

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3226

August 31, 2011

Daniel Ashe, Director
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Director Ashe,

I am writing this letter in support of the City of North Tonawanda's application for a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Boating Infrastructure Grant. This grant will go towards a project to repair dock and marina facilities in an abandoned Niagara River marina. The site, which offers access to the city's Gratwick Riverside Park, is vacant and in disrepair. The City plans to redevelop the site as a waterfront destination for boating, fishing, and park recreation, and eventual dining and waterfront entertainment. Boating Infrastructure Grant funds would allow for necessary repairs to the marina to allow boater access to the site.

A reconstructed marina would serve both city residents and area boaters and would be a valuable addition to the City's waterfront. This project is important because it is the first step in realizing the redevelopment potential along the Niagara River. The project also opens the site to public access and gives area boaters access to Gratwick Riverside Park.

The grant money will be used on construction and engineering work to repair bulkheads, docks, and utilities. Matching grant funds for this project have been provided by the Niagara River Greenway Commission as well as the City of North Tonawanda. I urge you to support this project and if you have any questions please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,



Kathy C. Hochul
Member of Congress
New York's 26th Congressional District

cc: Hannibal Bolton, Assistant Director, Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program
Matthew Huggler, Acting Chief, Office of Congressional and Legislative Affairs, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service