

RICHARD J. DURBIN

ILLINOIS

ASSISTANT MAJORITY LEADER

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

COMMITTEE ON RULES
AND ADMINISTRATION

United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510-1304

March 22, 2012

Mr. Robert Manglitz
President and CEO, Lake Michigan Carferry Service
701 Maritime Dr.
P.O. Box 708
Ludington, MI 49431

Dear Mr. Manglitz:

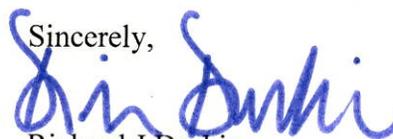
When we met in Washington recently to discuss the discharge of coal ash into Lake Michigan by your boat, the S.S. Badger, you said you were pursuing conversion to liquefied natural gas (LNG).

Regrettably, this may not be a realistic solution. A report issued earlier this year for the Joint Transportation Committee of the Washington State Legislature, titled "Evaluating the Use of Liquefied Natural Gas in Washington State Ferries," noted there are no shipyards in the United States with the expertise to build LNG powered passenger vessels. Furthermore, the US Coast Guard has not yet prepared the regulations that would cover LNG use on passenger vessels.

The LNG industry is still relatively new. As a result, there are few providers, and they are often subject to regulations that restrict their sale of LNG to utilities. Even with an LNG supplier, a qualified shipyard, and the necessary Coast Guard regulations in place, there may be insufficient fueling and storage infrastructure at your ports. It is my understanding that close to \$50 million would be needed just to create that infrastructure. One day, LNG may be the fuel of choice on the Great Lakes, but we are not there yet.

As you know, coal ash contains toxic chemicals like mercury, lead, and arsenic, which can kill aquatic life and literally endanger the future of Lake Michigan. It is the height of irony that your carferry operation is threatening the future of the very lake you depend on for your livelihood. Lake Michigan cannot continue to be the dumping ground for the 500 tons of coal ash your ferry dumps each year.

The four years since receiving your current EPA permit have been more than enough time for you to develop a credible plan for eliminating coal ash discharge. All you could produce for me was far-fetched LNG theory which has no chance to actually become a reality. Because of your continued, long-term refusal to clean up your dangerous operations, I will actively oppose your new permit application.

Sincerely,

Richard J Durbin