



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL OCEAN SERVICE
Office of National Marine Sanctuaries
1305 East-West Highway
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

Honorable Kathy Dahlkemper
Erie County Executive
140 West 6th Street
Erie, PA 16501

FEB 22 2016

Dear County Executive Dahlkemper,

Thank you for submitting the nomination for the proposed Lake Erie Quadrangle National Marine Sanctuary. We greatly appreciate the interest expressed by the state, congressional delegation, municipal government and the number of community organizations that signed letters in support of the nomination. It is clear that all care deeply about the unique resources in and around the Pennsylvania waters of Lake Erie.

NOAA's Office of National Marine Sanctuaries (ONMS) has completed its sufficiency and significance reviews and determined that the nomination meets the criteria and considerations to be added to the inventory of potential new national marine sanctuary sites. ONMS concurs that the historical, cultural and heritage characteristics of this area clearly are of national significance and merit inclusion in the Sanctuary Nomination Process inventory. We look forward to working with you, your colleagues and the community organizations that have proposed the Lake Erie Quadrangle of Pennsylvania as we consider the area for possible designation as a national marine sanctuary.

Sincerely,



John Armor
Acting Director