

To whom it may concern:

We would like to express our personal support for choosing to locate the NERR research center in Door County. We were the owner/managers of computer software businesses for several decades before retiring to Door County. Long before our retirement six years ago, we built a home in Northern Door, solidifying our commitment to this special place. For the last 20 years we have been active participants in various Door County service and arts organizations.

The Door County population is very supportive of research efforts and actions aimed at maintaining and improving the water ecosystems of our area (actually that applies to all our ecosystems). As a whole, our community is very sensitive to ecological concerns and strongly supports activities which benefit the environment. Educated and environmentally aware people of all ages choose to live in Door County both because of its natural beauty and because for a long time, the people of Door County have worked hard to keep the natural assets here healthy.

Door County is home to a host of nature and environmentally focused organizations such as Crossroads at Big Creek, the Ridges, the Nature Conservancy, The Clearing, the Door County Land Trust, five state parks and a myriad of smaller organizations and protected areas. All of these speak to the high level of awareness and support in Door County for the importance of environmental research, activity and conservation.

For a wide variety of reasons, including but not limited to the following, the people of Door County are intensely aware of the importance of water quality to our lives. The County is surrounded on three sides by the waters of Green Bay and Lake Michigan. We also have several inland bodies of water including Kangaroo Lake, Europe Lake, Clark Lake. Plus there is the unique Mink River estuary and the Sturgeon Bay Ship Canal. One of our Towns, Washington Island, is fully surrounded by water and is separated from the mainland by the famous Death's Door passage.

Our tourist based economy is dependent on the quality of water in Green Bay and Lake Michigan for fishing, boating and swimming as well as the quality of potable water available. Because of our topographical foundation is to a great extent karst, our drinking water quality can be fragile and must be carefully cared for, avoiding pollution from waste, industry or other sources. Our local fishing industry is dependent on Lake and Bay water quality. The value of our real estate is dependent on water quality of all types, for both recreation and personal consumption. In addition we know keeping our shores and shallows healthy is of critical importance. In Door County, everyone is conscious about and cares about water quality.

In short, Door County is the ideal place to locate a facility such as NERR, both to receive the support of and to benefit our community.

Sincerely,  
Karen Studebaker  
[kks42dc@gmail.com](mailto:kks42dc@gmail.com)  
David Studebaker  
[das42dc@gmail.com](mailto:das42dc@gmail.com)

Karen and David Studebaker  
11823 Timberline Road, Box 215  
Ellison Bay, WI 54210  
(920)-239-6606