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Uniting Our Ports as Michigan's Front Door

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May 3, 2012

Jeff Gray

Sanctuary Superintendent

Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary

500 West Fletcher Street

Alpena, MI 49707

RE: Boundary Expansion for the Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary

Dear Mr. Gray:

As a Board member of the Michigan Port Collaborative (MPC), I'm writing on behalf of the organization in support of the proposed boundary expansion for the Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary and Underwater Preserve to include waters off Alpena, Alcona and Presque Isle counties.

The expansion of these boundaries will have significant positive impact on the understanding and research of our maritime heritage by enabling utilization of increased federal financial resources, along with increasing education programming for the public. Residents and visitors will have greater awareness and understanding of the region's maritime heritage.

Thank you for all your work on this project and let the MPC know if there is anything we can further do to support this effort.

Sincerely,

Helen Pasakarnis

MPC Board Member

2012 Recipient of the Governor's Award for Innovative Tourism Collaboration 

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