



Office of the President

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April 14, 2012

Jeff Gray, Superintendent
Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary and Underwater Preserve
500 West Fletcher Street
Alpena, MI 49707

Dear Jeff:

My purpose is to express support for the proposed expansion of TBNMS boundaries to encompass the waters off Alpena, Alcona, and Presque Isle counties, east to the international border with Canada. Under your leadership, and with the support of your staff and many community partners, the TBNMS has done an excellent job of fulfilling its mission of preserving nationally-significant shipwrecks and other maritime heritage resources through resource protection, education and research. The value of that mission is not limited to the waters in and right around Thunder Bay. The strength of your success thus far augurs well for your ability to take on more, thereby bringing manifold benefits to a larger portion of Northeast Lower Michigan.

As an educator my appreciation of those benefits naturally gravitates toward the learning that your programs effect for people of all ages and stations in life. From tourists not particularly intent on enhancing their knowledge base, to students and their teachers whose job it is to learn, and to those seeking to master skills for career preparation, all who encounter TBNMS come away enlightened beyond their expectations and thrilled by the joys of discovery. I particularly appreciate the partnerships with Alpena Community College that we have directed to the end of expanding learning opportunities (as Goal 5 from the ACC Board of Trustees enjoins me to carry out).

Beyond the enhanced levels of education enabled by the boundary expansion, one can make reliable inferences to boosted economic benefits from more tourism, research activities, and staffing capacity needed to protect the shipwrecks and the physical environment in which they rest. These treasures come to us with responsibilities to future generations, which the boundary expansion will help us more completely to fulfill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Olin Joynton', is written over a large, light-colored oval shape.

Olin Joynton
President