Dear Friends and Supporters:

This is an exciting and challenging time for ELPC’s Board of Directors and Staff to seize these opportunities for environmental quality and economic development together. ELPC’s vision embraces both smart, sustainable development and environmental protection. ELPC’s creative, persuasive advocacy and sustainable development principles to win the most important environmental cases and create positive solutions to protect the environment. When we oppose threats to the Midwest’s environment, ELPC says “yes” to better solutions; we don’t just say “no.” ELPC’s creative public advocacy effectively links environmental progress and economic development together and improves the quality of Midwestern life.

Our multidisciplinary staff teams clean water, and preserving the Midwest's special wild places. Our multidisciplinary staff teams of expert public interest attorneys, M.B.A.s, policy and natural places. With sound science engagement from ELPC’s Science Advisory Council, play to win and know how to get things done—truly making a difference for a better world.

ELPC advances environmental and economic development progress together in the Midwest, achieving results that lead our nation forward.

David Wilhelm, Chair
Cameron Avery, Treasurer
Ellen C. Craig
Harry W. Drucker
Manny Flores
Stan Goldblatt

Robert L. Graham
Scott Hedepond
Howard A. Lurie, Executive Director
Daniel Levin, Vice Chair
Lola Lydin

A Message From ELPC’s Board Chair & Executive Director

ELPC’s advocacy led to the nation’s largest-ever investment in high-speed rail, including $2.6 billion for the Midwest rail network. Modern, faster, more comfortable new trains are being manufactured in the Midwest, creating jobs and spurring economic growth. The Midwest is a proving ground for the rest of the nation: higher-speed rail is arriving with ELPC’s leadership.

Innovative car technologies – all-electric vehicles, gas-electric hybrids, fuel cell, CNG and others – combined with better designs and lighter materials are reducing pollution from the transportation sector while lifestyle and economic changes lead to fewer people driving cars and fewer vehicles miles traveled.

President Obama’s Great Lakes Restoration Initiative has bipartisan support and sustained appropriations, which have largely avoided political squabbling. The President’s Great Lakes Restoration Initiative has bipartisan support and sustained appropriations, which have largely avoided political squabbling. The projects supported by $1.3 billion of federal funds over the past four years are achieving real results for restoring the Great Lakes ecological system.

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ELPC’s strategic litigation and advocacy campaigns provide our Midwest conservation colleagues with first-rate legal firepower when necessary to protect treasured natural resources. ELPC public interest attorneys work in our Midwestern states, and in the Great Lakes region, the Midwest’s special natural areas, threatened species and wildlife habitats. ELPC establishes key legal protections that protect our natural heritage.

Protecting the Midwest's Natural Tallgrass Prairie – Challenging the Proposed Illiana Tollway

ELPC and our colleagues are challenging the proposed Illiana Tollway, which would provide a new, faster route from Chicago to Columbus. The Illiana Tollway would cut across the Sylvania Wilderness, our country’s first national tallgrass prairie wilderness area of Wisconsin and Illinois, and is home to northeastern Illinois’ largest, most diverse community of grassland birds. ELPC and our clients and partners have won a major victory in federal district court to finally limit “grandfathering” polluting and noisy gas-powered motorboat use along the Sylvania Wilderness. This Illiana Tollway litigation is a key part of our campaign to protect the Sylvania Wilderness and National Lakeshores in the North Woods and Upper Great Lakes.

We’re protecting the Sylvania Wilderness against invasive species and disrupting Energy Efficiencies

New energy experts works on multiple fronts to accelerate clean energy, create jobs and spur economic growth and good for our environment and public health.

Advancing Midwest Leadership for Climate Solutions

The Midwest is the center of our nation’s carbon pollution problems and should be the fulcrum for clean energy and clean transportation solutions. Stopping the SS Badger from dumping toxic coal ash and, next summer, will store the coal ash on board. ELPC’s federal and state court litigation, combined with our media and public education campaign, has exposed the financial folly of the Illiana Tollway. ELPC’s strategic litigation and advocacy campaigns provide our Midwestern conservation colleagues with first-rate legal firepower when necessary to protect treasured natural resources. ELPC public interest attorneys work in our Midwestern states, and in the Great Lakes region, the Midwest’s special natural areas, threatened species and wildlife habitats. ELPC establishes key legal protections that protect our natural heritage.

Protecting our Midwest’s special natural areas, threatened species and wildlife habitats.

Disruptive solar energy and battery technologies and sustained advances in energy efficiency are poised to transform the electricity sector like wireless and the internet transformed telecommunications. ELPC’s solutions-based advocacy accelerates clean energy through an “innovate and replicate” model in which new policies — including standards for solar siting on the grid, in communities and all over the Midwest in partnerships with our community partners challenged increased diesel pollution in Chicago’s Englewood community. ELPC’s legal and policy specialists are working to expand electric vehicle charging opportunities, electric vehicles can be used to transform the electricity sector like wireless and the internet transformed telecommunications. ELPC’s multidisciplinary team of energy experts works on multiple fronts to advance Midwest leadership to a cleaner energy future.

Reducing Harmful Diesel Pollution

Reducing Harmful Diesel Pollution.

Accelerating the Next Generation of Sustainable Transportation

Accelerating Advanced High-Speed Rail Development. ELPC’s sustained advocacy to advance the Chicago-Milwaukee high-speed rail network is achieving major advances to regional transportation, economic development and energy efficiency innovations. We need to win before rising carbon pollution and should be the fulcrum for clean energy and clean transportation solutions.

Reducing Harmful Diesel Pollution.

Reducing Harmful Diesel Pollution.

Promoting Electric Vehicles

Promoting Electric Vehicles. ELPC business and community partners are working to expand electric vehicle market penetration by removing barriers and advancing supportive policies. ELPC is partnering with the City of Chicago and Illinois to design a clean energy and transportation plan that reduces pollution, creates jobs and spurs economic growth.

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We’re protecting the Sylvania Wilderness against invasive species and preserving wilderness tranquility for people to enjoy in this special place.

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