



# WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE

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December 19, 2019

Ryan Spaight, Program Manager  
Wisconsin Department of Transportation  
Multimodal Local Supplement Program  
4822 Madison Yards Way  
Madison, WI 53707

Dear Mr. Spaight,


We are privileged to have the opportunity to voice our support for the Town of Bell's Multimodal Local Supplement (MLS) application for their Harbor project. Cornucopia Harbor is a widely recognized safe harbor on Lake Superior's south shore and one of the main drivers of economic activity in the region.

The harbor has seen astounding increases in use over the years. It is home to fisheries and more than 100 recreational vessels. The US Coast Guard, National Parks Service, Wisconsin DNR, the Red Cliff tribe, and US Fish and Wildlife Services all utilize this strategic port in performing their operations. These groups represent the largest contributors to the local economy. But it is also true that the harbor collects sediment washed into the lake from the Siskiwit River.

Regular dredging is necessary to ensure the integrity and usability of the harbor. By replacing failing walls and building new sheet pile walls along the river, the cost-effective method of land-based dredging will be available for the town for the first time. This will help prevent erosion of the river banks, save the town millions of dollars over the project's lifetime, and expand the harbor for more industrial and recreational use, promoting further economic growth throughout the region. The necessary work can be done without closing the harbor to public use, ensuring that the town will continue to thrive throughout the construction process.

We urge the MLS Review Committee to take this opportunity to support the people and businesses of Bayfield County and the Town of Bell by giving favorable consideration to the application for a MLS grant. Thank you for your time. We'd be happy to answer any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

  
Janet Bewley  
State Senator  
25<sup>th</sup> Senate District

  
Beth Meyers  
State Representative  
74<sup>th</sup> Assembly District