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NOV 30 2009



**ORLEANS COUNTY LEGISLATURE
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Kenneth E. Rush - District 4

November 24, 2009

The Honorable Louise M. Slaughter
United States House of Representatives
28th Congressional District
3120 Federal Building
100 State Street
Rochester, New York 14614

Dear Congresswoman Slaughter:

On behalf of the Orleans County Legislature, I would like to express our support for, and request your assistance in, creating a specific Lake Ontario funding program within the upcoming Water Resources Development Act to allow the Corps of Engineers to dredge federally-designated shallow draft harbors such as our Oak Orchard Harbor. I know you are keenly aware of the economic importance of maintaining public boating access to the Great Lakes.

Recently, this Legislature joined the Great Lakes Small Harbors Coalition to advocate for an equitable, sustainable system of funding maintenance of small harbors on the Great Lakes (Resolution No. 358-1109 attached). We look forward to authorization of funding and working through FY 2011 to obtain an appropriation.

Sincerely,

Henry Smith, Jr., Chairman
Orleans County Legislature

ENC.

RESOLUTION NO. 358-1109

SUPPORTING MEMBERSHIP IN THE GREAT LAKES SMALL HARBORS COALITION

WHEREAS, there are approximately 120 federally authorized small Great Lakes harbors; and

WHEREAS, the federal government is responsible for maintaining boater access to these harbors through adequate dredging and maintenance of navigation infrastructure (hereafter referred to as maintenance); and

WHEREAS, small harbors perform other valuable functions such as ports of refuge during inclement weather, ports for U.S. Coast Guard rescue stations, ports for law enforcement, ports for commercial fleets, ports for Great Lakes research vessels, and ferry terminals; and

WHEREAS, many of the 120 federally authorized small harbors in the Great Lakes, including Oak Orchard Harbor, require regular maintenance because of natural sedimentation, low water levels, storm events, and littoral drift, among other factors; and

WHEREAS, longstanding federal policy prevents the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers from allocating funds for the maintenance of small harbors in its operation and maintenance budget for the Great Lakes, thus forcing these harbors to seek Congressional assistance or "earmarks" to secure for maintenance; and

WHEREAS, this inefficient, inequitable system has resulted in maintenance backlogs that have hindered, or in some cases totally blocked access to Great Lake small harbors, causing significant economic loss and increased risk to human health and safety; and

WHEREAS, small harbors in the Great Lakes have not, to date, had an organization through which to unite and speak with one voice to address concerns about maintenance and other shared interests to federal and state agencies; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED that this Legislature supports and commits to being a member of the Great Lakes Small Harbors Coalition; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that this Legislature urges the Great Lakes Small Harbor Coalition to advocate for a more equitable, sustainable, needs-based system to allocate funds for adequate maintenance of small Great Lakes Harbors; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Legislature directs the Clerk of the Legislature to send a copy of this resolution to the Small Harbors Coalition, Senator Charles Schumer, Senator Kirsten Gillibrand, Congresswoman Louise Slaughter, Senator George Maziarz, Assemblyman Steve Hawley, New York Sea Grant, and the Town of Carlton.

Moved, Rush; second, Kent.

Adopted. 6 ayes; 0 nays; 1 absent, Eick.

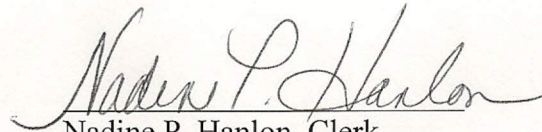
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COUNTY OF ORLEANS
STATE OF NEW YORK

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct transcript of a resolution duly adopted by the Orleans County Legislature on the 10th day of November 2009.

Dated at Albion, New York
November 12, 2009



Nadine P. Hanlon, Clerk
Orleans County Legislature
County of Orleans, New York

