RESOLUTION 89-23

TO EXPRESS COMMON COUNCIL SUPPORT FOR A PROPOSAL CURRENTLY BEFORE THE MONROE COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH TO ENACT MORE STRINGENT REGULATIONS FOR SEPTIC SYSTEMS IN THE WATERSHEDS OF LAKES MONROE, GRIFFY AND LEMON

WHEREAS, from the 1890's until Lake Monroe was created, Bloomington periodically faced water shortages, initially due to the inadequacy of private wells and cisterns, and later because the City's growth placed increasing demands on Twin Lakes, Weimer Lake, Griffy Lake and Lake Lemon; and

WHEREAS, the creation of Lake Monroe guaranteed Bloomington and Monroe County a plentiful water source well into the future; and

WHEREAS, in November, 1988, the Bloomington Utilities Service Board approved a six million gallons per day expansion of the City's Lake Monroe water treatment plant; and

WHEREAS, by virtue of the USB's decision, the Bloomington Utilities Department, sole water supplier to City residents and all County rural water companies, decided that Lake Monroe will be the area's primary water source, and Griffy Lake and Lake Lemon will act as secondary water sources; and

WHEREAS, the Army Corps of Engineers and the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, the owners of Lake Monroe, state the primary purposes of Lake Monroe are flood control in the Salt Creek and White River watersheds, and flow augmentation. The use of Lake Monroe as the County's water source and as a recreational facility is only of secondary importance; and

WHEREAS, from 1980 to 2020, the population of Monroe County is estimated to grow between 10% and 20%, adding between 10,000 and 20,000 new residents; and

WHEREAS, it is estimated that over 50% of lakefront property in Monroe County is privately owned and may be developed; and

WHEREAS, the National Association of Home Builders has stated that "high value is placed on developing in proximity to most bodies of water"; and

WHEREAS, population growth will put developmental pressures on many areas of Monroe County, including Lakes Monroe, Griffy and Lemon; and

WHEREAS, the Indiana State Board of Health has promulgated regulations concerning residential sewage disposal systems, and has vested the responsibility for interpreting, supplementing, administering and enforcing the regulations in the local boards of health; and

WHEREAS, State Board of Health regulations and Indiana state law authorize the Monroe County Board of Health to adopt regulations as it deems necessary to protect, promote or improve public health or to control disease; and

WHEREAS, the Chief of the Residential Sewage Disposal Section of the State Board of Health has said that state regulations do not adequately protect public water supply sources in Monroe County because of the special geologic and soil features peculiar to this area. He also stated that local health departments may adopt regulations which are more stringent than state regulations; and

WHEREAS, in March, 1989, the Monroe County Board of Health approved a moratorium which halted installation of septic systems within 1,000 feet of the Lake Monroe high water mark, and in June extended the moratorium to Lake Lemon and Griffy Lake; and

WHEREAS, on April 25, 1989, the Board of Health conducted a public meeting to receive evidence and testimony regarding current septic system requirements, the consequences and likelihood of septic system failure, and the geology and hydrology of the Lake Monroe watershed; and

WHEREAS, as a result of the public meeting, the Board and a majority of the participants concluded that more stringent regulations concerning septic systems in the watershed areas that lie within the Board's jurisdiction were necessary to prevent pollution of the County's water

supply; and

WHEREAS, the Monroe County Board of Health created the Lake Monroe Wastewater Task Force to study potential septic system effluent contamination of Lake Monroe, generate a set of regulations for septic systems around the lake, and offer any other recommendations it thought appropriate; and

WHEREAS, the Task Force met weekly during May and June to effectuate its purposes; and

WHEREAS, the Task Force, which will submit its final report to the Board of Health on July 11, 1989, concludes that the entire watersheds of Lakes Monroe, Lemon and Griffy should be defined and included in the new regulations since all three are public water sources at risk:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BLOOMINGTON, MONROE COUNTY, INDIANA, THAT:

Safe and plentiful water is one of Bloomington's most valuable resources. In order to protect this essential resource, the Bloomington Common Council encourages the Monroe County Board of Health to adopt more stringent regulations for installing septic systems in the watershed areas of the City's primary and secondary water sources.

PASSED and ADOPTED by the Common Council of the City of Bloomington, Monroe County, Indiana, upon this 5 day of July, 1989.

James C Regester

JAMES C. REGESTER, President
Bloomington Common Council

SIGNED and APPROVED by me upon this 6 day of July, 1989.

Tomilea Allison

TOMILEA ALLISON, Mayor
City of Bloomington

ATTEST:

Patricia Williams

PATRICIA WILLIAMS, Clerk
City of Bloomington

SYNOPSIS

This Resolution, co-sponsored by Councilmembers Iris Kiesling and Pam Service, encourages the Monroe County Board of Health to adopt more stringent regulations for the installation of septic systems around Lakes Monroe, Griffy and Lemon.

signed copies to:
County Legal
County Planning
Board of Health