

DESTINATION
DOOR COUNTY

January 25, 2023

To: Mayor Ward

Subject: Support for the designation of the proposed Sturgeon Bay, Wisconsin National Estuarine Research Reserve (NERR) nomination

Dear Mayor Ward:

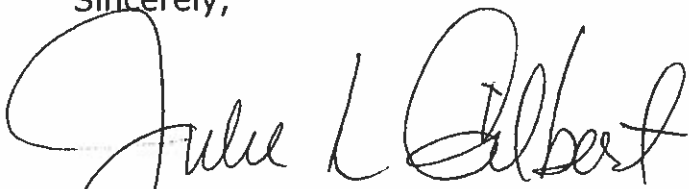
I am writing to express support for Sturgeon Bay's nomination package to establish a National Estuarine Research Reserve (NERR) in areas of Sturgeon Bay, Door County, Wisconsin.

The proposed Sturgeon Bay site provides critical habitat for birds, fish, and other marine and coastal species of plants and animals in the region and will add valuable scientific contributions to the national NERRS program. The proposed Sturgeon Bay, WI NERR site has received the enthusiastic support of state, local and private organizations and community leaders who recognize the benefits locally and nationally of additional research and knowledge regarding our estuarine environment.

The proposed Sturgeon Bay, WI NERR will help provide valuable opportunities to advance relevant science, monitoring, education, and stewardship efforts. We expect to rely on practical tools, provided by regionally knowledgeable environmental experts that are connected to the work of other Reserves as well as the national program. The expertise of the NERRS is nationally significant and locally relevant in helping coastal communities protect and manage vital estuary systems and become more self-reliant in facing the increasing environmental challenges of changing climatic conditions.

I, therefore, request your timely review of nomination for the Sturgeon Bay, WI Reserve, followed by its designation.

Sincerely,



Julie L Gilbert, CDME
President/CEO
Destination Door County

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