



Tony Evers

Office of the Governor | State of Wisconsin

November 1, 2019

The Honorable Neil Jacobs, Ph.D.
Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Environmental Observation and Prediction and
Acting Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20230

RE: Wisconsin-Lake Michigan National Marine Sanctuary Designation Process

Dear Dr. Jacobs:

I am pleased to notify your office of Wisconsin's renewed support for the designation of a National Marine Sanctuary along our Lake Michigan shores. The proposed Wisconsin-Lake Michigan National Marine Sanctuary will build on decades of investment by the citizens of Wisconsin to preserve and promote our state's maritime heritage, natural resources, and tradition of excellence in research and education.

Originally submitted to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) for consideration in 2014, the proposed sanctuary will preserve a nationally significant collection of more than 30 shipwrecks, as well as many potential shipwreck sites. These wrecks tell the story of Wisconsin and serve as a reminder of the enduring relationship between the people of our state and the Great Lakes.

In addition to the preservation of Wisconsin's proud maritime heritage, the proposed sanctuary would also expand on state and local tourism initiatives and promote stewardship of the largest freshwater system in the world. The proposed designation would also enhance Great Lakes educational programs, including STEM-focused initiatives and job training, and enhance Wisconsin's reputation as a national leader in the freshwater sciences.

I look forward to working with you and your staff at NOAA as this exciting project advances to ensure that these waters are preserved for generations to come.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tony Evers".

Tony Evers
Governor of Wisconsin

cc: Wisconsin Congressional Delegation
John Armor, Director, Office of National Marine Sanctuaries, NOAA