

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Last call for legislative map input

People from all over Wisconsin have been abuzz about "gerrymandering" and fair maps for over a year. Voters and county boards from 56 counties have passed referendums and/or resolutions demanding a fair, nonpartisan process be established for decennial redistricting that is now underway. Hundreds of state citizens and community organizations have submitted proposed congressional, legislative and community of interest maps to the People's Maps Commission over the last few months. The PMC recently released and took public input on a set of draft maps that will lead to the release of their final proposal in mid to late October.

Now you have one last call to get a kick at the "gerrymandering cat" and help Wisconsin get fair maps. After the 2020 Census data was released in mid-August, the Wisconsin Legislature opened its own online redistricting map portal and asked Wisconsin citizens to submit their map ideas for new districts and communities of interest. The website has helpful advice on how to participate using one of three online mapping tools. Many people have since submitted maps, but the opportunity to submit a map ends Friday, Oct. 15.

How can you submit a map of your own? Go to [drawyourdistrict.legis.wisconsin.gov](http://drawyourdistrict.legis.wisconsin.gov) and click on Submit a Plan. You can draw and submit a district map for the whole state or just your congressional or state Assembly/Senate district. You can also draw a "community of interest" map that shows any area, large or small, that affects you.

So don't delay. Make a map right away! If you would like to learn more and get some help making a map, join our neighbors from 4-7 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 14, for Mappy Hour - Last call at Amery Ale Works. More details [piercecountygro.org](http://piercecountygro.org).

For more information about redistricting and fair maps, check out [fairmapswi.com](http://fairmapswi.com).

David Fedroczi  
Osceola

## Put a price on carbon

Young people are concerned about climate change. According to a recent survey, nearly 60% of young people say they are very worried or extremely worried about climate change. The survey finds to be the biggest of its kind, with responses from 10,000 people between ages of 16 and 25 years. Three-quarters of those questioned in 10 countries said they think the future is frightening and 64% said leaders are not doing enough to avoid the worst of climate change. As a grandparent I feel the frustration and want to do something about

feelings of climate despair can be countered with action and we owe it to the next generation to act now. We must actively urge our elected officials to move and help put a price on carbon. The House of Representatives is HR Carbon Fee and Dividend Act.

A strong, economywide price on carbon like HR 2307 could reduce America's air pollution 50% by 2030, putting us back to reach net zero by 2030.

A carbon fee becomes affordable for many Americans when the money is taken from fossil fuel companies is passed as a dividend on a quarterly basis, a "carbon cash back" payment, to every American to spend with no restrictions. This protects low-and-middle-income Americans who otherwise might not be able to afford the transition.

Studies show that the monthly carbon cash back payments are enough to essentially cover increased costs of 85% of

American households.

A carbon price will save 4.5 million American lives over the next 50 years by restoring clean air across the country.

A carbon price will incentivize innovation by America's businesses, creating millions of new jobs that will transform our economy and put Americans back to work.

Please send a message to Congress to put a price on carbon. Call, write or email our representatives, Sens. Ron Johnson and Tammy Baldwin and our Rep. Tom Tiffany. Do it for your children and grandchildren.

Patricia Pesko  
Rice Lake

## Keeping Burnett County a great place to live

As a longtime resident of Burnett County and the Danbury area, 25 years full time, I am pleased county government has listened to its constituents and taken up the task of effective campground regulation. I never anticipated this as being an issue until an existing campground one-fourth mile away from me expanded. We all expect weekends, and especially holidays, to be a little busy around here. However, since the local campground expansion, the peace and solitude that has attracted so many of us full-time residents has been disrupted by roaring recreational vehicles, trespassing issues, increased roadside trash and general noise, all in the name of increased profits for a select group of property owners and investment groups.

My thanks to the campground working group, Jason Towne, land services director, for tackling the thankless task of generating #TXT-21-03. My gratitude also extends to the land use committee for taking the time to review and support the revisions to #TXT-21-03. Is it perfect? Perhaps no, but it is a great step toward effective regulation of the threat of ever-expanding "campgrounds" and all the challenges they present to our county. Now all that remains is for our county board of supervisors to approve #TXT-21-03 and put it in place. In voting for approval, our board members can set a great example of responsive local government for other counties struggling with this issue.

Again, my thanks for listening to us and acting on our concerns. We want to keep Burnett County a great place to live and visit.

Kevin Whelihan  
Danbury

## Buyer's remorse

Where do I start? I could not wait to retire. So I decided to work one year past my full retirement age and pulled the plug at the end of 2019. The four years prior to include 2019 were financially my best. During the Trump administration I had two pay raises, my retirement 401(k) was growing like never before, to include recovering all my losses from the Obama administration. I thought all was good; it was a good time to relax.

Well, the good times are over. They say elections have consequences. Boy, do they! Biden and Harris ran on "Truth Over Lies," restoring our relationship around the world, defeating the China virus (COVID-19) and "Building Back Better." Those were just some of the promises. It actually is more like "Lies over Truth" and "Build Back Broke." Whoops, sorry about that, France, our president didn't know about that submarine deal with you; we won't leave any Americans behind in Afghanistan; the border is closed; the \$3.5 trillion spending bill, which actually costs over \$5 trillion, will cost the taxpayers nothing. I could go on and on but it would

take more than 400 words to describe. And of course the mainstream media covers this all up, wasting their energy on belittling parents concerned about their children's education instead of reporting on the obvious.

