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GERRY J. SCHEUB, Second District

**February 20, 2001**

# STATE OF THE COUNTY
## Commentary about Lake County, Indiana
## by Lake County Commissioner Gerry J. Scheub

Lake County's future depends on many conditions. We have entered the 21st Century and a new millennium facing many difficult times ahead. As far as county government is concerned, we have to step forward and lead, or step aside.

Over the years, the State of Indiana has heavily depended on tax dollars generated from Lake County's steel industry. Lake County has, for years, been the backbone of Indiana's tax base. Now, when Lake County needs the state to join hands to renew a commitment to professional government, several state senators are more interested in politics than good government.

What a shame that a handful of legislators can stop Lake County's ability to compete with Michigan, Illinois and Ohio – just for the simple fact that this prejudice runs so thick in their blood. They should step aside and allow a positive flow of government reign. These are not proud days when these State Senators turn their backs on Indiana. Our forefathers would be ashamed of this pettiness.

As Lake County Commissioners, we have initiated cost-saving programs over the past four years. But, none of those savings compare in size to the excessive cost of the state welfare program to Lake County taxpayers. That cost needs to be transferred to the state. It is an unfunded mandate. We have been in court for the past two years trying to eliminate the welfare cost from our property tax, and have learned how slow our court system works when in a fight with the state.