

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

October 12, 2018

The Honorable R.D. James  
Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works  
108 Army Pentagon  
Washington, D.C. 20310-0108

Lieutenant General Todd T. Semonite  
Commanding General and Chief of Engineers  
Headquarters, United States Army Corps of Engineers  
441 G Street, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20314-1000

Dear Mr. James and Lieutenant General Semonite:


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  
Member of Congress  
Brian Higgins  
Member of Congress



Bill Huizenga  
Member of Congress



David P. Joyce  
Member of Congress



Daniel T. Kildee  
Member of Congress



Brenda L. Lawrence  
Member of Congress



Sander M. Levin  
Member of Congress



Jason Lewis  
Member of Congress



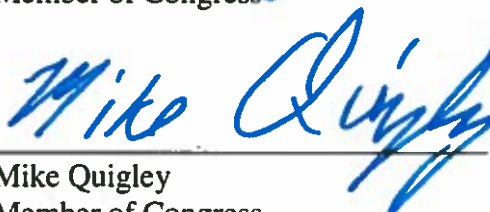
Daniel W. Lipinski  
Member of Congress



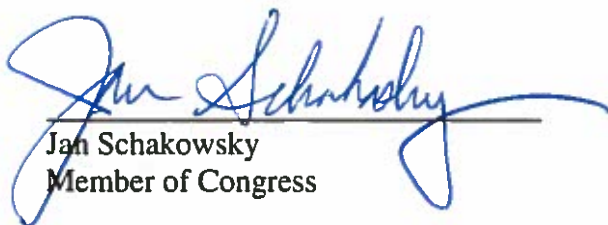
Gwen Moore  
Member of Congress



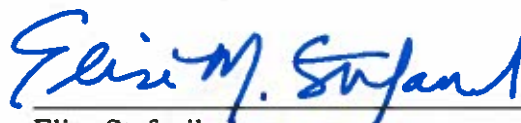
Richard M. Nolan  
Member of Congress



Mike Quigley  
Member of Congress



Jan Schakowsky  
Member of Congress



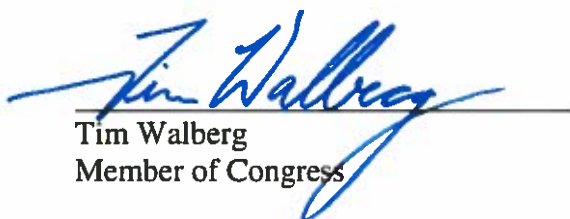
Elise Stefanik  
Member of Congress



Dave Trott  
Member of Congress



Fred Upton  
Member of Congress



Tim Walberg  
Member of Congress



Jackie Walorski  
Member of Congress