November 21, 2018

Mr. John Bacon
Friends of the Grand Traverse Islands
253 North Third Avenue; Suite 7
Sturgeon Bay, Wisconsin 54235

Re: Grand Traverse Islands National Park Initiative

Dear Friends of the Grand Traverse Islands,

The Common Council of the City of Sturgeon Bay on November 6, 2018, acting on a recommendation of the City’s Park and Recreation Board, approved writing a letter of support for the creation of the Grand Traverse Islands National Park.

The Grand Traverse Islands are indeed a very special place, geologically, ecologically, historically and recreationally. A national park is very fitting for the area, as the Door Peninsula boasts five State Parks, numerous state designated natural and wildlife areas, as well as dozens of county and local parks. Door County and the Grand Traverse Islands are a part of the largest freshwater lake system in the world, but are proximate to significant urban areas, which would allow many more people to have access and enjoy the natural resources of Lake Michigan.

Door County’s economy is rooted in three significant areas, manufacturing, agriculture and tourism. Adding a national park designation for the Grand Traverse Islands would greatly enhance the tourism industry in Door County and enhance the existing significant public and private investment made in the tourism industry. Likewise the designation of a national park for the Grand Traverse Islands would enhance the quality of life opportunity for those who live in proximity to the Islands as well those who may visit.

Creating the Grand Traverse Islands National Park is an ambitious and grand idea with substantial public benefit. For the reasons cited above and those mentioned by other supporters of the formation of the Grand Traverse Islands National Park, the City of Sturgeon Bay requests that a bill be authored allowing the United States Department of the Interior to conduct a Special Resource Study of the Grand Traverse Islands to determine the possibilities for creating a national park.

For the City of Sturgeon Bay,

Joshua J. Van Lieshout
Administrator