

SAMPLE LETTER FOR HERITAGE ORGANIZATION

(PLEASE USE YOUR LETTERHEAD)

(Date)

NOAA National Marine Sanctuary Program
Attn: John Armor, Acting Director, Office of Marine Sanctuaries
1305 East-West Highway, 11th Floor
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Dear Director Basta:

As _____, representing _____,
I would like to express my full support for and endorsement of this nomination to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) for a national marine sanctuary in eastern Lake Ontario waters. As envisioned, the Great Lake Ontario National Marine Sanctuary would include many historically important shipwrecks and encompass hundreds of square miles off the coast of Eastern Lake Ontario, a waterway with many of the oldest submerged maritime heritage resources in the Great Lakes.

The unique beauty of the eastern Lake Ontario region, and its wealth of maritime heritage resources offer a fascinating story of people, cargo, and missions undertaken over hundreds of years of North American history. Lake Ontario history connects directly to a rich cultural history ashore in the form of heritage landscapes, trade and battle routes, historic architecture, and engineering resources of recognized significance such as the Historic Fort Ontario State Historic Site, the Revolutionary Trail, Pulaski Village Historic District, Sacket's Harbor, the 1871 Sodus Bay Lighthouse, and the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor. Archeological artifacts and remnants of this rich cultural history remain 'in situ' on the eastern Lake Ontario lakebed as fascinating, yet little known submerged maritime heritage resources.

The maritime history of Eastern Lake Ontario includes some of the most important maritime military battles fought in the Nation's history, as well as maritime transportation and trade history related to the Lake Ontario and St. Lawrence Seaway and the development of our Nation's communities, industry, and infrastructure. It is also an exceptional fishery, with unique coastal natural resources including the 17-mile long 'Eastern Lake Ontario Barrier Beach and Wetland Complex Natural Heritage Area' along its eastern shore, and significant cultural, historic, and educational resources found nowhere else in the Great Lakes.

_____ recognizes the rare opportunity this call for nominations represents, and is excited to support enthusiastic and collaborative efforts to showcase our own maritime heritage.

With the many regional heritage sites and initiatives in progress, such as the CNY Regional Recreation and Heritage Plan and the upcoming 2017 Bicentennial Celebration of the Erie Canal and World Canals Conference, _____ is fully supportive of the submission of this nomination and welcomes the opportunity for a maritime heritage inventory and possible National Marine Sanctuary designation.

Sincerely,