It's only been 10 months into this new administration. It is apparent by the polls that elections do have consequences. Buyer's remorse anybody? Biden and Harris cannot dig out of this hole they have put this country in. It cannot be denied or spun to look any better. 2022 cannot come fast enough.

We as commonsense Americans must write, email and call our senators and representatives. Let them know we cannot let this "Lies over Truth" administration to continue this spiral. Get out and vote in 2022 to stop this madness. We retirees can contribute to make this correction. Just something as simple as a letter like this or contacting our lawmakers can make a difference. We who live in "flyover" country have a voice that is powerful and needs to be heard.

Bob Beidatsch  
Milltown

## Campgrounds

Thank you to the land use committee, Jason Towne and the county board who have spent a significant amount of time to impose the moratorium on campgrounds. Also, thanks for reviewing and accepting the amendments that will go back to the full board for approval Txt-21-03. I have lived in Burnett County over 30 years, most of it on Wood Lake. I have come to love the beauty of the area, the kindness of the people and the pride we have in our community. Before retiring I had worked for the Burnett County Health Department, Webster School District and Capeside Cove.

I have concerns about adding large RV parks and campgrounds on our small infrastructure.

Our current police, fire and health departments do excellent work for our community but we are not set up to sustain this success with massive amounts of tourists coming into our area. The additional income and tourism from opening more campgrounds would be beneficial to our local economy but I feel a slow-planned movement, as proposed, is the best way forward. If we open our area up without planning, I fear we will be overwhelmed and deplete the resources of Burnett County, a place I have called home for most of my life.

Carol Huff  
Grantsburg

## Grateful for foresight

I have always felt lucky to be raised on a third-generation dairy farm in beautiful Burnett County. Last winter, I was distressed when I learned of plans to create a 180-unit RV park almost directly across the road. Like many others, I wrote to county board supervisors about what I saw as a very large threat not only to agricultural land but also to the natural resources and quality of life in Burnett County. I deeply appreciated the thoughtful response of the land use and information committee when they considered and denied that permit.

For me, it was a wake-up call. It would be too easy to lose the natural beauty and resources - especially our waterways - that we have taken for granted for so long. We definitely needed a review and update of regulations to keep developers from overwhelming longtime residents with campgrounds that potentially put resource pressure on townships. We need a balance of activities to respect the rights of landowners, preserve agricultural land, encourage sustainable and appropriate businesses and allow campers to enjoy a more natural, quiet

and sanitary environment.

I value the hard work that the LUIC and Jason Towne, land services director, have done to create and approve updated rules for campgrounds in the county. Their vision for the future seems to restore that balance between economics, the environment, land use and taxpayers' rights.

This summer I spent a week in southern Ohio in a state park. The lake there was lovely - except for one end, where a riotous city of RVs sat almost end to end, by overflowing dumpsters and overworked toilet facilities. This could have been our fate. I am so grateful that our local government has more foresight than that.

I hope that the entire county board of supervisors will approve the updated rules for campgrounds!

Ruth Olson  
Town of Swiss

## We all need to do our part

I'm writing to you today to bring awareness to all Burnett County property owners of a key decision that will be made in October regarding campgrounds and RV parks in Burnett County.

Last week, the Burnett County Land Use and Information Committee voted unanimously in support of updated rules for campgrounds and RV parks. I would like to publicly thank the campground work group and Jason Towne, the land services director at Burnett County, for their time and hard work writing the updated rules and to also thank the Burnett County Land Use and Information Committee for their unanimous vote.

The key decision for final approval will be made Thursday, Oct. 21, at the Burnett County Board of Supervisors meeting. I support these updated rules and ask the Burnett County Board of Supervisors to approve them.

The reason I'm speaking out is that I care about maintaining the lakes, nature and quietness in this beautiful and pristine area that my family has been fortunate enough to enjoy for the past 60 years, 54 years as property owners.

After the expansion of a nearby campground, I've experienced increased traffic, doubled to tripled, increased speeding, increased littering, disruption of quiet times both day and night, deterioration to the boat landing due to power loading and increase in dead fish floating in the lake.

We all need to do our part to support and protect the pristine area, lakes and environment, which is the reason we all have come to this area to enjoy. Collectively, it is our responsibility to ensure that there is no lasting damage to this area that is irreversible, and we should all support improving and modifying ordinances, rules and regulations to help achieve this.

Therefore, I encourage all property owners to reach out to the board of supervisors and ask them to approve the updated campground rules.

Karla Graham  
Webb Lake

## Letters

Letters to the editor may be edited for length, grammar and accuracy. Letters should include your full name, hometown and phone number. Please try to keep your letters 400 words or less. Please include sources for your statements and disclose any personal or financial interest in the subject matter. Opinions published here do not necessarily represent those of this newspaper. If sending by email do not send attachments. Attachments will not be read. Send letters to Inter-County Leader, P.O. Box 490, Frederic, WI 54837 or email to [editor@leadericpa.com](mailto:editor@leadericpa.com).