

RESOLUTION NO. 02-2024 (Amended)

**RESOLUTION TO PROTECT OUR WETLANDS
IN THE CITY OF WEST LAFAYETTE AND STATE OF INDIANA**

WHEREAS, at least 85% of Indiana's original wetlands have been lost, but the state needs wetlands more than ever. Wetlands are needed for handling stormwater, reducing flooding, erosion, purifying water and recharging groundwater.

WHEREAS, West Lafayette is home to the Celery Bog, a significant wetland recognized by the Indiana Natural Heritage Program. The Celery Bog is a 195-acre property home to over 100 species of birds, mammals and wetland species. West Lafayette is home to wetlands in Michaud-Sininger Woods, Tapawingo Parks, and in University Farms

WHEREAS, Tippecanoe County is home to the Purdue Wildlife Area which contains two wetland marshes that hold water all year (33 acres and 24 acres). Purdue Wildlife Area's marshes are emergent marshes of water depths of 6 inches to 3 feet. Purdue Wildlife Area's marshes provide benefits to wildlife and the Indian Creek watershed.

WHEREAS, Tippecanoe County is home to Prophetstown State Park which has focused on a restoration project over a 96-acre area for wetland restoration, stream bank stabilization and bottomland forest replacement.

WHEREAS, HB 1383 threatens Indiana's most valuable wetlands and the ecosystem services they provide Hoosier taxpayers.

WHEREAS, HB 1383 will reduce wetlands from Class III status (including forested swamps, sedge meadows, shrub swamps, wet floodplain forests, wet prairies and wet sand prairies) to a Class II status.

WHEREAS, this classification change would allow Class II wetlands to be destroyed, for many class II wetlands development on the wetland doesn't even require a permit.

WHEREAS, the past few years have been devastating for Indiana's remaining wetlands and we must protect these natural beauties for future generations.

WHEREAS, wetlands provide the following benefits to Hoosiers and residents in West Lafayette:

- 1) Save taxpayers money on stormwater infrastructure;
- 2) Purify water and remove pollutants; and
- 3) Store billions of tons of climate-polluting carbon dioxide.

WHEREAS, according to the Purdue Climate Change Research Center's Indiana Climate Change Impacts Assessment released on May 15, 2018, spending on wildlife-related recreation

(e.g. hunting, fishing, birding) brings in about \$1.7 billion per year. HB 1383 threatens this impact on our community. (See <https://ag.purdue.edu/indianacclimate/forest-ecosystems-report/>).

WHEREAS, the City of West Lafayette has long demonstrated its leadership in dedication to protecting the environment and continues to do so in hopes of preserving wetlands like the Celery Bog for future generations.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY OF WEST LAFAYETTE, INDIANA COMMON COUNCIL, AS FOLLOWS:

The City of West Lafayette acknowledges the emotional, recreational and economic benefits that wetlands bring to its citizens.

The Common Council of the City of West Lafayette expresses its disapproval of HB 1383 and urges members of the Indiana General Assembly to vote against it. In the event that the General Assembly passes HB 1383, the Common Council of City of West Lafayette urges Indiana Governor Eric Holcomb to veto the bill.

This resolution will be communicated by the Office of the Clerk of the City of West Lafayette to all Indiana General Assembly members who represent any part of Tippecanoe County and Indiana Governor Eric Holcomb.

INTRODUCED ON FIRST AND ONLY READING ON THE 5 DAY OF February, 2024.

MOTION TO ADOPT MADE BY COUNCILOR Blanco, AND SECONDED BY COUNCILOR Bellisario.

DULY RESOLVED, PASSED, AND ADOPTED BY THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WEST LAFAYETTE, INDIANA, ON THE 5 DAY OF February, 2024, HAVING BEEN PASSED BY A VOTE OF 8 IN FAVOR AND 0 OPPOSED, THE ROLL CALL VOTE BEING:

	AYE	NAY	ABSENT	ABSTAIN
Bellisario	✓			
Blanco	✓			
Burr	✓			
Dennis	✓			
Lee	✓			
Leverenz			✓	
Parker	✓			
Sanders	✓			
Veidemanis	✓			


Kathy Parker, Presiding Officer

Attest:

Nichole Foster

Nichole A. Foster, First Deputy Clerk



PRESENTED BY ME TO THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF WEST LAFAYETTE, INDIANA
ON THE 8 DAY OF February, 2024.

Nichole Foster

Nichole A. Foster, First Deputy Clerk

THIS RESOLUTION APPROVED AND SIGNED BY ME ON THE 8 DAY OF
February, 2024.

Erin R. Easter

Erin R. Easter, Mayor

Attest:

Nichole Foster

Nichole A. Foster, First Deputy Clerk

