

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

October 12, 2018

The Honorable Mick Mulvaney
Office of Management and Budget
725 17th Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20503

Dear Director Mulvaney:

We write to you regarding the Army Corps of Engineers fiscal year 2019 (FY2019) work plan and urge you to include funding for the construction of a new lock in Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan. Ensuring the Soo Locks are safe, reliable and efficient, now and into the future, is vital to our economy and national security of the United States.

As confirmed by the New Soo Lock Economic Validation Study Report released in June 2018, the Soo Locks are the linchpin of the Great Lakes Navigation System. Critical supply chains that support billions of dollars in economic activity and millions of jobs in the agricultural, automotive, manufacturing, and mining sectors rely on a single engineering marvel – the Poe Lock. On average, 80 million tons of cargo transit the Soo Locks annually and last year alone the Poe Lock handled 89-percent of the total tonnage. The need for a second Poe-sized lock was first identified and authorized in 1986. To this day, that need remains – as identified by President Trump in April 2018.


Construction of a second Poe-sized lock is necessary and prudent to ensure the resiliency and long-term reliability of the Soo Locks thus reducing the risk of a catastrophic failure, which would reverberate throughout the supply chain and affect every state. While we commend the men and women who keep the nearly 50-year old Poe Lock operating, it is critical we reduce the risk associated with a single point of failure. Specifically, we urge you to include \$74 million in the FY2019 work plan for the construction of a second Poe-sized lock. According to the Corps, this will allow design efforts to resume and construction to begin one shipping season earlier with a cost savings of approximately \$30 million.

The Soo Locks are Nationally Critical Infrastructure due to their economic importance and impact on national security. We urge you to include \$74 million in the FY2019 work plan to resume design efforts and begin construction of a second Poe-sized lock. We believe you will understand the critical importance of the Soo Locks. We appreciate your consideration and commitment to this project.

Sincerely,



John Moolenaar
Member of Congress



Jack Bergman
Member of Congress



Marcy Kaptur
Member of Congress



Paul Mitchell
Member of Congress



Justin Amash
Member of Congress



Mike Bishop
Member of Congress



Debbie Dingell
Member of Congress



Mike Doyle
Member of Congress



Sean P. Duffy
Member of Congress



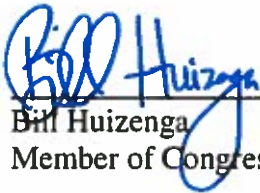
Bob Gibbs
Member of Congress



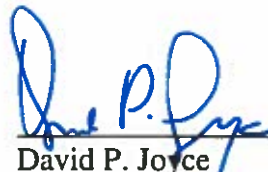
Glenn Grothman
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