

[REDACTED]
Benton Harbor, MI 49022

November 27, 2006

Governor Jennifer M. Granholm
P.O. Box 30013
Lansing, MI 48909

RE: Protecting the gift of Jean Klock Park

Dear Governor Granholm,

Contrary to what some of the local citizens have been led to believe by Cornerstone Alliance and the Benton Harbor City Commissioners, the giving away of Jean Klock Park land for a Jack Nicklaus signature golf course is not a benefit to the majority of children and citizens of Benton Harbor. As a Friend of Jean Klock Park and a voting citizen of Benton Harbor (who also worked for your campaign), I believe it is time for you to stand up and protect this gift from the greedy land developers. I believe that you know that these actions are not in the best interests of the citizens, and it is time for you to represent and protect what is rightfully theirs. Once this land is lost, it will never be accessible to them again. These decisions are not much different from the reneged treaties that our government made with the Native Americans nor will the actions have any less of an impact for the future generations of Benton Harbor.

Jean Klock Park is a **wealthy natural resource** that should be used for the enjoyment of the children and citizens of Benton Harbor as the gift of the land was intended. It should be used to educate the children about their natural habitat and all of the dependent wildlife that it sustains. The educational possibilities for the community are limitless. (See <http://www.savejeanklockpark.org/Welcomeindex.html>.) However, none of that will occur if the "theft" of the land is allowed to continue on its current course. There is no way a golf course designed to benefit the wealthy is going to benefit the children and citizens of Benton Harbor. We believe that the proposed Harbor Shores development can happen without giving this land gift to a golf course.

Please investigate how this has been **communicated** with the citizens. Please talk to the individual citizens of Benton Harbor, not their elected officials, and see in fact how many of them are actually for giving away their parkland. Please ask to see all of the "documented support" that supposedly exists. What we have found in talking to people on the street is that many of them do not agree with what is going on. Their commissioners are not representing them. The meetings where the public could provide input were not well publicized nor attended. Instead of doing a mass mailing survey to **all** of the citizens of Benton Harbor for their input, Cornerstone Alliance relied on a few poorly advertised and attended meetings. They claim that they have heard from a thousand people in support of this project. However, when that is compared with the number of registered Benton Harbor voters, that response is very meager support for a project involving such a valuable land gift.

It is time for you to demonstrate whether you are a true representative of the majority of citizens in the Benton Harbor community. Please work to stop this proposed golf course, or work to move it to Lions Park and Silver Beach in St. Joseph. I'm sure that the citizens in St. Joseph could benefit from the loss of their public beaches in the same manner that the citizens of Benton Harbor are supposed to benefit.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]
Friend of Jean Klock Park

Cc: Friends of Jean Klock Park



JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
LANSING

JOHN D. CHERRY, JR.
LT. GOVERNOR

December 1, 2006

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Benton Harbor, MI 49022

Dear Ms. [REDACTED]:

Thank you for contacting the Governor's office to express your concerns regarding the Jean Klock Park in Benton Harbor.

The primary mission of Governor Granholm's Constituent Services Division is to serve as a conduit for the people of Michigan to communicate their concerns and opinions to the Governor. Every letter, every call, every e-mail we receive is logged. Your comments and questions are reported to the Governor and her administration on a daily basis. The Governor greatly values the insight your input provides. In addition, it is also the Governor's goal that Constituent Services will assist Michigan residents in successfully reaching the state department or office best suited to offer them assistance or clarification.

However, your concern regarding the proposed golf course in place of the Jean Klock Park falls under the sole jurisdiction of your local government. This park is a local, not state park. If you require further assistance with this issue, you should contact your local elected officials at the City of Benton Harbor to share your thoughts.

Thank you, once again, for contacting Governor Granholm's office. I hope the information I have provided is useful to you and that you are able to achieve resolution to your concerns.

Respectfully,

Alexandra Edwards, Local Affairs Issue Specialist
Constituent Services Division
Office of Governor Jennifer M. Granholm