



*Cultivating Environmental Stewardship in the
Lakeshore Region*

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Mr. John Bacon
Friends of the Grand Traverse Islands
253 N. 1st Ave, Suite 1
Sturgeon Bay, WI 54235

RE: Support of Grand Traverse Islands National Scenic Lakeshore Proposal

Dear Mr. Bacon:

This letter is written in our organization's support of your proposal to the National Park Service for the creation of a new "Grand Traverse Islands National Scenic Lakeshore" which would connect the tip of the Door Peninsula in Wisconsin with the Garden Peninsula in Upper Michigan through the chain of islands which split the Bay of Green Bay from the rest of Lake Michigan.

This proposal fits well with the Lakeshore Natural Resource Partnership's mission, which is "to cultivate environmental stewardship in the Lakeshore Region". This mission is supported, in part, through collaborative activities that build local awareness and a stewardship ethic. Your proposed National Scenic Lakeshore would certainly help to raise the awareness of our collectively owned waters within the Great Lakes, and the scenic land-based resources which are contained in the area that you propose for designation.

Furthermore, this proposal compliments and enhances many of the local, regional, statewide, and even international projects, programs and efforts of many entities who have sought to bring improved recognition to the Niagara Escarpment – the thin band of dolomite cliff which traverses Door County and extends into Upper Michigan (and eventually through Ontario and New York) along the same route that you propose. One of LNRP's specific programs is the Niagara Escarpment Resource Network which has been working toward this end since 1998. This chain of islands has unique natural and cultural histories that are based on the geology of the Escarpment, and they represent a critical connection between Wisconsin's conservation efforts and those in Upper Michigan and beyond.

To that end, the LNRP Board of Directors fully supports the concept as proposed for a Grand Traverse Islands National Scenic Lakeshore. We look forward to working together to see that this component of our collective vision is achieved.

Sincerely,



Chris Goebel, President
LNRP Board of Directors