

I am writing this letter to insist that you take whatever steps are necessary to get the breakwall repaired at the federally designated "Harbor of Refuge" at Grand Marais, Michigan.

As our elected official, it is up to you to put the pressure and power of your position into play regarding the USACE's decisions regarding what projects to pursue. The time is NOW to end the 60+ years of fighting to get this Corps problem fixed.

When President Obama released his proposed budget for the Corps, on Feb. 14, 2011, **Honorable Jo-Ellen Darcy, Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works, said "...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."** How many more bodies constitute a public safety risk? There are 5 in Grand Marais, do we need 5 or 10 more people to die? The loss of five innocent lives as a direct result of this manmade (USACE) disaster should spur you to take action. **NOTHING** should take precedent over saving even one life in the decision making process, **NOTHING!!**

Years of broken promises, millions of dollars spent on studies, need to end NOW.

The USACE was given billions of dollars in stimulus monies. Where did it all go? A promise was made to Grand Marais to use some of these funds to begin construction on this project in the spring of 2010. Why wasn't this promise fulfilled? These are questions that your office might also want answered.

We are not interested in any more excuses. The Reader's Digest contest proves that this harbor affects thousands of people, not just the 300+ residents of Grand Marais. This harbor belongs to everyone, Grand Marais and its residents are just the caretakers.

Your position gives you enormous power, much more than the citizens that this disaster affects. So we are asking that you use that power and persuasion to make this right, before anyone else loses their life.