JOHN J. H. SCHWARZ, M.D.
24TH DISTRICT
P.O. BOX 30036
LANSING, MICHIGAN 48909-7536
OFFICE: (517) 373-3447
FAX: (517) 373-5849
DISTRICT TOLL-FREE: (877) 868-8353
TDD: (517) 373-0543
E-MAIL: senjschwarz@senate.state.mi.us



THE SENATE
LANSING, MICHIGAN

PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE
APPROPRIATIONS, VICE CHAIRMAN
SUBCOMMITTEES:
HIGHER EDUCATION, CHAIRMAN
GENERAL GOVERNMENT, CHAIRMAN
COMMUNITY HEALTH, VICE CHAIRMAN
JOINT CAPITAL OUTLAY
HEALTH POLICY
MICHIGAN CAPITOL COMMITTEE
LEGISLATIVE RETIREMENT
SENATE FISCAL AGENCY
GOVERNING BOARD

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Rebecca Jarvis
517-373-3447

SCHWARZ OPPOSES DRILLING UNDER THE GREAT LAKES

Urges DNR to Wait for Results of Senate Great Lakes Task Force

October 25, 2001 - Senator John J.H. Schwarz, M.D., (R-Battle Creek) today stated that while he believes that drilling technology is essentially safe, he does not support any additional oil and gas drilling in or under the Great Lakes.

"I supported the resolution sponsored by Senator Leon Stille (Senate Resolution 112) which urges the Michigan Department of Natural Resource to not issue any leases that may lead to slant drilling permits under the Great Lakes until the Senate Great Lakes Task Force completes its study of this important issue," Schwarz said.

"I am opposed to any drilling under the Great Lakes," Schwarz added. "Energy reserves that might be located under the Great Lakes are small, if they exist at all, and there is absolutely no logic in risking environmental damage."

Schwarz continued, "If the question of banning the practice of slant drilling under the Great Lakes ever comes before the Legislature for a vote, I will vote in favor of such a ban. While the technology for slant drilling has been proved safe, I do not believe there is any useful purpose in allowing such drilling. Michigan's water resources and our environment must be protected."

-30-