

Dear Transportation Committee Members,

I am writing on behalf of Avon Township residents regarding the noise barrier that was erected on the north side of Interstate 94 several years ago. When the project was initiated, we expressed concern that placing a barrier along only one side of the roadway would increase noise levels on the township side. As a 52 year resident of this area, I can attest to the increasing disturbance the interstate noise has created for our neighbors over the past decades, even prior to the westbound barrier being erected. We have requested assistance with this problem on multiple occasions, but in every case have been turned down from the state on technicalities.

The area is an unusual case due to the bottleneck nature of construction implemented to squeeze the roadway between Upper and Middle Spunk Lakes when construction occurred in 1975. To compound the problem, east and westbound rest areas were built directly adjacent to both lakes, which creates more intermittent noise as cars and trucks slow and accelerate in accessing the rest areas. The jake braking and truck exhaust stacks shake adjacent homes and frequently wake residents during the night.

The level of disturbance increased significantly over the decades to the point MNDOT finally approved a noise barrier for this section of road around 2018. Unfortunately for township residents on the south side of the interstate, zoning requirements prohibit the housing density that is needed for noise barrier approval by the state, despite identical noise levels. Environmental lakeshore regulations along Upper Spunk Lake are a central factor in this.

During a recent township meeting, despite overwhelming support from township residents and township supervisors, residents were informed that only incorporated cities have standing to apply for the state's noise barrier program. Although the township has twice the number of residents as the city of Avon, we are ineligible to apply.

As a citizen who has had direct contact with Lisa and Jeff in the past regarding other issues, I was asked to reach out. We would like to invite you to our neighborhood to demonstrate our concerns and see what can be done to secure a noise barrier for our side of the interstate. After decades of enduring the noise, we could really use some help.

Thank you and blessings to you both!

Mark Casey

Avon Township Resident