

Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515-2201

April 28, 2023

Director Daniel Eichinger  
Michigan Department of Natural Resources  
P.O. Box 30028  
Lansing, MI 48909

Director Eichinger:

As the U.S. Representative of Michigan's First Congressional District, I write to share my concerns regarding the proposed closure of Cornwall Flooding Dam in Pigeon River Country State Forest, and to encourage the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to work with state legislators to ensure its continued operation.

Cornwall Creek Flooding is a popular destination for outdoor recreation of all kinds, including fishing, camping, hiking, hunting, and horseback riding. State officials have estimated that anglers and other visitors directly contribute roughly \$100,000 annually to local shops, gas stations, and diners. In addition to this direct economic benefit to the area, Cornwall Creek Flooding provides significant ecological benefit as a habitat for loons, bald eagles, osprey, and other wildlife within Pigeon River Country. And unlike many other dams on cold-water rivers, Cornwall Dam doesn't have any demonstrable negative effects on downstream fisheries.

Since the announcement of the closure, there has been a tremendous outpouring of support for the dam from the local community – including from the Cheboygan County Board of Commissioners, state legislators, local conservation groups, and hundreds of Michiganders from throughout the area that have made their voices heard.

Maintaining public safety in dam operation is paramount – especially following the failures in Midland County in 2020. However, given the significant benefits and public support for the dam, DNR should instead enact temporary measures to maintain safety while funding for a full renovation is obtained.

I am grateful for your attention to this issue, and I stand ready to assist in any way possible.

Sincerely,



Jack Bergman  
Member of Congress

CC State Representative Cam Cavitt  
State Representative Ken Borton  
Steve Warfield, Cheboygan County Commissioner (District 7)  
AnnaMarie Deeter, Village of Vanderbilt Clerk

