



STATE OF MICHIGAN
EXECUTIVE OFFICE
LANSING

RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

BRIAN CALLEY
LT. GOVERNOR

December 15, 2011

Dear Senator Levin:

This letter is in regards to Senate Bill S.485, Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary and Underwater Preserve Boundary Modification Act, to expand the current boundaries of the Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary and Underwater Preserve (Sanctuary) in northern Lake Huron which is jointly managed by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the State of Michigan to protect and interpret a nationally significant collection of shipwrecks and other maritime heritage resources.

As the State of Michigan is a partner in the ongoing management and research activities in the Sanctuary, we fully support the proposed bill to expand the existing area of the Sanctuary from 448 square miles to 4,085 square miles. The area proposed for expansion encompasses the Lake Huron water and bottomlands offshore of Alcona, Alpena and Presque Isle counties. Several local communities also support the proposed expansion as this will provide further insight to their sense of place and also provide an economic boost from increased tourism.

The expansion will further protect shipwrecks and other sites of historical and archaeological significance. The Sanctuary's efforts in documentation and interpretation of these resources will increase our knowledge of Michigan's development as the Great Lakes State.

Thank you for your consideration of protecting Michigan's Great Lakes and its rich submerged cultural resources.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Rick Snyder'.

Rick Snyder
Governor