



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

February 2, 2016

Mr. John Bacon
Friends of the Grand Traverse Islands
253 N. First Avenue
Sturgeon Bay, WI 54235

Dear John:

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Door County Economic Development Corporation, I submit this letter in support of the proposal to the National Park Service for the creation of the "Grand Traverse Islands National Lakeshore," which would connect the tip of the Door Peninsula in Wisconsin with the Garden Peninsula in Upper Michigan.

This proposal fits well with the mission of the Door County Economic Development Corporation, which is to improve the economic vitality of the County and its residents. Clearly, National Park designation would be a huge economic boost to Door County and the entire region. The public awareness and recognition resulting from this designation would be substantial and would greatly enhance our reputation as a national tourism destination. It would help to attract more visitors that complement our current visitor profile, those that love and cherish our beautiful natural scenery, beaches, parks, boating, fishing, wildlife, forests, quaint villages, history, arts and culture.

The National Park designation would also help protect and preserve the unique and sensitive natural environment of the islands for the benefit of current and future generations. Sadly, these islands are extremely vulnerable to destructive pressures from invasive species and pollution. Many of the historic lighthouses, structures and sites on the islands are threatened by the ravages of time. National Park designation, and the accompanying resources and protections, would be invaluable to help address these needs.

Thank you for your leadership in taking on this great cause. We look forward to working with you and the numerous supportive partners to bring this dream to reality.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "W.D. Chaudon", written over a light blue background.

William D. Chaudon
Executive Director

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