

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

February 23, 2017

President Donald J. Trump  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Trump:

The purpose of this letter is to express our support for the modernization of the Soo Locks, located in Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan. We are encouraged by your interest and dedication to our country's infrastructure and look forward to working with your administration to bring this project to fruition.

The Soo Locks system serves a critical transportation need, not just for the Great Lakes region, but for the majority of our country. The Locks connect the Great Lakes and provide necessary access for our nation's manufacturing and commercial industries. Each year, 4,500+ vessels and 80 million tons of cargo and commodities such as iron ore, coal, and grain transit the Soo Locks. These materials have a direct impact on the economy, from advancing the steel and farming industries to growing automotive and energy production around the world.

The Poe Lock, the largest of the Soo Locks, is a single point of failure in a system that supports millions of jobs throughout the supply chain and generates over one trillion dollars in economic activity. Congress identified the clear need for modernization of the Soo Locks when it initially authorized the construction of a new lock in 1986, and again in 2007, when it reauthorized the project. While 70 percent of commercial cargo goes through only the Poe Lock, more than 60 percent of U.S. and Canadian fleets are currently restricted by size to utilizing the Poe Lock.

A 2015 Department of Homeland Security report clearly articulated the threat to the U.S. and global economy of an unscheduled outage of the Poe Lock. The report emphasized that any disruption of the Poe Lock could likely shut down steel production in the Great Lakes, and consequently bring North American appliances, automobile, construction equipment, farm equipment, mining equipment, and railcar production to a halt. Such a disruption would have devastating economic implications to not only the Great Lakes region, but also to the greater North American economy.

Mr. President, we thank you for your clear and expressed interest in improving our nation's infrastructure. The Soo Locks play an integral role in meeting the economic, environmental, and recreational needs of our country. As you plan your administration's infrastructure investment priorities, we look forward to working with you to modernize the Soo Locks.

Sincerely,



Jack Bergman  
Member of Congress



Paul Mitchell  
Member of Congress



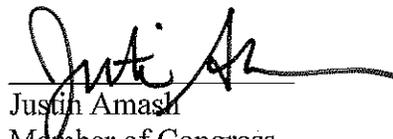
Bill Huizenga  
Member of Congress



Fred Upton  
Member of Congress



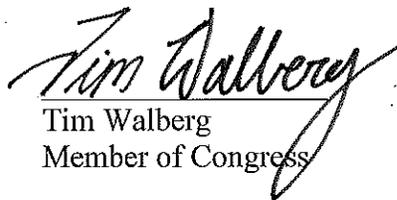
Dave Trott  
Member of Congress



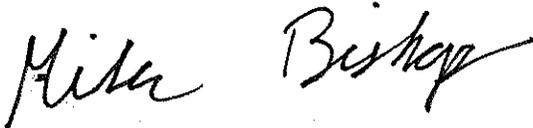
Justin Amash  
Member of Congress



John Moolenaar  
Member of Congress



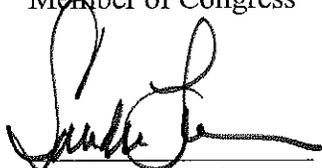
Tim Walberg  
Member of Congress



Mike Bishop  
Member of Congress



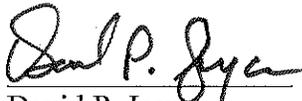
Debbie Dingell  
Member of Congress



Sander M. Levin  
Member of Congress



Daniel Kildee  
Member of Congress



David P. Joyce  
Member of Congress



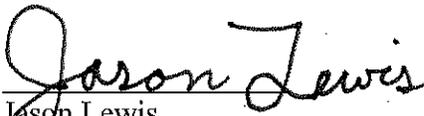
Louise M. Slaughter  
Member of Congress



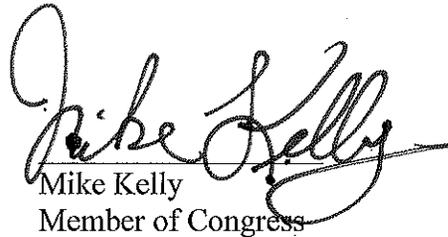
Bob Gibbs  
Member of Congress



Richard Nolan  
Member of Congress



Jason Lewis  
Member of Congress



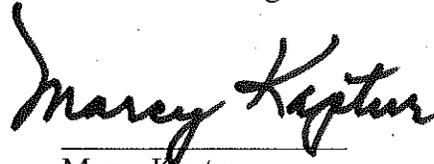
Mike Kelly  
Member of Congress



Jackie Walorski  
Member of Congress



Sean Duffy  
Member of Congress



Marcy Kaptur  
Member of Congress



Glenn Grothman  
Member of Congress