the lake. Together we can save the trash-filled lakes that will soon be hurting us because of pollution by creating an activist group to help clean up beaches and waters, in the mornings of weekends, and also create and pass laws to eliminate, or at least limit, the number of corporations that can dump garbage into our beautiful glistening waters that children and animals love to be in.

Industrial pollution is a big problem not only around the world but also in Illinois and Lake Michigan. If we don't do anything to stop this from getting out of hand, the water most of Illinois drinks from (Lake Michigan), will be contaminated and it will give people disease and damage to their bodies. I know that I would personally love to drink clean water and be able to swim in a beautiful lake next to a beautiful city with wonderful people, as would many other people. We

need to stop Lake Michigan's pollution from getting out of hand, and you need to pass laws on limiting corporation dumpings and to create an activist group to help clean the lake and beaches.