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**ENTERTAINMENT****By David Bonior / Special to The Detroit News**

The July 2 editorial "Don't Let Congress Control Great Lakes" makes the dangerous assertion that the fate of the Great Lakes should rest in the hands of several individual states. I disagree. The Great Lakes are a national treasure and far too important to entrust to a handful of governors. Especially when one of the governors is John Engler, whose disgraceful record on the environment and insistence on drilling for oil in the Great Lakes despite a statewide outcry pits him against the majority of residents in the state of Michigan.

In Michigan, we have 3,200 miles of shore line, much of which borders the Great Lakes. If we allow slant drilling in the Great Lakes, the natural beauty that we have come to take for granted may be lost forever. This why so many of my colleagues -- Democrats and Republicans -- supported the Bonior Amendment, which prohibits the Army Corps of Engineers from issuing permits for drilling under the Great Lakes.

Everywhere I go, the people of Michigan tell me oil and water don't mix. Everywhere I go, people say no amount of oil is worth putting the Great Lakes at risk.

Instead of drilling beneath the Great Lakes -- threatening our water supplies, and our fishing and tourism industries -- we should be focusing on innovative energy strategies that reduce our need to drill for oil in the first place.

In the meantime, my colleagues and I stand ready to oppose any attempts to jeopardize the Great Lakes. And it doesn't matter if the threats come from John Engler, George Bush or the oil companies that finance their campaigns.

David Bonior  
Washington, D.C.

*The writer is a Democratic congressman from Mt. Clemens who is running for the Democratic nomination for governor.*

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