

Please consider this letter a demand for action from the USACE to repair the breakwall at the federally designated "Harbor of Refuge" at Grand Marais, Michigan.

This is a manmade environmental disaster created by the Corps of Engineers. You are also directly responsible for the loss of five innocent lives in the last four years. Your neglect, broken promises and refusal to admit fault needs to stop.

Maybe you need to be introduced to the people who paid the ultimate price with their lives. October, 2006: Lost in a boating accident just outside of Grand Marais harbor because larger rescue boats COULD NOT launch because of a sand filled marina.

**Willard Handrich – father, grandfather, sibling, husband**

**Eldon Handrich-son, brother, father, husband**

**Maggie Handrich-daughter, sister, mother, wife**

August, 2010: Lost while swimming in a once safe bay. This is no longer the case due to dangerous rip currents created by Lake Superior invading this bay.

**Douglas Smith-father, brother, son, husband**

**Eric Smith-son, brother, grandson – only 16 years old**

**When President Obama released his proposed budget for the Corps recently, on February 14, 2011, the Honorable Jo-Ellen Darcy, Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works said this: "...This is a performance-based budget that funds the construction of projects that reduce risk to public safety, provide significant environmental restoration benefits, or provide significant economic returns on the nation's investment." What would you consider public safety risk? More bodies? There are 5 here in Grand Marais already, maybe you need 5 or 10 more! Whatever your criteria for making decisions on what projects get done, NOTHING is more important or should carry more weight than saving even one life, NOTHING!! This harbor belongs to everyone. Grand Marais and its residents are merely the caretakers. As the Reader's Digest contest proves, this harbor serves thousands, not just the 300+ residents of GrandMarais.**

Any ordinary citizen who was primarily responsible for the deaths of five innocent people, would be sitting in a courtroom facing criminal charges.

**We are not interested in any more excuses. Step up, accept responsibility, do the morally right thing and make this "Harbor of Refuge" your #1 priority. Anything less, is unacceptable.**