

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

April 2, 2025

The Honorable Robyn S. Colosimo
Acting Assistant Secretary
Department of the Army – Civil Works
108 Army Pentagon
Washington, DC 20310

The Honorable Russell Vought
Director
Office of Management and Budget
725 17th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20503

Dear Assistant Secretary Colosimo and Director Vought:

As members of Michigan's Congressional Delegation, we write to express our strong support for the Soo Locks. As you work to develop the fiscal year (FY) 2025 Army Corps work plan, we urge you to provide \$450.3 million for the construction of a New Lock at the Soo. This level of funding matches the Army Corps' full FY2025 capability and is essential to ensuring that this critical project proceeds on schedule and on budget.

The Soo Locks in Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan serve as a gateway for nearly 80 million tons of goods and raw materials that supply the region's manufacturing, mining, and agricultural industries. The Soo Locks facility currently consists of four parallel locks: the Poe, the MacArthur, the Sabin, and the Davis. However, only the Poe and MacArthur locks are currently operational, and only the 1,200-foot Poe is of sufficient size for the passage of vessels that carry iron ore between Lake Superior and the lower Great Lakes. Nearly all domestically produced high strength steel is made from iron ore transported through the Soo Locks.

An unscheduled outage of the Poe Lock would devastate our regional and national economies, harm our manufacturing sector, and threaten our national security. The June 29, 2018 Economic Validation Study and Post Authorization Change Report for the Soo Locks project noted that "the strategic importance of the Soo Locks cannot be overstated." A separate report by the Department of Homeland Security concluded it is "hard to conceive" of a single piece of infrastructure more consequential in terms of impact to the economy from an unexpected and sustained closure. For perspective, just a six-month unscheduled outage at the Soo is estimated to result in 11 million jobs lost and a \$1.1 trillion hit to the economy.

Building a second Poe-sized lock will provide the resiliency needed to ensure this critical infrastructure remains open for commerce. Work on this project – which is being spearheaded by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers – is already underway. It is imperative that we deliver the funding needed for this project to proceed as expeditiously as possible.


The Corps' FY2025 funding capability for this project is \$450.3 million. Importantly, this level of funding would allow the Army Corps to award contracts for the three remaining project options: Option 4 – Downstream Work, Option 5 – Hands Free Mooring, and Option 6 – Downstream Ship Arrestors. These options are currently fixed price and so long as they are awarded during the option acceptance period, which closes on September 25 of this year, the current cost is guaranteed not to increase. However, if the project does not receive the funding

necessary to award these options before this date, the contracts must be renegotiated with the contractor. This will almost certainly delay the completion of the project and result in total project costs increasing significantly.


To ensure that this vital project remains on schedule and on budget, we urge you to include \$450.3 million for the construction of a New Lock at the Soo in the FY2025 Army Corps work plan. We simply cannot afford to underfund this project at this critical juncture.

Thank you for your consideration of this urgent request.

Sincerely,




Gary C. Peters
United States Senator



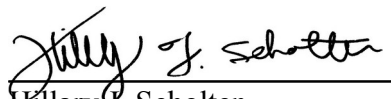
Jack Bergman
Member of Congress




Elissa Slotkin
United States Senator



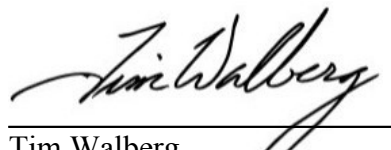
John R. Moolenaar
Member of Congress



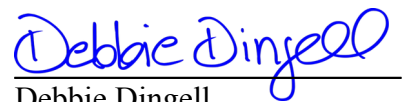
Hillary J. Scholten
Member of Congress




Bill Huizenga
Member of Congress



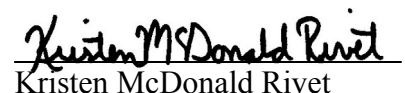
Tim Walberg
Member of Congress



Debbie Dingell
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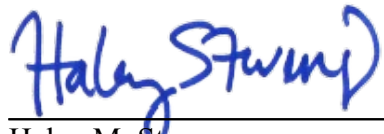
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Member of Congress



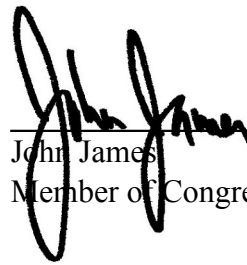
Lisa C. McClain
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