

June 4, 1997

Letters to the Editor
Lansing State Journal
120 E. Lenawee
Lansing, MI 48919

Via Fax: 517-377-1298

Dear Editor,

*This is the shortened version
of our original letter, that
you asked us to resend.
Thank you.*

In his June 2 Point of View, the state's G. Tracy Mehan distorts the important public debate on public health warnings about contaminated Great Lakes fish. The issue is the public's right to know.

Mr. Mehan argues against Michigan adopting the stricter advice, arguing that the state is already distributing recommendations for women of child-bearing age and children. However, Michigan's official fishing guide, which all anglers receive, doesn't include this information. This advice is only found in a separate, vaguely worded brochure. To avoid the controversy the Engler Administration has created, some fishing license vendors are discarding the brochure. The information isn't getting out.

If the issue is science, why is Michigan the only Great Lakes states balking at issuing more protective advice for women and children. What science does Michigan have that seven other Great Lakes states, scientific panels, and the U.S. EPA don't have?

The Legislature should swiftly enact HB 4206, which would mandate protective public health advice.

Sincerely,

Tracey Easthope, MPH
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Environmental Health Project
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