



**Clearwater Conservancy**  
*"Preserving our Public Lands"*

PO Box 100 Rapid City MI 49676  
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www.oldironbridge.com



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Built in the mid 1800's, the "Old Iron Bridge" remains a public attraction to visitors and residents of Rapid City.

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January 20 2004

To: Clearwater Twp. Board Members  
Kalkaska County Road Board Members

Dear Representatives of the People,

As most of you know, it has been almost two years since the Circuit Court's decision for the public to continue having jurisdiction over the 'Old Iron Bridge' and the road leading to it. It appears that the docket date for the Michigan Court of Appeals will finally happen on or near February 14th.

We, the Clearwater Conservancy, have dedicated many hours and much money to have professional bridge consultants analyze the bridge for safety and durability, and it was determined that with less than 20 percent restoration and repairs, the bridge will last for years to come.

We would like to remind you that nearly 2000 people have signed petitions to keep the bridge in public hands and preserve it as a historical site, as it is an important part of the history of our area. Its unique design will make it a valuable member of today's historical bridges. Its beautiful undisturbed setting adds to its value, and promises to attract many tourists and history enthusiasts.

We, as a concerned group of citizens in the area, would like our Township and County Road representatives to direct your attorneys to prepare their defense of this bridge and public road as best as they possibly can, and instill, if possible, the value this bridge has to its community.

We thank you again for your full support in the past, and want to assure you that the funds will be available to restore this historical bridge to its original condition, as early as this summer. Experts have already evaluated its condition and have given us a fair cost, which we intend to raise upon the Appeals Court's favorable decision.

Thank you again for your support of this bridge and its residents desire to protect it.

Sincerely,

Dale L Gaylord  
Clearwater Conservancy Chairperson  
231-331-4922